



Newspaper in Education Presents
Inquizi
Brought to you by Adult, Career & Technical Education



The Business of Giving Back

After teaching at Southeast High School (SEHS) for 17 years, Cindy Rees has seen many changes and transformations in the field of business education. She strives to teach her students that by not limiting themselves to one narrow pathway now, they are leaving the door open to greater possibilities in the future. What is relevant and pertinent today may become obsolete in just 10 to 15 years.

As co-lead teacher for the SEHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Cindy and her FBLA students are busy. In an effort to expose more students to educational opportunities after high school, they have planned field trips to both Manatee Community College and Manatee Technical Institute this month. They are also dedicated community service volunteers, aggressively raising funds to support many children's charities both here and abroad. Whether it's the Ronald McDonald house or the March of Dimes, third world countries in poverty or neighbors right in our own back yard, students are learning that helping others and giving back are really important aspects in the business community. Between service and education, Cindy Rees and her students are in the business of becoming lifelong learners.



KIDZ Biz & Buzz



College Bound

By Elizabeth MacDonald

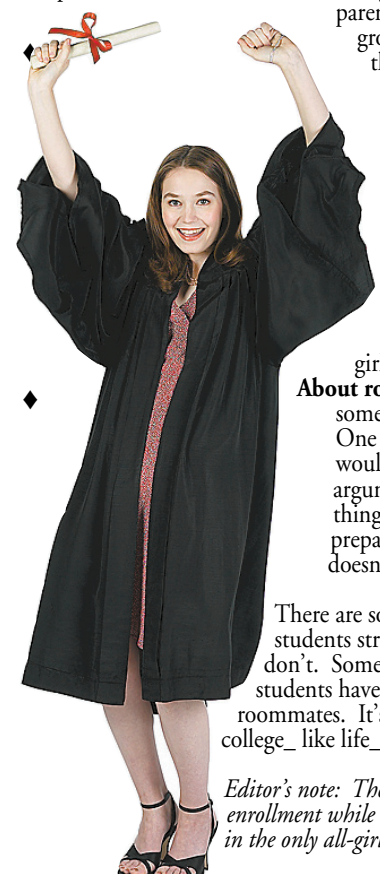
Dat Vu is a delightful young man with a captivating story. He arrived from Vietnam in 2005 with a dream: he wanted an opportunity to provide for himself. He knew he could have a successful career if he could get an education and a chance to attend college on a scholarship. Dat's first stop was at Southeast High School where he's getting a first-class education. For the first time, Dat has the opportunity to take elective courses and experience hands-on learning. He has filled his schedule with as many electives as possible, mostly with career-related courses. Through these courses, Dat has discovered that accounting and web design are where his future lies. After being recommended by his accounting teacher for a minority scholarship program sponsored by the Florida CPA Association, Dat spent two weeks last summer studying at the University of South Florida (USF). The experience helped him decide that USF was where he'd like to attend college, after first finishing a two-year program at Manatee Community College (MCC). Dat also keeps busy with many extracurricular activities. He is an active member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and the National Honor Society, and he is a Multicultural Club leader and a math tutor for ESOL students (English for Speakers of Other Languages). Dat knows that with education and opportunity, the future looks good!

InnoVators
THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE UNTIL I GOT HERE

By Shannon Rowe

As your senior year in high school approaches, you may start to feel the pressures that all upperclassmen face. You have to answer that famous question of "What's next?" The adults in your life may be saying, "Play-time is over. What are you going to do with your life?" That pressure can certainly be overwhelming especially if you don't know your options. Should you focus on getting a job or go to college or technical school? Cindy Rees, Business Education teacher at Southeast High School, understands this dilemma and seeks to help her students figure it out. Although going to college is not the only option for high school graduates, Cindy emphasizes the importance of getting a higher education. Her students research colleges as part of their assignments, finding the pros and cons of each and discovering how they fit with their own interests. Next they create web pages to present their college research. It's smart to explore your options before making such an important decision. Let's assume you are thinking about college. While checking out different universities, you'll probably come across the same basic facts, things that are definitely important to know. Snazzy college websites will give you excellent information about the programs, majors, and courses they offer, as well as other details such as costs for housing, food, tuition, books, and lab fees. Colleges provide campus tours to help get an idea of what to expect. As a first-time college student living away from home, however, I realized that some things are learned through experience alone. To help prepare you for your first semester of college, I asked other freshman to share what they found out as they experienced college life for the first time. As I asked questions about specific, real-life issues, they identified things they weren't prepared for. Here are a few things we've learned:

- ◆ **Managing time.** In college, unlike high school, there is less in-class time and more outside-of-class work. You have so much more freedom—to manage or waste your time. Some students with poor time management have lost sleep, missed classes, and even experienced failing grades. If you have a part-time job, balancing time between studying, working, and free time can make or break your college experience. Don't take on too much if you have the option.
- ◆ **Being responsible.** One student mentioned that no one is telling her to get out of bed and go to class. Most professors don't bother to check if you come to class or do the assignments, and they won't baby sit you or set up a parent-teacher conference if your grades are suffering. College will either force you to grow up or will starkly point out your irresponsibility. One of my professors made this comparison in terms of attending class: "You don't go to a restaurant, pay for the food, and then leave it on the counter and walk out. It's the same with your education; you are (or somebody who loves you is) paying for this, so take advantage of it."
- ◆ **Maintaining old relationships.** Depending on how far away you are, college can strain your relations with friends and family back home. One student said, "My family gets offended if I don't call them often, and my relationship with my boyfriend is only surviving because of immense trust and commitment." Still, moving away to college can be a good thing; it allows you to get out on your own and make new friends. There are so many opportunities to meet new people many more than at home. I've even made new friends while brushing my teeth in the community bathroom that I share with more than 20 girls!
- ◆ **About roommates.** Roommates can open your eyes to the struggles and joys of living with someone beyond your family, hopefully teaching you how to compromise and get along. One male student I interviewed said he didn't think disagreements with roommates would ever be a problem, but after living together for a while he admitted that arguments happen at times. Also, roommates have changed his idea of cleanliness—things are a lot dirtier than at home! I think rooming with someone in college may even prepare you for marriage in some ways. You have to learn to live with someone who doesn't do things your way.



There are so many other facets to living at college, and everyone's experience is different. Some students struggle financially and have to work many hours and keep up with classes; others don't. Some students force themselves to study when they don't feel like it; others don't. Some students have great roommate relationships, and others live in tension and have had to change roommates. It's good to be aware of certain issues that may come your way, but I also believe that college-like life is what you make of it.

Editor's note: The author is from Manatee County, attended Manatee Community College through dual enrollment while in high school, and is a freshman at the University of South Florida in Tampa. She lives in the only all-girls dormitory on campus.

DISCOVER the Future



Career Pathways in Manatee County

Today's Career Focus: Managers may start out with a college degree and an entry-level position in a specific industry. They may work their way up to positions of increasing responsibility managing employees, budgets, and operations, always with an eye on profitability.

Regional Careers: Here are examples of management-related occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational Title wage	Entry Level	Mean (average)
Computer and Information Construction Managers	\$34.96	\$53.74
Engineering Managers	\$24.87	\$38.79
Financial Managers	\$32.04	\$49.15
Food Service Managers	\$18.46	\$26.76
General and Operations Managers	\$23.92	\$45.96
Human Resources Managers	\$33.31	\$40.23
Industrial Production Managers	\$23.28	\$39.55
Lodging Managers	\$12.95	\$25.27
Marketing Managers	\$22.95	\$41.17
Public Relations Managers	\$17.22	\$28.93
Purchasing Managers	\$24.07	\$37.10
Sales Managers	\$30.53	\$60.84
Social and Community Service Managers	\$21.59	\$30.43
Training and Development Managers	\$28.28	\$43.76

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com> Florida Market Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program.

Tech Prep Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in business management can find related educational programs at these area schools*:

Johnson Middle School, Southeast High School, Manatee Technical Institute, Sarasota County Technical Institute, Manatee Community College, and the University of South Florida.

*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue. Source: 2006 Tech Prep Career Pathway Guide, Manatee County Schools

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- www.myfloridaeducation.com
- www.florida.echoices.com
- www.myplan.com
- <http://magnet.manatee.k12.fl.us/high.html>
- www.floridafbla-pbl.com

Explore IT



Cindy Rees, Business Education teacher at Southeast High School, assigns a similar activity to her students. They take it one step further and create web pages with their findings.

There are many different colleges and technical schools to choose from, depending on your career goals and personal interests. A little research can help you choose where you would like to apply.

- Choose two colleges or technical schools you may be interested in. Find out the following facts:
 - Majors** – do these colleges have specific programs that you are interested in?
 - Housing** – what kind of living arrangements are available?
 - Transportation** – is everything within walking distance, or will you need a car?
 - Expenses** – can you and your family afford the tuition, food, housing, books?
 - Sports opportunities** – if you are serious about playing a sport in college, do these colleges have a team for your particular sport? Do they have intramural sports? (These are organized sports for fun—anyone can participate.)
 - Scholarships** – which ones are available?
 - Clubs** – do these colleges have many extracurricular opportunities to

- get involved?
- Job opportunities** – what employers are in the area? Are there jobs available at the college?
- Weather** – would this make a difference in your lifestyle or extracurricular activities?
- Distance from home** – do you want to be far away or still within visiting distance?
- City** – is the college in a small town, a large city, or a more rural area?
- Number of students** – how many students attend? How big are classes?

- On a sheet of paper, write down all of the ways the two schools are similar.
- On another page, describe how they are different.
- On a third page, draw a line down the center and write the names of the schools in the heading of each column. In each column, write down all the reasons you'd like to attend that particular school.
- Repeat number 4, except this time, write down all the reasons you don't want to attend that particular school.

Hopefully, completing this exercise will help you make a more informed college decision.



InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in The Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Brandy Braver (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031, Julie Beacham-Hooie, Ad Designer.