

Apple Slices

FLORIDA FUTURE EDUCATORS OF AMERICA

September 2014

A Message from the FFEA President...

John Alvarez, 2014-2015 FFEA State President

Hello everyone. My name is John Alvarez and I am a junior at Miami Dade College (MDC). I am proud to serve as your new Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) President for 2014-2015. Welcome to a new school year!

Ever since I was a child, I have wanted to be a teacher. I believe that teaching is the most important profession on the planet. After all, teachers have the power to change lives and help shape our future. It is because of this belief that I joined the FFEA.

This past July (as my first act as president), I was invited to speak at the 2015 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year Conference held in Orlando, Florida. It was an amazing experience (to say the least). Not only did I meet some of the most outstanding and innovative educators from all over our great state of Florida, but I was also afforded the opportunity to participate in the same professional development trainings that were offered to each Teacher of the Year from every county in Florida. The conference theme was "LEAD," and by the end of the conference, I felt inspired, energized and ready to LEAD. And so that is the message that I would like to send to each of you.

We have a strong organization with a mission to support our members, our chapters, our teachers and the teaching profession as a whole. I have experienced how, by working together and leading, we can overcome any obstacle to achieve our common goals. Whether it is recruiting new members, or organizing volunteers for our chapter fundraisers and community service activities, I know that our greatest strengths (and the secret to our chapter's success) are in the creativity, ingenuity and hearts of our fellow members. After all, we are student leaders.

My fellow state officers (Kelsey and Sabrina) and I will work with Abbey Stewart and the FFEA administrative team to help improve the services that our statewide FFEA organization offers our chapters and members. We are excited to help our chapters across the state become the best student organizations on campus. Most importantly, we want to give you, our student members, an incredible and memorable experience while in FFEA. I believe we can achieve these goals if we work together. Let us make 2014-2015 the year that we **LEAD** FFEA to even greater heights.

See you at the state conference in February!



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Congratulations to St. Augustine High School!

St. Augustine High School is the first Outstanding Chapter Award winner of the 2014-15 school year! As the award recipient, St. Augustine High School will receive:

- An official engraved award presented to its FFEA Chapter!
- Recognition during a general session at the FFEA state conference!
- One free, extra hotel room provided to the chapter for the state conference!

For your chapter to be considered for the next award period, please submit a self-nomination form to Abbey.Stewart@fldoe.org by November 7, 2014.

5th Annual Apple Rally FUN

Breeanna Hull, St. Augustine High School Chapter President

What do you get when you mix 34 pizzas, \$60 in ice cream, 12 rolls of toilet paper, and over 70 teenagers? The Fifth Annual Apple Rally! On September 5, 2014, the members of the Academy of Future Teachers gathered together to host the Apple Rally—an event to officially induct new freshmen into the Academy, team building with members from other grades, and welcome the new school year. The rally is run and planned—soulfully—by the student officers of the FFEA chapter. (All 12 of us!)

Of course the rally featured tons of food, 34 pizzas to be exact, and we finished off with an ice cream social. The feature of the rally was a Mentor-Mentee program where each freshman is paired with an anonymous upperclassman mentor. During the week leading up to the rally, mentees received a series of letters containing secret clues about their mentors identities. Mentees had to have some serious detective skills if they wanted to identify their mentor before the rally! Some of the clues featured descriptions of the mentor's backpack, what the mentors would be wearing to the rally, and what teachers the mentor had during his/her lunch block. Mentees were finally introduced to their mentors at the Apple Rally through a fun game of Red Rover. This was just the first event out of many where the mentors and mentees will come together for other activities that will allow them to build long-lasting bonds.

So what about the toilet paper? After the mentor-mentee introductions, the officers guided all members into team building games including a 70 person contest of “rock-paper-scissors,” a game called “show and tell,” and “toilet paper tell”—a game where students had three seconds to gather as much toilet paper as possible, but then they had to tell their teams a fact about themselves for each square gathered. After the rally was over, students migrated to the football stadium to attend the year's first home game with their mentors and mentees. This event was definitely one that will be remembered by all!



Space Coast High School, Brevard County

Francine Drabik, Chapter Advisor

Our FFEA Vipers worked very hard this summer. Early on, we decided that this year's service project should be centered around children. Since one of our club members has to go to Nemours Children's Hospital for treatment, we wanted to support them and the other less fortunate children who have to stay at the hospital for long periods of time. In addition to raising money, we also made plans to visit the hospital's various locations in order to read to some of the children and color with them.



We worked several fundraisers to raise money for the state conference and for Nemours Children Hospital during the summertime and during the first month of school. On August 9th, we organized a large garage sale in which we raised \$200 dollars for Nemours Children's Hospital and another chunk of money brought us close to our state conference goal! Later in August, the group raised \$100 more at a bucket drop for the hospital and a little more for the conference.

Besides earning money for our service project, the juniors and seniors in our club were able to intern in teachers' classrooms. The 11th graders interned here at Space Coast and the 12th graders interned at Atlantis Elementary during 1st period on September 9th.

We have already held three meetings this school year and have decided what we want to do with our display board and roll call. Everyone is excited...Space Coast is ready to go!

Bartow High School, Polk County

Kerry Brown, Chapter Advisor

The students in Bartow High FFEA are collecting children's books to donate to the Goodwill Industries' BookWorks program. This program allows emerging readers in the Head Start Pre-K programs in underserved communities to receive a story (read by volunteers) and a free book for each child to take home. Our students donate children's books to help keep the program stocked with available books for the children. Early literacy is very important to a child's success in school and FFEA wants to help make this possible! We have collected over 50 books so far and have set a goal to reach 200 by the end of the school year.



Florida Institute of Technology, Brevard County

Sam Teehan, FFEA Representative

As a club we are the hosts of the Brevard Future Educators of America (BFEA) conference, where middle and high school student chapters throughout Brevard County come to Florida Tech and attend various workshops. This event involves many hours of planning and preparation as we develop our own workshops and help schedule and coordinate the event at our school. The BFEA conference has been held at Florida Tech since 2003 and is now considered a yearly tradition for our FFEA chapter and the Brevard County Teacher Recruitment office. This year, our chapter was recognized by Florida Tech for hosting this event and was awarded the "Outstanding Community Outreach Program" for the 2013-2014 school year. Our chapter was very honored to receive this award and the recognition by our school for the hard work and effort we put into the event every year.

Each year, our chapter has attended the annual FFEA conference and has participated in the spirit assembly. Our chapter has been honored to receive second place for the years of 2012 and 2013 and first place for the year of 2011! In past years, our members have also taken home first place awards in the lesson planning and essay categories. Every year our chapter looks forward to this event and all the knowledge gained from it. In addition, our chapter hosts our college's table during the college fair.

Our chapter has participated in the Walks for Education as members of FFEA for several years. Unfortunately, the club did not attend this year as the walk was hosted on the same day as fall semester finals for most of the members. As a chapter, we plan on attending this event again this upcoming year and in future years to come. Also, our chapter has participated in Relay for Life as well as held many themed parties throughout the years to attract more potential members. These parties have included pumpkin carving parties and pancake breakfasts. The pancake breakfast is held by the school in order to recruit possible candidates into the UTeach program and our chapter helps with the planning and recruitment for this event.

On top of all the events that we hold as a chapter, individual members also strive to help out around the local schools throughout the school year. These events include tutoring at local high schools and judging science fairs for the local elementary and middle schools.

Lastly, the Florida Tech chapter hopes to increase the amount of members it has for the upcoming school year. The first recruiting event was held during "study days" before spring semester finals. There, our chapter held a pizza party for any education major or minor to attend in order to use as a study break. Another recruiting event was already held at the beginning of this year as well. During the first week of school, our FFEA chapter held another pizza party to recruit the new freshmen who are interested in education. The chapter hopes more students will join for this fall semester.

Melbourne High School, Brevard County

Katie Coleman, Chapter Advisor

We ended the year with scrapbooking parties and an informational meeting for potential new members. Now we welcome the 2014-2015 school year by hosting a new member meeting where we will introduce returning members and share our previous FFEA experiences, including a PowerPoint presentation that highlights our achievements. Looking forward to it!

Winston Park K-8 Center, Miami-Dade County

Diana Hernandez, Chapter Advisor

Look out Florida, the Wildcats are on the prowl again! Last year the FFEA club at Winston Park K-8 Center roared their way to earning 874 community service hours!

Their fierce need to help kids in their school led them to packaging 43 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. To promote literacy to younger students, they read to the little cubs after school and pounced on the opportunity to plan and organize Reading Under the Stars. In addition to games and crafts, a local author read stories to the participants. The entrance “fee” was a gently used book and thanks to the donations of many teachers, every child was able to take home two “new” books.

Members also collaborated with the neighborhood community center to throw a Halloween party and Easter egg hunt. They set up a haunted house, games and crafts and stuffed and hid 2,500 eggs!



But that’s not all! Each week the Wildcats shadowed teachers to learn more about the profession. They learned responsibility, commitment and work ethic through their assistance to the teachers. The duties included filing, stapling, tracing and preparing materials for daily lessons.

To raise money for teacher breakfasts and Teacher Appreciation Week, the club held two events: Drop and Shop and Drop and Dine, where parents dropped their children off at school to go holiday shopping and out to dinner for Valentine’s Day. The FFEA kids made crafts, read stories, played games, served pizza and showed movies. The kids enjoyed their night out while parents enjoyed their time alone.

The Wildcats sure worked hard to get those 874 community service hours! How far will they go this year?



Bartow Senior High School, Polk County

Kerry Brown, Chapter Advisor

Congratulations to: Dhymund Grant—Treasurer, Brittany Aultman— Historian, Marshayla Frazier— President, Courtney Mitchell – Vice President and Victoria Balderas— Secretary who were selected as the officers of FFEA for the 2014-2015 school year. This group of future educators is very excited, motivated and ready to kick off our best year yet leading the FFEA club. As officers they have already started preparing club activities, service projects, fundraisers and preparations for the state conference in February. Stay tuned for future Apple Slices articles highlighting our fantastic chapter! Go Jackets!!!



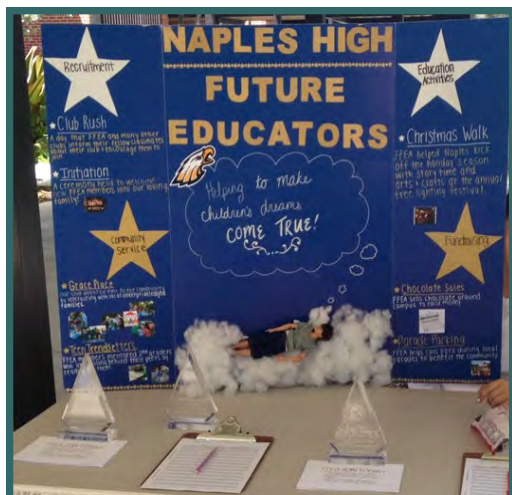
Naples High School, Collier County

Hailey Heaslip, Chapter Parliamentarian

Naples High School introduced FFEA to all students in October 2010. We started out as a small group with eight officers, and 40 club members. Since 2010, our segment of FFEA has grown and prospered! Following our Fall Club Rush, we now have 10 officers and over 60 club members. Our 2014-2015 Induction Ceremony will take place on October 13!

Our club advisor has dedicated her time and hard work to make our club as amazing as it is today. We help around town frequently volunteering in many places and giving back to our community. Some of our volunteer events include the 5th Avenue Christmas Walk in downtown Naples, where we set up stations to read to children and do crafts. We also go to Grace Place for Children and Families on weekends to work with English Language Learners and their families, reading and playing games with them. Monthly, we elect teachers and faculty from different areas and subjects to win the "Teacher of the Month Award," where they receive a potted flower and a pat on the back for being such an inspirational figure in the eyes of our Golden Eagle students.

The work that we do in FFEA has touched peoples' lives and the lives of our members and officers. In addition to planning for the state conference, we are excited to attend the first regional FFEA conference at FIU this fall! Our chapter at Naples High is eager to make this school year even better than last year and improving day by day and step by step.



College of Central Florida, Marion County

Kathy Robbins, Chapter Advisor

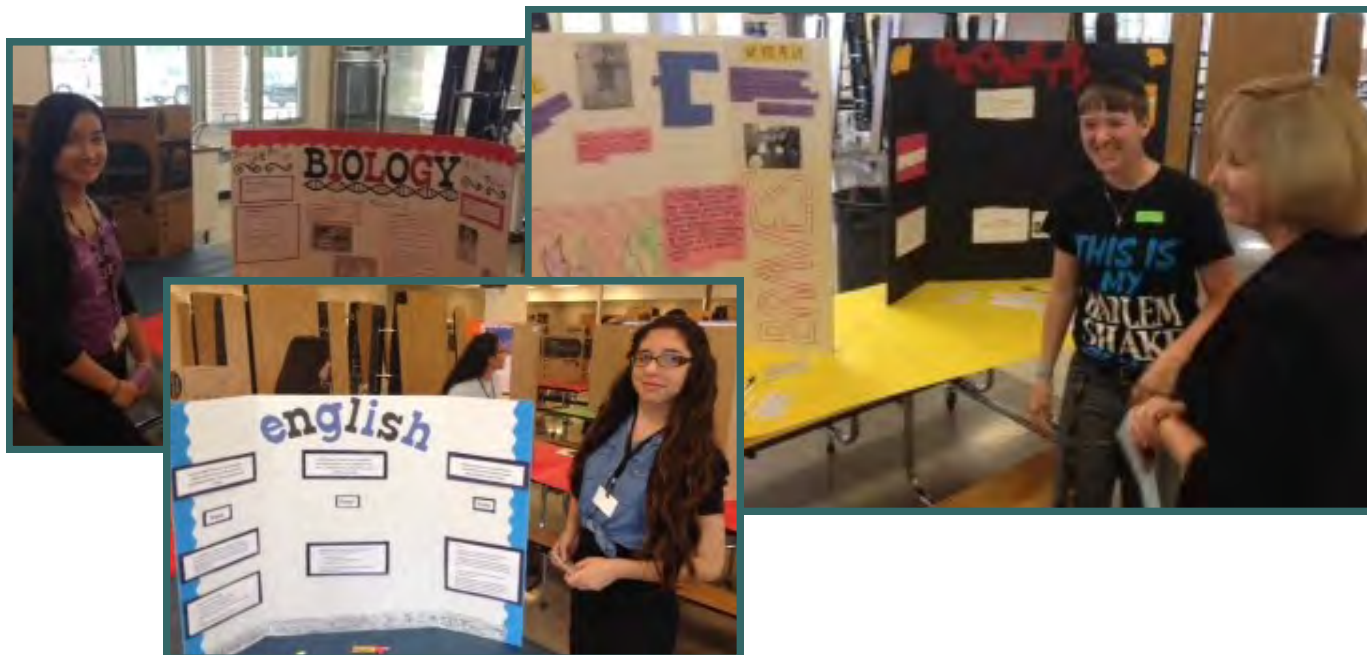
On September 13, 2014, the College of Central Florida's FFEA chapter wanted to show its support for the victims of domestic violence, by hosting a childcare service for the Walk of Hope. The event raised awareness for domestic violence in the community. During the events of the day, FFEA members provided childcare for children of all ages. The children participated in block play, reading and arts and crafts. Great job FFEA!!



Lake Gibson High School, Polk County

Melinda Baine, Chapter Advisor

The Academy of Future Educators at Lake Gibson High School in Polk County has been researching Florida's new state standards. They created lesson plans and display boards to educate faculty on current teaching strategies that could be used in various subject areas. These juniors and seniors used [CPALMS](#) and other resources to understand and align curriculum in subjects in which they are interested. During an after-school faculty meeting, the students presented their findings in a round-robin style presentation where faculty walked from display to display to learn teaching strategies and hear the student teachers share their research.



2015 FFEA State Conference

The upcoming 2014 Florida Future Educators of America Annual State Conference, themed "Teachers Make the Impossible Possible!" will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel on February 6-8, 2014. Competition guidelines and chapter registration have been posted on our [conference webpage](#). Please review this information carefully and be sure to look at the updated rubrics.



Contact Your Officers:

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