

Apple Slices

FLORIDA FUTURE EDUCATORS OF AMERICA

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Introducing the 2014-2015 FFEA Officers

President Elect: John Alvarez
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Secretary Elect: Sabrina Mae Hope
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From the President's Desk...



Deanna Breckenridge, President

WOW! I can't believe that State Conference is over! I had the best time. The workshops were fun and the guest speakers were phenomenal! It was a great experience for my team and myself. We all met so many new and excitingly different people. We shared creative ideas for ways to interact with the community and fundraising. The best part was meeting and interacting with all the new people. Everyone there obviously had a passion for education and becoming the educators of the future! It was uplifting to see so many people like myself who still want to pursue a career in education, even with all the negative things we see and hear going on within the profession at the moment.

On another note- CONGRATULATIONS to our new state officers!! I know you are going to do great things! I can't wait to return next year, as a college student, and see what you all accomplish!

Remember, every day is an opportunity to make a positive difference for the future, whether you are an educator or not. So, DO NOT give up on our educational system because its people like us who are going to make a difference – people with a passion to make a change. It doesn't matter if you've been an educator for fifty years or haven't even begun, if you have a passion and a belief in yourself, you can help ignite change. Together, we can create an educational system that isn't based on ways of an industrial past, but rather, ways of a technological and ever changing future.

Nautilus Middle School and Felix Varela Senior High School Win Outstanding Chapter Award!

Nautilus Middle School has reached its goal and continues to introduce a better tomorrow to those who have had a rough yesterday. The club has been very busy. One of its recent experiences was collecting over 90 pairs of socks school wide during the months of December and January. Club members held workshops in classrooms educating students about the importance of giving. With the help of Ms. Dana Kulvin, they were able to assist Commissioner Kramer from the City of North Miami Beach with his initiative of assisting the homeless. They are currently organizing a book bag and school supply drive for orphans in Haiti in honor and loving memory of everything lost in the terrible earthquake of 2010. They also had the opportunity to march in a Veteran's Day parade. They marched to celebrate the many veterans that have sacrificed so much for our country. Keep up the good work Nautilus Middle School!



Felix Varela Senior High School has been very active this fall. During American Education Week FFEA members decorated the teachers' lounge as well as the teacher sign-in room. Members brought in desserts for the school staff. The club brought in a local physical therapy office to offer school personnel free massages. Members placed daily gifts in staff mailboxes. They also participated in Varela's Thanksgiving Basket Drive where FFEA members collected over 45 food items to give to a local family for their Thanksgiving dinner. FFEA members also took part in the Children's Tent at Miami Book Fair International where they worked at a variety of stations including arts and crafts and story telling sessions. In December they participated in the CBS 4 Adopt A Family for the Holidays Program where they adopted two families. Members collected food items, toiletries as well as Christmas items for each family. The club was able to collect over three boxes of items, get a Christmas tree donated and presented each family with over 10 gifts. The chapter is also conducting a yearlong project where they collect soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities recycling program. They have placed collection bins throughout the building and encourage the student body to take their tabs from lunch to the bins. Once a month members collect bins and twice a year they deposit the tabs with the Ronald McDonald House. Way to go Felix Varela FFEA members!



Lake Worth High School, Palm Beach County

By: Kayla O'Neal, FFEA Club Secretary

The Lake Worth High Chapter of the Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) prides itself on the principles of citizenship, leadership, scholarship, and academic excellence. These principles are used to mold the best future educators for generations to come. The Lake Worth High Chapter of FFEA is led by Marcia Brixius, who, for over 20 years, has instilled these traits in numerous young men and women passing through the Lake Worth Early Childhood Teacher Academy Program. FFEA members are able to intern at Lake Worth High's own learning laboratory preschool, The Little Trojans Preschool, and experience being lead teacher, creating age-appropriate lesson plans, making bulletin boards, and conducting their own observations and screenings.

However, it isn't all work. State Convention time comes around and students are able to take a break and enjoy learning about their favorite subject - teaching. Mrs. Brixius has been taking students to the conference in Orlando for the past 10 years. Students in these 10 years have competed in the essay, PowerPoint, lesson plan, outstanding chapter, PSA, and spirit competitions. Though winning isn't everything, it's always a proud moment when students place. Previous winners have been Suzanne Juste (2012), Brianna Salomon (2013), and Diana Zorro and Rosa Uriostegui (2014) who won second place in the PowerPoint competition. However, our Lake Worth High team was never able to achieve that elusive first place spot in the Spirit Competition until this past 2014 conference! Led by Mrs. Brixius and their club president, Desiree Hernandez, the students came up with a song to the already famous "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore. The catchy song, along with colorful tutu's, was what the chapter needed to separate themselves and push into the 1st place spot. Lake Worth High School left the FFEA 2014 State Conference with a brain full of knowledge and a big trophy to take home!



The Lake Worth Community High School FFEA Chapter took home the first place "Chapter Spirit Award", High School Division, 2014 FFEA State Conference.

Winston Park K-8 Center, Miami-Dade County

By: Diana Hernandez, Chapter Advisor

The amazing students in our chapter volunteer to read to children and help teachers with clerical tasks before and after school each day of the week. Our members have accumulated over 300 service hours in their commitment to their school and community. So far this year they have delivered 42 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families, hosted 2 breakfasts for teachers, and offered babysitting for parents so they could go holiday shopping. Their latest accomplishment was hosting "Reading Under the Stars" with the goal of bringing fun to literacy. Among the highlights of the evening were a guest author, a book exchange, games, and crafts. We can't wait to share more events with you!



Space Coast High School, Brevard County

By: Francine Drabik, Chapter Advisor

Our Space Coast FEA Club has been really busy. We participated in a number of educational and fulfilling activities and service projects. On November 2, FEA members paired up with our school's Relay for Life team to raise money for cancer research. We held a car wash and a rummage sale for the cause. We raised \$300 for Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.

During the week of November 18-26, our FEA members began our semester service project. We collected money in classrooms and at lunch for the Make A Wish Foundation. We raised \$275 for the foundation.

One of the most rewarding activities that the Senior FEA members were able to participate in during the months of November and December was interning at the elementary schools. FEA members were teamed up with Challenger 7 Elementary, Atlantis Elementary, and Enterprise Elementary teachers in order to help their classes/students and to have first-hand experience in the teaching profession. The FEA kids came back with some exciting stories. Many of them were able to work one-on-one with students. One of our seniors, David, helped a student with an IEP reach one of his goals. David had a similar IEP and could identify with the elementary student. He helped him with reading and spelling. David was excited to find out that the student ended up raising his reading and spelling level by the end of December!

A few of our FEA students also helped Challenger 7 Elementary build its float for the Port St. John Christmas Parade on Dec. 21st. They helped them build it during the entire month of December.

On December 6th, Brevard County held its annual Local BFEA Conference at FIT in Melbourne. Our FEA club did really well, winning 1st place in roll call and 2nd place in spirit board. The students also learned a lot in the breakout sessions. UCF and FIT students showed them some worthwhile lesson plans that they could use for their future classrooms.

On December 21, two of our sophomores were able to participate in a joint Read-A-Thon with UCF students at the Books-A-Million in Viera. Nicole and Catie read to small children for about an hour and a half. They even signed two books, using American Sign Language, with the help of the UCF students.

As you know, the FFEA State Conference just came to a close. Space Coast participated in many of the competitions. We learned a lot of useful information in our sessions and at College Night. One of our seniors, Michelle, ended up getting 1st place in the Speech Competition. She was asked to speak at the next district principal meeting on February 5th. FEA has given her a lot of confidence in herself and her fellow FEA peers have taken notice.

Black History Month just started and our club is involved in several activities to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans. FEA is hosting a door-decorating contest that began on February 3rd. FEA members also began reading biographies of important black figures over the morning announcements on February 3rd.



Atlantic High School, Volusia County

By: Kathy Garvin, Chapter Advisor

Atlantic High School hosted 200 kindergarten students from Horizon Elementary School on January 30th and 31st. Students created lessons for their "animal and their habitat" unit. We had face painting, manatee info, the live camera feed from Blue Springs, animal architect (creating new animals from different body parts), animal cracker math, animal paper bag puppets, animal masks, finger painting, animals in action (moving like animals- did you know it was a cache of crabs, they know it), animal freeze tag, leap frog, and finally a walk through our woods to see where animals live.



Viera High School, Brevard County

By: Carrie Hosmer, Chapter Advisor

Viera High School's FFEA meets weekly to discuss fundraising ideas, club activities and to prepare for conferences. This year we saw our numbers increase and we added a special induction ceremony and team building activities. In September one of our members who is in the visual design academy developed the design for our t-shirts. In October, that same member designed the cover for our district FEA conference brochure. Also in October, we held a car wash to defray conference fees. October was a very busy month for us as we held the first induction ceremony for our chapter. At the ceremony, we inducted all new members, officers for 2013-2014 and provided all members with official FFEA pins. In November we brought a fun family friendly activity to the community by selling discounted tickets to Fun Towne, a local skating rink and laser tag establishment. Tickets were sold to our high school peers and to the students in the VPK program at Viera High. During November, we also gathered for a team building activity. We learned more about one another and practiced team building and leadership activities. In December, we had a gift wrap table outside of Books-a-Million during one of its community service projects, promoting reading, community, and educators.

What makes our club unique and exceptionally committed to FEA is that a majority of our members are teachers in the Viera High VPK program. Each weekday, our members learn just how much impact teachers have on students' lives. As VPK teachers, our members prepare lessons, plan hands on activities, develop holiday, cultural, and academic celebrations and aid in the development of the minds of four year olds. We find this to be an important element of our club because many times students join clubs just to add to their resumes and do not become involved. Here at Viera our members have input, background experience, and a strong passion for the education profession.

Now that we have participated in district and state conferences, our club turns to additional service learning opportunities through which we are able to shadow teachers, build the community, and celebrate our Viera High teachers. We look forward to reporting on our spring activities.

Osceola Fundamental High School, Pinellas County

By: Christina Powers, Chapter Advisor

This year the FFEA team at Osceola High School has done a few community service projects that we believe really made a difference in the lives of many people. In October, we hosted a can food drive where we collected cans that would be donated to the needy during the Thanksgiving holiday. We collected the cans by having the FFEA members go door to door throughout their neighborhoods asking for donations, as well as by placing boxes throughout the school so that the whole student body of Osceola had the opportunity to participate. Collecting all the cans was a great experience and knowing that they were going to be donated to people in need was a very appreciative feeling. In December, our FFEA also hosted a book drive. The books that we collected were donated as Christmas presents to the children of women living in a shelter for abused women. Our team wrapped all of the books that we collected and hand delivered them to the children. We also had the opportunity to sit with the kids and read the books to them. Seeing the smiles on their face as they opened them was such an enlightening experience.



Ormond Beach Middle School, Volusia County

By: Misty Mercier, Chapter Advisor

FFEA members recently completed a campus cleanup and helping hands day for teachers at OBMS. We cleaned up the campus and surrounding areas and also made it a point to visit each teacher's classroom and offer a helping hand. Whether that meant cleaning white boards, organizing papers, wiping down desks, organizing libraries, or sweeping the FFEA members were excited and more than willing to help. The teachers were overwhelmed with gratitude!



Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High, Miami-Dade County

By: Claudette Barrett, Chapter Advisor

For the past few months Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior FFEA members have been very active in and around the community. Some of our members including Jenny Olguin, Olivia Napoles, and Jennifer Diaz, participated in "Teacher for a Day" at Hialeah Miami Lakes. Jenny Olguin is currently tutoring Spanish to middle school students. The members also worked on posters that were placed around the school for Cancer Awareness Month in October. We also went into the community to hand out flyers and sold cancer awareness bracelets to better educate people. In November, we wrote letters to our troops and collected care baskets to send to them. Currently, we also worked on Valentine's teddy grams to deliver to the faculty and staff on Valentine's Day.

Cocoa High School, Brevard County

By: Doreen Carlo-Coryell, Chapter Advisor

Cocoa H.S. FFEA club strives to inspire our students to consider teaching as a career by exposing them to "working" with children of all ages. We partnered with our on-site Head Start program to assist the teacher monthly. We distributed Reading is Fundamental books, assisting students with selecting their own book based on their own interests. We provided time for reading one-on-one with students and making an arts and crafts project during rotation time. We helped students prepare for lunch by supervising hand washing and helping to prepare trays. We also visited neighboring Fairglen Elementary school during Literacy week and provided a "Read-aloud" writing activity with the 5th grade class. As we discussed our future goals and dreams we encouraged those interested in the teaching profession to join our club when they arrive at Cocoa High School in 7th grade.

Cocoa H.S. FFEA club works to provide an opportunity to explore college options and opportunities by visiting local institutions. Our students visited Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus' Education Department. The college students gave us a tour of the campus. Professors explained the continuum to the University of Central Florida to continue classes in specialized education areas. We visited Florida Institute of Technology, participating in Brevard FEA breakout sessions given by the Education students. We learned about scholarship opportunities and enjoyed lunch in the student cafeteria. The UCF Cocoa Campus FFEA club sponsored our officers to attend the FFEA State conference in Orlando. UCF students also assisted us in providing a community service fundraiser by free gift wrapping during the holidays at our local Books-a-Million.



College Corner....

Edison State College's School of Education offers exciting and innovative education programs for diverse learners. Two of the six baccalaureate programs, Middle Grades Science and Secondary Biology, are offered for \$10,000.00. The honors education fraternity at Edison State College, Kappa Delta Epsilon, hosts more than 150 members. With new dorms situated in the center of five surrounding school districts and close to beaches and shopping, it provides the perfect living quarters for ambitious up and coming teachers. The majority of School of Education graduates at Edison State College are hired in the field within six months of graduation.

For more information, please contact Debbie McAuley at dmcauley@edison.edu or (239) 489-9369.

Florida Southern College offers not only traditional Bachelor's degrees in Elementary and Secondary Education.

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For more information, please contact Wendy Lamoreaux at wlamoreaux@flsouthern.edu or (863) 680-6276

Conference Pictures



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