

Florida Department of Education

January 2013

Commissioner Tony Bennett officially took over the helm of the Florida Department of Education on January 14. Commissioner Bennett has been an outspoken advocate of working directly with parents and teachers to ensure and measure student success. Check out his first video message, "[Getting to Know You](#)," to learn more about his leadership style and his plans to work with residents across Florida. Or you can read the Commissioner's first blog post "[Looking At and Beyond the Scoreboard](#)."

Kelly Seay

Educator Liaison

Teacher Treasures

January Giveaway

Our January [Teacher Treasures](#) Giveaway will be for a two-night stay at the **Plantation on Crystal River**. Congratulations to our December winner, Michelle Provost, a high school teacher from Marion County.

FTCE, FELE, and Subject Area Tests

Are you adding a subject area to your certificate, seeking a professional certificate, or working toward an Educational Leadership degree? If so, you will need to take various exams. You can find more information about these exams, register, and download [free test preparation guides](#) at the [FTCE/FELE Contractor Website](#).

Education Conferences

Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) Conference

January 24 - 26, 2013

Orlando, Fla.

<http://www.amte.net/conferences/conf2013/hotelinfo>

Curriculum Corner

Coreplanner.com

Easily integrate and track Common Core Standards into your lesson plans with this free, online tool. You can create lesson plans, track your usage of the Common Core Standards, and generate reports to see your progress. Check out this new tool today at coreplanner.com.

Education News

Columba Bush Launches 2012-2013 Arts for Life! Scholarship Program

Columba Bush and the Foundation for Excellence in Education have launched the 2012-2013 Arts for Life! Program. Annually, Arts for Life! recognizes 25 graduating high school seniors from across Florida for outstanding achievement in the arts. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 cash scholarship toward his or her pursuit of the arts in higher education. To be considered for an Arts for Life! scholarship, students must be a graduating high school senior from a public, private or home education program in Florida and submit the following: a completed application, a brief essay explaining "How the arts have positively influenced my life," and a sample of their work in visual arts, dance, drama, music or creative writing. A committee of judges for each of the five disciplines, comprised of respected experts, reviews and scores the students' essays and work samples. Scholarships are given to the top scorers in each discipline and will be awarded in the spring of 2013. To apply for a 2012-2013 Arts for Life! scholarship, interested students should visit www.ArtsforLifeAward.org for an official application and more information on additional requirements. Applications must be received on or before **February 1, 2013**. If you have questions or would like further information, please contact the Foundation for Excellence in Education at (850) 391-4090.

Teaching Ambassador Fellowship

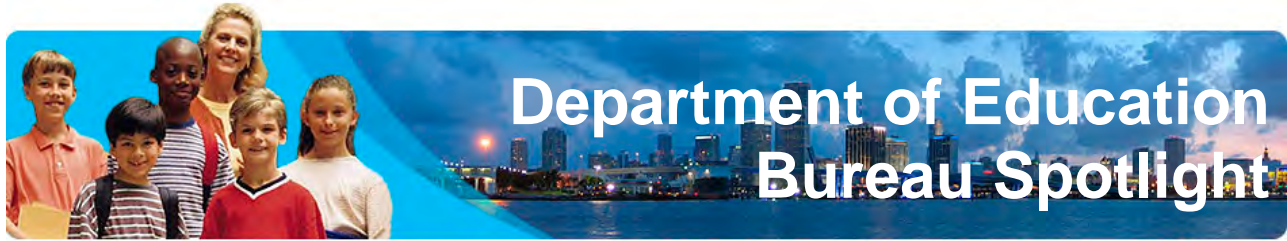
The application for the 2013-2014 Teaching Ambassador Fellowship has been released. The U.S. Department of Education invites teachers to apply for either or both the Washington Fellowship and Classroom Fellowship programs by **January 29, 2013, at 11:59 pm Eastern Time**.

The **Washington Fellowship** is a full-time appointment based at the Department's headquarters in Washington, DC. The **Classroom Fellowship** enables teachers to participate on a part-time basis for the Department, in addition to their regular school responsibilities, working in collaboration with the Department's regional offices.

To access the applications, please visit the [Applicant Information](#) page or go directly to www.usajobs.gov to apply for the [Washington Fellowship](#) and/or the [Classroom Fellowship](#).

Teacher leaders — please consider applying and share this information with your colleagues! Read the [related ED blog](#). [Sign up](#) for updates on the application process.

Call 1-800-USA-Learn or email TeacherFellowship@ed.gov with questions.



Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! is here and the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Office would like to make sure that you have all the necessary information to make this year's celebration bigger and better than ever before. Below are details of Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! events. We are thrilled with the overwhelming support from the Department of Education, and our partnering agencies at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Department of Health as employees are already signing up to participate in the reading of *James Wakes Up To Breakfast* in local area classrooms. In addition, we have had a great response from local law enforcement officers, who are planning to come to schools to read the book *I Want to Be a Police Officer*. Thank you for welcoming them into your schools and classrooms. Lastly, your district's Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! plans can be submitted to Hope Colle at Hope.Colle@fldoe.org. We would like to post them on our website as a resource to local media and partners.

- ✓ **December 2012 - February 2013 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Race Car Tour**
- ✓ **Week of January 14-18: FDOH, FDOE, and local law enforcement will be reading to children in schools through Florida**
- ✓ **Monday, January 14: *Celebrate Literacy, Florida!* Kick-off Event and Million Minute Marathon Kick-off**
- ✓ **Wednesday, January 16: Horse Tales Literacy Project, Orange County Schools**
- ✓ **Wednesday, January 16: Simultaneous Reading Event at VPK and Early Learning Centers**
- ✓ **Thursday, January 17: *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest Announcement**
- ✓ **Friday, January 18: Million Minute Marathon**

For more information about all *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* activities, contact Hope Colle at 850-245-7894 or hope.colle@fldoe.org.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and other staff members.