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Sent time: Friday, September 30, 2011 6:18:27 PM
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Subject: Fw: 09/30/11 Education Round-Up

FYI.... Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 11:19 AM
Subject: 09/30/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[No Child Left Behind should be amended, not entirely scrapped](#)

(Deseret News © 09/30/2011)

Before everyone in Washington rushes out to slay No Child Left Behind, let's be clear what the guiding principles of the 2001 law are: • In return for a substantial hike in funds to help schools serve low-income students, states must measure how all their schools are doing, based on the state's education standards. Schools are expected to show progress each year on student test scores. By...

[Judging Process Seen Crucial in NCLB Waivers](#)

(Education Week © 09/30/2011)

Although U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan ultimately decides which states get relief from key requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, a group of outside judges will wield tremendous influence in deciding states' fates. With states facing compliance deadlines under the law and Congress moving slowly on reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, whose current version i...

[STEM Ed. Among Cuts Sought in Draft House Budget Plan](#)

(Education Week/Curriculum Matters © 09/30/2011)

By Erik Robelen on September 29, 2011 7:08 PM | No comments | No recommendations The \$175 million Mathematics and Science Partnerships program at the U.S. Department of Education is among the casualties in a draft budget bill released today by the House Appropriations Committee. Other curriculum-related programs targeted for elimination in the Republican plan for fiscal 2012, which begins Oc...

[Editorial: Rolling the dice](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 09/30/2011)

Published: Friday, September 30, 2011 at 6:01 a.m. If state Senate President Mike Haridopolos has his way, the Legislature will vote during its upcoming session on whether to allow "destination resort casinos" in Florida — and he is moving aggressively to make sure that vote takes place. Haridopolos championed casino gambling during the last legislative session, pushing a measure that wou...

[A day in the life of Santa Fe zookeeping students](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 09/30/2011)

"Code E on Rhonda," the radio crackled. Translation: Escaped kookaburra. For what felt like minutes, zookeeping students at the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo stood still, looked at each other nervously and waiting for the all clear signal. "They got her," said Chris Mattern, a 22-year-old senior. A professor confirmed the students' suspicion — it was a drill. That was my first lesson...

[Miami-Dade schools debut merit pay in Florida](#)

(Miami Herald © 09/30/2011)

In their latest paychecks, thousands of Miami-Dade teachers got an extra bump based on their students' or schools' FCAT scores. Some 120 teachers are poised to receive even bigger bumps — \$4,000 to \$25,000 — for their students' gains. The bonuses mark Miami-Dade's foray into performance pay, a controversial policy that is part of the Obama Administration's...

[Union files grievance over teacher pay; school district declares impasse](#)

(Northwest Florida Daily News © 09/30/2011)

FORT WALTON BEACH — Okaloosa County School District officials and the teachers union continue to disagree over pay. Earlier this month, the Okaloosa County Education Association filed a grievance asserting that the district violated its contract with OCEA when no step increases were included in this year's budget. Step increases are part of a teacher's salary schedule. The incr...

[After Arrest, a Wider Inquiry on SAT Cheating](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 09/30/2011)

When Samuel Eshaghoff, a 19-year-old sophomore at Emory University, was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly accepting money to take the SAT for six Long Island high school students, testing officials said it was an isolated event. But school officials and prosecutors disagree, and a continuing investigation is focusing on other schools and students. "I do believ...

[Some sensible ways to shore up budget](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 09/30/2011)

The warning this month from Florida TaxWatch was probably the last thing legislators facing re-election next year wanted to hear: To plug what could be another budget shortfall, to guard against future deficits, legislators may need to cut more services — even after last session's nearly \$4 billion bloodletting. Fortunately for the legislators, TaxWatch already has done much of their work for...

[Teachers say study hall supervision not the same as planning period](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 09/30/2011)

The Palm Beach County School District's plan to meet state-mandated class sizes has led to a pay dispute at one middle school. The Classroom Teachers Association union says Jeaga Middle School Principal Kevin Gatlin is violating the school district's contract with the union by not paying some teachers for study hall classes they work. "The teachers are very upset about it," said union Ex...

[Escambia coach investigated over alleged student harassment](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 09/30/2011)

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office is investigating allegations that at least one Escambia High School football coach tried to intimidate a student into not pursuing a criminal charge against another student who punched him in the head. The coach is being investigated on a possible felony charge of tampering with or harassing a witness, victim or informant, Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Mike ...

[As nation struggles to recover, cherish education's value](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 09/30/2011)

There was a time when Americans eagerly anticipated the release of figures by the U.S. Census Bureau. Politically active citizens wanted to see where and how the nation was growing so they could plan their strategy going forward. Marketers were eager to take advantage of growth areas and lots of other people were simply interested in demographic changes. ...

[Goodbye SFCC, hello South Florida State College](#)

(Sebring News Sun © 09/30/2011)

AVON PARK — South Florida Community College has a new name and looks forward to "exciting times," according to Dr. Norman L. Stephens Jr., president. The Board of Trustees voted Wednesday to call the school South Florida State College to reflect the addition of a four-year bachelor's degree program approved by the Florida Board of Education last week. The college opened in 1965 under the name...

[State sanctions former Eastside Elementary teacher](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/30/2011)

BROOKSVILLE — A former teacher at Eastside Elementary has been sanctioned by the state for improperly handling students who weren't following directions. Lisa Studer, 46, received a letter of reprimand, a \$500 fine and two years' probation from the Education Practices Commission, which met Sept. 23 in Tampa. Studer also must attend a class in early childhood development. During a...

[Administrators try hand at new Pasco teacher evaluation system](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/30/2011)

WESLEY CHAPEL — Veterans Elementary School assistant principal Gretchen Rudolph-Fladd sat in the middle of the classroom, scribbling copious notes as first-grade teacher Heather Cencerik gave her lesson on author's purpose. Jeff McLean, an assistant principal from Trinity Oaks Elementary School, walked through the classroom, checking its organization and the materials on the walls. At ...

[Hillsborough County teacher evaluation project director discusses new model](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/30/2011)

Last week the Hillsborough County School District delivered its first complete teacher assessments under the Gates-funded Empowering Effective Teachers. In what has become a model, the district is replacing the single-source evaluation with one made up of observations by the principal and a peer evaluator, and a component that measures student improvement and other data. Earlier this year, teacher...

[FAMU Dental School Update](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 09/30/2011)

Tallahassee, Florida - 9/28/11 4:23pm – FAMU is making further strides to get a Dental School. It presented the dental school to the Board of Governors at the last meeting. The university's goal is to increase the number of dentists in undeserved areas. ...

[Oklahoma considers value-added teacher evaluations](#)

(The Oklahoman © 09/30/2011)

Value-added teacher evaluations rate teachers as highly effective or ineffective based on whether their students grow academically as expected. It's a controversial evaluation system that an Oklahoma commission is considering. BY MEGAN ROLLAND September 30, 2011 Under a new teacher evaluation system being developed, Oklahoma teachers may be categorized based on whether students in their cla...

Have a terrific weekend! Please the article below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

Garnett Stokes off to a as FSU provost

September 30, 2011

A film of dust is collecting on some of the boxes stacked five deep in her office on the second floor of Westcott Building. Pictures are waiting to be hung on the walls.

Garnett Stokes has been at her new job for two full months, yet she's still having trouble finding time to completely unpack.

Florida State University's new provost, the second-in-command at the university, has maintained a hectic pace since she arrived in Tallahassee at the start of August.

Even before she joined FSU President Eric Barron, Stokes found herself appointed to a statewide task force examining a proposal before the Board of Governors, the body that oversees Florida's public universities.

This has been a typically busy week for Stokes. On Monday, she spent much of the day at FSU's College of Education. Tuesday she was at FSU's Panama City campus for the first time, meeting key faculty and staff.

"Nothing is more important than getting to know the people at your institution," Stokes said. "I'm still meeting department chairs and other faculty. Frankly, I'm not sure when I'll ever get around to unpacking."

Stokes, 55, is being asked to fill some mighty big shoes. Her predecessor, Larry Abele, who stepped down in December, had been provost for 16 years under three presidents.

Stokes, an industrial and organizational psychologist who moved up the ladder at University of Georgia to dean of its college of arts and sciences, is acutely aware of the comparisons being made as she makes her way around FSU's campus.

"A n y t i m e y o u f o l l o w a well-established leader, you have big shoes to follow. I heard the same thing as a dean," she said. "It just comes with the territory when you walk into a position where the leader has been very well respected and established.

"You learn from the successes and the mistakes of your predecessors and create your own path."

The men and women who worked alongside Stokes in Athens, Ga., praise her for her ability to listen.

Hugh Ruppensburg, the interim dean at Georgia's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, had been an associate dean under Stokes and worked closely with her.

"She was one of the most effective people I ever knew in her ability to communicate with the faculty, and to explain what the goals for the college were or the challenges being faced," he said. "She enlisted people to help find solutions.

"She welcomed other points of view and opinions, yet was able to reach a decision that she felt represented the best interest of the college."

As provost, Stokes is also vice president of academic affairs at FSU. The deans at all 16 of the university's colleges report directly to her.

Because Barron travels frequently to meet with alumni and other potential donors, Stokes is often the on-the-ground leader of the university.

Members of the psychology department at FSU are thrilled to have one of their own as second-in-command. Thomas Joiner, the department's Robert O. Lawton distinguished professor, was a member of the search committee that recommended Stokes to Barron.

"She has the rare combination of approachability and warmth on the one hand, and determination and vision on the other," he said. "We in the Department of Psychology are delighted to have her on our faculty, but we understand quite well that whether the provost is a biologist, physicist, novelist or psychologist, FSU psychology will get its due based only on our performance in contexts like getting federal dollars to FSU and excelling in the classroom. We'd have it no other way, and neither, I imagine, would Provost Stokes."

Stokes had spent more than a quarter-century in Athens, where she earned her master's and doctorate degrees before joining the faculty. She is an outdoor enthusiast, enjoys movies and reading fiction, but admits she hasn't found time for either during the past two months.

She realizes, reflecting on her career at the University of Georgia, that she had been interested in leadership roles almost from the beginning.

As an associate professor she lobbied to chair a graduate student program. She sought mentors who were leaders, and was one of three high-ranking female faculty members at Georgia chosen for a three-week leadership training seminar for women in higher education at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

"It was a gradual progression," Stokes said. "It wasn't like 15 years ago I saw myself moving in this direction, but I did gravitate toward greater responsibility in terms of academic leadership."

Barron, a climatologist and FSU graduate who came back to his alma mater as president in February 2010, conducted a national search that resulted in Stokes' hire.

"I felt very comfortable with her views in terms of focusing on the quality of our programs," Barron said. "When I called the president of the University of Georgia, he said she's capable of making tough decisions when needed, but when it comes to that, her faculty appreciates that she does it in a thoughtful way.

"We're nothing if we don't have great academic programs, and the provost sets the stage on expectations, and helping retain the best and brightest of the faculty."

The past five years have been painful for FSU, and the other institutions in Florida's public university system. FSU has had almost one-quarter of its budget cut during that time. There have been hiring and salary freezes, and some faculty have been lured away by better paying jobs at other universities.

Stokes believes FSU has plenty of company in that regard.

"I see the challenges that Florida State has faced as similar to those faced at many institutions in many states," she said. "Faculty retention is an issue everywhere. I think finding mechanisms to reward faculty is one of the most crucial issues we face. Increasingly, we're going to see our greatest challenge coming from the private universities where the funding picture is considerably brighter.

"My view is, one has to stay on top of which faculty are likely to be recruited and you have to find mechanisms, both monetary and non-monetary, so that we keep someone from even considering applying for a position.

"What I know is that our best faculty are going to be courted all the time. It's our challenge to keep them at Florida State University."