

Just for Teachers



News from the Florida Department of Education

December 2010

A Note from Kelly...

Happy Holidays!!! Life in my household is full of activity in December. We have two birthdays and Christmas which leads to lots of fun and very little rest. If your life is just as hectic this holiday season then grab a cup of warm tea and kick back while you enjoy this month's newsletter written Just for You.

In this issue:

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...and much more

Know that I am here for you and be sure to check our site regularly, <http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers/>, to discover information, updates, and special promotions.



Teacher Talk's December episode will be focused on

Race To The Top

You can catch Teacher Talk episodes on Florida Knowledge Network, the JustforTeachers website, iTunesU and the Florida Education Channel on Dish Network.



Curriculum Corner

Math and Language Arts Common Core Additions' Review Closes December 6, 2010!

The Florida State Board of Education unanimously adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Mathematics and Language Arts on July 27, 2010. In August 2010, the CCSS were presented to committees of Florida Writers and Framers for alignment with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for Mathematics and Language Arts.

The committees also considered the addition of up to fifteenth percent of content from NGSSS to be added to the CCSS. Recommendations for additions are now open for a thirty day public review.

To comment on the proposed additions, access the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QHPV3D7>. The review window will close Dec, 6, 2010.

2010-2011 GREEN ENERGY CHALLENGE

Calling all educators! Join the 2010/11 GEF Green Energy Challenge and your class or school could win prizes including environmental books, eco-kits and cash awards. This simple but powerful campaign teaches K-12 students that small changes can add up to big savings for your school community, and lead to a positive impact on the planet. From green classroom pledges to school-wide energy audits, GEF's website features all of the resources necessary to participate in the program. Schools that participate will be spotlighted for their efforts and can enter to win GEF **Green in Action Awards**. Registration and all featured resources are FREE—visit www.greenenergychallenge.us to learn more and sign up today!

For additional information please contact Ms. Jessica Drench, Director of Programs at Green Education Foundation (GEF). You may contact Ms. Drench at (508) 668 2278.

SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATE WILL BE SPOTLIGHTED FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND CAN ENTER TO WIN GEF GREEN IN ACTION AWARDS

2011 FFEA State Conference

January, 21-23 Orlando, FL

The state conference provides a wonderful opportunity for chapter members to meet with fellow students, chapter advisors, and new and experienced teachers. The conference also provides an opportunity to hear from outstanding teachers and others working in the field of education as they present a shared vision of excellence in future classrooms. The workshops you attend will provide you with important information, ideas, and inspiration that will guide you as you work toward becoming a teacher. "*Teachers Illuminate the Future*" [2011 Conference Registration](#)

Teacher Discounts



Orange Bowl Committee

The Orange Bowl Committee would like to recognize Florida educators and school personnel with a discounted ticket offer for the 2010 Orange Bowl Basketball Classic. Start off your holiday break with a trip to the Bank Atlantic Center on Saturday, December, 18 and enjoy two great college basketball matchups for one discounted price. All Florida teachers and school personnel can save \$5 on tickets in select seating categories. This year's Classic features the pre-season #10 ranked Florida Gators versus the pre-season #5 Kansas State Wildcats. In the first game of the double-header see the University of Miami take on University of Central Florida. Visit www.orangebowl.org for details.

To purchase tickets, visit www.orangebowl.org/tickets, and click on promotions and use the password TEACH, or contact Orange Bowl Ticket Sales Representative, Natalia Collazo at (305) 341-4747 or ncollazo@orangebowl.org.

LOFT Loves Teachers

Ann Taylor Loft, is dedicated to making it easy for you to look fabulous and for supporting the endeavors to which all teachers commit themselves in every classroom, at every school, everyday. For complete details visit <http://teachers.anntaylorloft.com/>.

Find a Great Deal Now at www.GETADEALNOW.com

Enjoy 50 to 90 percent off products and services -Teachers receive an added discount for registering FREE with a special discount code - TEACHERS.

Free Docent-led School Tours

The Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College offers Free Docent-led School Tours for Orange, Seminole, Lake, Osceola, and Polk County teachers and classes including Reimbursement for School Bus transportation. Please contact (407)646-2000.

Teacher Treasures Winner



November's \$100 Chick-fil-A Gift Certificate goes to **Michael Varn, Brooker Creek Elementary.**
December's Teacher Treasures \$100 Gift Certificate will be for

Publix Supermarkets!

With such a variety of offerings, we will clear all entry forms on the day of the drawings. Our submission form will reopen on the first of each month. Upcoming prizes include: Wal-Mart and Trade Wind Island Resorts.



STAR TEACHERS

Kenneth P. Kidd Mathematics Educator of the Year

Ann Marie Hubscher, Secondary Mathematics Resource Teacher for Brevard County Public Schools (BPS), was named the Kenneth P. Kidd Mathematics Educator of the Year at the opening session of the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics (FCTM) annual conference. The Kenneth P. Kidd Mathematics Educator of the Year award is the highest honor that FCTM bestows on one of its members. Individuals are nominated by their peers for the award. Nominees must have been involved in mathematics education in Florida for at least 10 years and have made a significant contribution at the local, state, and/or national level.

Milken Award Winner Announced



An "Oscar of teaching" goes to Anna Catherine Hull of Patronis Elementary

A seemingly routine schoolwide assembly turned into the surprise of a lifetime when the Milken Family Foundation (MFF) and the Florida Department of Education honored—and stunned—Anna Catherine Hull of Patronis Elementary School in Bay County with a Milken Educator Award. One of education's most prestigious recognitions, the award comes with a no-strings-attached cash prize of \$25,000.

Dr. Jane Foley, MFF Senior Vice President, State Board of Education member Susan Story, Bay County Superintendent Bill Husfelt, Florida State Representative Jimmy Patronis, and Senator Don Gaetz were among the leaders participating in the surprise celebration.

Dubbed "the Oscars of teaching" by Teacher Magazine, the Milken Educator Awards program was conceived by Lowell Milken to recognize the importance of outstanding educators and encourage talented young people to enter the teaching profession. Unlike most teaching awards, the Milken Educator Awards have no formal application process. Each year, a blue ribbon panel recommends exceptional teachers, principals and specialists for the distinguished honor. The educators don't have any knowledge of the nomination and are completely surprised with the news of their awards. To learn more about the Milken Family Foundation and Milken Educator Award, visit <http://www.mff.org/mea/>.



Earn summer dollars and grow as a STEM teacher!

John Clark, Science Teacher, Deltona High School, Deltona, FL

In July 2010, I joined 23 other science teachers from around the county at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Lab (JLab) for a month-long emersion in the discipline of science. A part of the Department of Energy's Academy Creating Teacher Scientist (DOE ACTS) program, that beginning marked the end of a competitive admission process to be selected to take part in this unique three year summer learning experience. Each of us came with a single goal – to raise the achievement of our students and to raise their excitement for the sciences by becoming a better teacher. Christine Wheeler and the entire staff at JLab could not have been more committed or supportive of each of us reaching that goal. Their dedication reflects the lab's total commitment to providing strong educational experiences in science and technology for teachers. In a whirlwind month we completed a college level course in physics, developed new friendships, build experiments for our classroom, worked with scientists at the lab, and grew in the art of inquiry based teaching. Housing, travel costs, classroom supplies, a weekly stipend, and mini-grant dollars were all provided to us through the program.

Finding the time to create a new student lab for our class or finding the money to pay for the needed supplies are challenges for any science teacher. Our program addressed both. 17 tested inquiry driven labs were presented to us by the JLab science education team. After each, we were given a class set of prepackaged supplies and instructions to take the lab right back to our classroom and engage our students. In some cases we were given the opportunity and guidance to build the equipment for the student labs ourselves. We learned additional labs and demonstrations while completing our physics class. This year's educational experience was focused on physics. Next summer the focus will be on chemistry.



Join me. Apply for the 2011 ACTS program at Jefferson Labs. It may be the best professional development experience of your career. It has been for me. To learn more go to their web site:

http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/ACTS/programs/TJ_TAI.html.



Florida's Race to the Top Update: The Department is proud to announce that members for seven of the eight Race to the Top implementation committees have now been selected. The overwhelming responses we received enabled us to establish working groups that will focus on standards, assessments, student growth, and teacher and principal development. Below are the descriptions for each of the Implementation Committees, along with the names of the new members. We appreciate your interest in serving and are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support for the statewide Race to the Top efforts. Be sure to check with your school district regularly for updates on local school district Race to the Top plans. Opportunities for participation at the local level are determined by each participating school district. For more information visit <http://www.fldoe.org/committees/rttt-committees.asp>



Real World Design Challenge

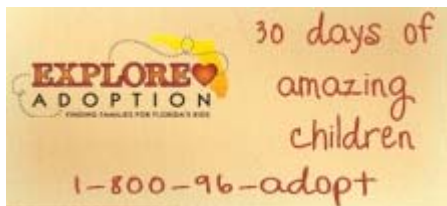
Registration is now open for the 2010-2011 Real World Design Challenge. The Challenge is totally free for participants and open to teams of three to seven high school students. The Real World Design Challenge is an aviation design competition that uses real engineering tools. We have added some new tools this year, and each teacher that participates gets more than \$1 million in professional engineering software. Teams get access to mentors, and state winners get an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Finals. Please check out our new website www.realworlddesignchallenge.org and sign up.

EINSTEIN FELLOWSHIP—APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN!

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship is a paid fellowship for K-12 science, math, engineering, and technology (STEM) teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. To be considered for an Einstein Fellowship for the 2011-2012 school year, apply online NOW and submit your application and three letters of recommendation no later than January 4, 2011.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit

<http://www.trianglecoalition.org/fellows/einapp.htm>. If you have questions about the program or application, contact Program Manager Kathryn Culbertson at culbertsonk@triangle-coalition.org



Florida Presents "30 Days of Amazing Children: Explore Adoption!"

To celebrate National Adoption Month, the state of Florida has launched the "30 Days of Amazing Children: Explore Adoption!" project to showcase 30 of the approximately 850 children in foster care awaiting adoption. Each day during the month of November, a different "Amazing Child" available for adoption in Florida will be featured on the *Explore Adoption* campaign website at www.adoptflorida.org. Many of the featured teens, sibling groups and children with medical needs are depicted in videos as they talk about themselves and their hopes of becoming part of a loving family. Additionally, organizations across the state are hosting National Adoption Month celebrations and finalization ceremonies throughout the month. To learn more about Florida's children available for adoption or for information about a National Adoption Month event in your area, visit www.adoptflorida.org.