



SJCEF focus

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2009-2010

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Jackie Albritton, Coordinator

Take Stock In Children

Mary Wynn, Student Advocate

Take Stock In Children

Marci Poston, Coordinator

Supplemental Education Services

President's Corner



Superintendent Joseph Joyner with Beth Upchurch and Wayne Jenkins (Ketterlinus)

On November 19th, the 15th annual Horizon Grants Reception was held at the San Sebastian Winery. Sponsored by the Winery and Community First Credit Union, our guests were treated to food, beverages and money! A brief summary of each grant was read, and I am continually amazed at the creativity we have right here in our district. Fifty-three teachers were awarded over \$29,000 to assist with

the enhancement and motivation of student learning in the classroom. Great job everyone, and thank you!

On behalf of the St. Johns County Education Foundation, we wish you a safe and joyous holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Teacher of the Year celebration on February 11th.

- John Grannis



From Donna's Desk...

We have been incredibly busy working to update our website and focus on branding the Foundation. With the assistance of Dan McCook at Flagler College, Doug Wiles (picture below) recorded an



audio piece that will play until the new website goes active. Please stay tuned!

We welcomed Cathy Skarr to our team in October. Many of you know Cathy (picture at right) as the district's bookkeeper. She is providing her expertise to us on a part-time basis! I can't thank her enough for lifting that heavy burden off my shoulders.



Each school has selected a Teacher and Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010. Congratulations to all! I look forward to seeing them in the upcoming months.

- Donna Lueders, Executive Director, SJCEF

Take Stock In Children

by Donna Lueders

Take Stock in Children (TSIC) is a comprehensive program that offers college scholarships to deserving middle school students who have the potential but not the financial means to attend college. In St. Johns County, students are selected in 7th grade and receive a 2+2 scholarship to any Florida Community College or State University. Scholarships are purchased prior to students entering the program.

The TSIC program is an example of a public-private partnership that works. All scholarship contributions raised locally are matched dollar-for-dollar by "PROJECT STARS" of the Florida Prepaid College Foundation which is funded by the State Legislature.

Additionally, students are provided with a volunteer mentor and they meet weekly at school. Mentors are the backbone of our program and the bond between a mentor and mentee lasts a lifetime!

TSIC scholars (below left) recently visited St. Johns River Community College and Flagler College to observe college life. While on the campuses, the students attended classes, spoke with guidance counselors, and participated in workshops hosted by the Flagler College Society for Advancement of Management.

In November, former TSIC Board President, John Padgett, visited with members of the SJCEF and school district personnel. Mr. Padgett is passionate about at-risk students across the state receiving a college education. Because of his dedication and others like him, 16,000 students have received scholarships across the state since 1995!

January is Mentor Appreciation Month and we will show appreciation to the many mentors that volunteer their time and talents, providing support and encouragement to TSIC students. The Annual Mentor Appreciation Luncheon is planned for January 21st, 2010, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Agricultural Center. The event is catered by a generous donation from Outback Steakhouse Restaurant. Channel 4 Anchorwoman Mary Baer will be the Master of Ceremonies.



CFEF Regional Meeting Held in October

by Donna Lueders

In October, board members and staff from the education foundations in Duval, Flagler and St. Johns Counties attended the Consortium for Florida Education Foundations (CFEF) regional meeting at the Fullerwood Training Center. Mary Chance, CFEF Executive Director, is conducting these meetings across the state to brainstorm and discuss important issues related to public education based on survey results from foundation board members across the state.

Participating members broke into groups (picture below) to brainstorm a list of ideas about 1) career/technical and STEM education, 2) increasing graduation rates and advocating for uniform standards in reporting, and 3) repealing the Class Size Amendment and advocating for giving school system leaders more autonomy in allocating resources and teachers.

Upon completion of these regional meetings, the CFEF will gather all the information together and put together a Legislative platform.



Supplemental Education Services Program

by Marci Poston

Each year, branches of BB&T are encouraged to select a program in their surrounding communities that are affecting their communities in positive ways. This initiative is called the **Lighthouse Project**. Once a program is selected by a branch, the local bank management must submit a proposal outlining the worthiness of the cause and how it has a positive impact on the people in that community.

This year, BB&T elected to partner with the St. Johns County Education Foundation SES Tutoring Program to further the cause of literacy in St. Johns

County! The \$900 award has been used to purchase books for the children who complete our tutoring program in the local Title I elementary schools.

This generous donation has supplied 455 science-themed books for use in the program. It is our hope that by providing science-themed books, students will be encouraged to explore and expand their knowledge in the field of science, an area that is a critical need in our state. We are sincerely grateful for this donation, and we know that the students in our program will greatly benefit from their kindness.



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Get Your License 4 Learning!

When you purchase the Florida Education specialty license plate in St. Johns County, you contribute \$20 to assist students, schools and teachers in the St. Johns County School District.

Your donation, included in the price of the Florida Education specialty license plate, stays in our community and benefits children in our area schools through the St. Johns County Education Foundation! Some examples of important educational projects funded through donations provided by the license plate include extra reading help for students in grades K-12, mentoring for at-risk students, enrichment in math and science and classroom innovations for teachers and students!



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The St. Johns County Education Foundation (SJCEF) is a public, non-profit corporation and recognized as the direct support organization for the St. Johns County School District. We are committed to raising and distributing funds that might not otherwise be available.

The SJCEF sponsors several programs including the Horizon Grants, Take Stock in Children, Supplemental Educational Service Provider, Teacher of the Year Celebration, License for Learning specialty tag, and One for the Kids.

For more information, visit www.sjcef.com.