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Sent time: Thursday, October 06, 2011 7:26:58 PM
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Subject: Fw: 10/06/11 Education Round-Up

FYI.... Have a great evening...

Sincerely,

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2011 01:19 PM
Subject: 10/06/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[States Are Urged to Give High Schools Better Postsecondary Data on Graduates](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education © 10/06/2011) Registration required

[Completion Rates Outpace Growth in Community-College Enrollment, Report Says](#)

(Chronicle of Higher Education © 10/06/2011) Registration required

[A culture of assessment promotes student success](#)

(CommunityCollegeTimes © 10/06/2011)

[Tasers coming to Flagler schools](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/06/2011)

[Volusia crackdown to protect schoolchildren results in 93 traffic tickets](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/06/2011)

[Ads on school buses a tacky idea](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/06/2011)

[Guest opinion: Get most out of education through ownership](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/06/2011) Registration required

[Teachers need parents to be supportive](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/06/2011) Registration required

[Occupied, Dissatisfied](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 10/06/2011)

A New Higher Education Model

(Inside Higher Education © 10/06/2011)

Panel to discuss changes in education at Friday Chamber event

(Jackson County Floridan © 10/06/2011)

Martin school district's Race to the Top grant appears safe

(Jupiter Courier © 10/06/2011)

Auditors at St. Peter's Academy charter school in Indian River County report deficiencies

(Jupiter Courier © 10/06/2011)

Professorial Tenure: Hands Off Fla. Universities

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/06/2011) Registration required

Report: Principal ordered grade change for athlete

(Miami Herald © 10/06/2011) Registration required

Education leaders: SWFL students not ready for college or careers

(Naples Daily News © 10/06/2011) Registration required

Lake Co. teacher facing more controversy after joining anti-gay group

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 10/06/2011)

Obesity Society shares latest fat-fight findings

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/06/2011) Registration required

In wake of reported rape, Hillsborough schools reviewing routines and security

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/06/2011) Registration required

Magnet schools' policies examined

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/06/2011) Registration required

Schools You Think Are Charters... But Aren't

(State Impact Florida © 10/06/2011)

Ken Miller: School districts should work with charter schools to benefit all children

(Stuart News © 10/06/2011)

Florida's First Lady Announces Top Summer Literacy Adventure School

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 10/06/2011)

Washington County Schools Have New Way to Track Attendance

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 10/06/2011)

Board OKs charter bid but has questions

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/06/2011)

[**University of North Florida's Presidential Medallion recipients named**](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/05/2011)

[**Seminole teachers say new evaluation system flawed**](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/05/2011) Registration required

Please see articles below and have a great day!

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

Barron focuses on FSU's strengths

By Ashley Ames Democrat staff writer

October 6, 2011

As Florida State University President Eric Barron read the names of faculty that had published books in the last year, they stood. Proudly clutching their most recent accomplishments, they made their way to the stage and placed them in an evergrowing pile. "We are writing books at FSU, that we know of, at a rate of 120 a year," Barron said. "That it is an astounding amount of accomplishment."

More than 100 FSU faculty and attendees listened to Barron make his State of the University address Wednesday in the Turnbull Conference Center. In his second address as FSU president, Barron focused on the strengths of the university — a dedicated, award-winning faculty, a strong academic foundation, high-achieving students and freshman retention rate, an engaged alumni base — and what those qualities would mean for the future of the school. One of the primary goals for the university, he said, was showing the state the value it had.

"I believe truly that our potential here may be greater than almost any other public university that you can think of," he said. "We translate dollar to quality better than any other public university."

"We need to create a set of benchmarks and measures that clearly demonstrate to everybody in this state that we spend taxpayer dollars very wisely," he said. "From freshman retention rates to tell you how committed this institution is to students, to graduation rates, to better measures of teaching effectiveness, to understanding the true cost of teaching students in different majors."

Dale Smith, professor and chair of the department of political science, said that Florida State is lucky to have a president like Barron.

"He has great vision, but just as importantly he knows how universities work," Smith said. "And he understands that we are part of a national conversation about public universities, and we have to know where we stand relative to other public universities."

Associate English professor Meegan Kennedy said that, based on her experience at three other schools — including Harvard — Florida State gets more with fewer resources than anywhere else she had taught.

"I am really heartened to see that President Barron is hoping to tap the faculty for ideas going forward," she said.

Later, Barron said that his speech had changed last minute, adding names of the FSU professors who had written books. And they still were missing some, he said.

"One of the things you realize when you are caught up in all these problems is that you don't stop to compliment all those people who are working really hard," he said.

"Sometimes you can't deliver with a dollar, but that shouldn't stop you from telling people they have done something wonderful," he said.

Before the address, FSU Faculty Senate President Sandra Lewis announced the recipients of the Torch Awards, given every year to honor those that have made significant contributions to the university. John Thrasher received the Vires award, which symbolizes moral, physical and intellectual strength for the university. Former state Senate President John McKay, R-Bradenton, received the Artes award, which represents appreciation of aesthetics and the beauty of intellectual pursuits. Maxwell Carraway Jr. and Patrick Hogan received the Mores award, which represents respect for customs, character and tradition.

Tallahassee Democrat

Wakulla County School District accredited

By Ashley Ames Democrat staff writer

October 6, 2011

The Wakulla County School District received district-wide accreditation Wednesday, marking the second time the county has gotten the distinction.

While all students who want to go to an accredited university must go to an accredited high school, middle schools and elementary schools do not have to be accredited. Wakulla made the decision to become an accredited district — grades Pre-K through 12 — in 2005 out of a desire to add another layer of quality, said Beth Mims, WCSD director of curriculum.

"We are holding ourselves to that high standard of performance," she said.

Wakulla was the first in the Big Bend to become a district-wide accredited school, said Superintendent David Miller, and fourth in the state. Leon County is also accredited district-wide, but will not be up for re-accreditation for another three years.

Mims said that receiving a district- wide accreditation gave students a higher level of service from their schools, at all levels.

"The better education we provide," she said, "the better prepared they are to meet the requirements they face once they graduate from our schools Wakulla County received its accreditation through AdvancED, an international accreditation organization. The decision to extend the accreditation for another five years was based on a district self-assessment (compiled over six months) and a visit from a team of educators who interviewed teachers, parents, students, administration and community members, Mims said.

The district was judged based on seven different standards and how well it met them: vision and purpose, governance and leadership, teaching and learning, documenting and using results, resource and support systems, stakeholder communications and relationships and commitment to continuous improvement.

The accreditation, with came with two very minor suggestions involving data analysis, was really a positive for the district, Miller said.

"It's just a validation that lets all of the residents and the stakeholders and parents and the community members know that we have a quality school system," he said. "We are always looking for ways to improve, and this is just one way that we can."

Tallahassee Democrat

Gov., Cabinet note Disabilities Month

11:42 PM, Oct. 4, 2011

By Bill Cotterell Florida Capital Bureau

Danny Root likes his job because it gives him a lot more than a paycheck.

"It gives me a purpose," he told Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet on Tuesday. "I want to succeed in life."

Despite his autism, Root has worked at the Target on Thomasville Road for five years. Earlier, he worked at Winn-Dixie for about eight years.

The governor and Cabinet presented him a resolution marking Disabilities Employment Awareness Month.

Several state officials from agencies involved in programs for people with various types of challenges, including physical and developmental disabilities, also attended the Cabinet presentation.

Mike Hansen, director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, said the theme of this month's observance is "work in progress." He said APD and other agencies want to remind employers to consider giving a chance to applicants.

"Business owners tell us their employees with disabilities are reliable and dedicated workers. They show up on time, they do not call in sick and they are dependable members of the team," Hansen said.

Root, 31, was invited to the lectern to address Cabinet members.

"I like to work, I like having a job, I like anything that has to do with a job," he said. "I feel very confident in myself that if you can do it — if you can dream it, you can do it."

Hansen said Scott, who has set a goal of producing 700,000 new jobs in seven years, has made a special point of inclusion for people with disabilities.

He said APD and its partner agencies will recognize nine employers from across the state for their hiring commitment at a ceremony in Tallahassee City Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 27.

Attorney General Pam Bondi, who sponsored the resolution, said Florida ranks third in the nation with 250,000 disabled veterans, including more than 1,800 wounded service members from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Her resolution said APD has helped 4,112 disabled people find jobs, while the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has assisted 5,018 and the Division of Blind Services helped another 720 find jobs.

Both divisions are within the Department of Education.

Tallahassee Democrat

At Goodwill, Connie Bass has gained independence

11:25 PM, Oct. 3, 2011

By Melanie Mowry Etters Special to the Democrat

OCALA — Connie Bass is fiercely independent now, and she has worked hard to get there.

She is employed as an office assistant at the Goodwill store in Ocala on U.S. Hwy. 27. Bass worked her way up from attending Adult Day Training at the store, where the state paid Goodwill for her to be there. Now Goodwill pays Bass to oversee purchasing, answer the phone and perform essential office work. She also runs the cash register one day a week.

"What makes Connie special is her drive to learn more and do more. She wants to be a valuable asset to the store," Goodwill store manager Derek Arnold said.

Bass has cerebral palsy and receives services from Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. APD is highlighting the contributions of people with disabilities, like Bass, to the work force.

Bass went through a divorce while living in Fort Myers in 2005. She decided she needed to make a clean start and relocated to Ocala. Since then, she has mastered the public transportation system to get around town and to work. She lives in her own apartment.

APD provides some services to her in her home due to her limited mobility. "I appreciate the services I receive. Our services are a privilege. We are very lucky to have them," she said.

Bass pays close attention to details. She does research on some donated high-end items to help determine an appropriate price for their resale. She ensures the office filing is correct and needed items are ordered.

"Goodwill taught me that I could stand up for myself, and that you can do what you want if you respect yourself and others," Bass said.

Arnold says Bass is a valued employee. "Connie is compassionate for people with disabilities. She makes a great team member."

— APD supports people with developmental disabilities and annually serves more than 50,000 Floridians with autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, intellectual disabilities and Down syndrome. For information about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, visit APDcares.org or call toll-free 1-866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273).

Tallahassee Democrat

Our Opinion: FAMU to regroup

Shift the debate from buildings to dental-care crisis

6:13 PM, Oct. 5, 2011

Three proposals by three of Florida's public universities to build or expand dental schools were rejected last month by the Board of Governors. It was a strong indication that all three, Central Florida, Florida and Florida A&M, will have a hard time advancing big-ticket spending items.

Nor does it appear that board members are convinced of the need for more dentistry programs.

The setback shouldn't deter FAMU's goal of training more minority graduates and addressing the shortage of dental care available to adults and children in lower-income communities.

Only 3 percent of practicing dentists in Florida are black. And poverty adds to the concern. Only 1.4 percent of dentists in Florida practice in public health centers set up to provide care to the uninsured.

Improving access to dental care is the issue that needs to be addressed immediately, regardless of the longer-range plans for new programs. State legislators, public and private health advocates, businesses and local governments need to find right-now solutions.

Dental students typically graduate with huge debt, forcing them to open or join practices in more affluent communities where they can treat patients who have cash or insurance.

That's why it's critical that the Legislature recognizes this health-care concern of great magnitude and begins to address the disparity in dental-care access.

The Florida Department of Health and a staff report by the Senate Committee on Health Regulation point the way:

- Institute a loan-forgiveness program as an incentive for more dentists to practice in underserved areas.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates and reduce paperwork.
- Examine the pay and improve the work environment for state-employed dental providers in public-health centers.
- Expand community oral health services.
- Expand oral health education and preventive programs in schools.
- Provide technical assistance to communities wishing to recruit dental providers through the construction or equipping of dental office space in exchange for provision of dental services.

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State Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, and Sen. Eleanor Sobel, D-Hollywood, of the Committee on Health Regulation both told the Democrat that they favor the loan-forgiveness program. They question how to fund it.

Meanwhile, FAMU President James Ammons isn't giving up hope of a dental school in Tallahassee. But he said last week that he will explore options with the University of Florida, which already has an established dental school that it wants to expand.

Dr. Teresa Dolan, dean of UF's School of Dentistry, and Dr. Ammons this week discussed ways that the two could work together.

One idea involves a partnership in which FAMU would channel candidates who are committed to serving rural areas to UF, which struggles to identify and enroll black dental students. Of the 328 students enrolled in 2009-2010, 22 were black and 52 Hispanic. The two could also collaborate on community dental clinics.

But even partnership proposals take time.

The need is urgent for children whose dental-health care today is poor. Poor dental care for children contributes to related health issues as they get older. They're in need of rescue before they're grown and suffering its ill effects in myriad ways.

While the Board of Governors considers possible program expansion in the State University System someday, legislators must find resources to encourage dentists to practice in rural, underserved communities today.