

## **Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT)**

### **Update #10 – October 2001**

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#### **New Faces Join The ACT Team:**

In the issue number 6 and 7 we listed 15 new positions or transfers at the secondary level for Career and Technical Education. Today we are adding a few more welcomes and are very excited to welcome our new teachers to this year's ACT team. They will include:

Ms. Lori Kish – Lakewood Ranch High School – Business Systems & Technology  
Mr. Bob Jenkins – Lakewood Ranch High School – Business Systems & Technology  
Ms. Sally Spehr – Bayshore High School – Business Systems & Technology

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#### **Department Heads Meetings In Full Gear:**

A few weeks ago we had our first ACT Department Head (DH) meeting at Palmetto High School, which was a huge success with 100% participation from all of the high schools. A middle school meeting has been set for October 16th at Lee Middle School. Your ACT-DH will be bring back important information for you and your program along with any requests this office gets for information. Please make every effort to fill any requests that your DH has, the information will be used to help us make a case for more funds and equipment needed to advance your programs and practices. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

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#### **Career Education News:**

Thanks to everyone who took time to go through the Tech Prep Program guide to make corrections for this year's printing! Look for it to have a cover that matches this year's Tech Prep poster. The guide will be distributed to 8th grade students sometime between November 12 and Winter Break, in an effort to get information about ACT Ed programs out students prior to School CHOICE. This year 8th grade students are also participating in six sessions of Career Development and Planning prior to hearing about ACT Ed programs and academies and completing the four-year plan. Remember --- these activities help recruit students who are interested in career paths in our program areas!

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#### **Final Class Reports:**

As Final Class Report time rolls around for some teachers, please keep in mind that this is the vehicle, which brings dollars to our county, and the accuracy of these reports is paramount. Please be sure to double-check all of the information on these reports before signing and returning them. If a student spent just one day in your class, we will want you to count them. One student generates funding. If you have questions about this procedure please do not hesitate to contact Trish who will be glad to visit your school site and go through the steps with you individually.

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#### **Computer Games:**

It has come to our attention that Windows computer games such as (Mind Sweep and Solitaire) are still being used by some students during class time. This practice is not permissible under the Manatee County guidelines and it does not make good educational sense. Please take the necessary steps to see that programs that have no educational value are deleted off your computers. If you need assistance with this task, contact our office and we will make arrangements for a support center computer tech to come out to your program and help.

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#### **OJT Teachers Update:**

We are looking for a few teachers to participate in a task force to restructure the current compensation practices for the ACT teachers who have students out on OJT. The practice of this office to pay teachers to return to school early in the fall in order to find placements for the OJT students in their programs will no

longer be permissible due to the fact that the budget will not be approved until after teachers return to school for the fall (as was the case this year). However, we do have funds for compensation and will need to have the stakeholders develop a fair and manageable program. If you are interested in participating in this task force please e-mail Trish Litton, space is limited but we will insure that teachers who wish to help move this program forward represent each school.

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**Defensive Driving Course Funds:**

With Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) chapter funds available (\$1,700.00) for every ACT program in Manatee County. You have the opportunity this year to transport students to an event using the Manatee County vans. According to county guidelines, teachers are required to possess a defensive driving course certification to transport students. This four-hour course is offered by the Manatee Safety Council and is offered Tuesday & Thursday night from 6-10 and on Saturday morning 8-12. The certificate is good for 2 years. Starting this year the ACT office will reimburse the \$20.00 fee to any ACT teacher or staff member taking the course. Please forward your receipts to us for the course and we will send you back your funds.

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**ACT Office Staff Changes:**

On October 8th the School Board approved the appointment of Debbie Merrill to the position of Project Director for our District's Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant. "I have enjoyed working with you all for the past few years, and feel like we have really begun to make some serious headway. Working with Doug, Trish, Marge and Debbie has been great, and I am excited about where the ACT Ed Department is headed. While it is difficult to leave my current position, I am excited about the new challenges that lie ahead! I will continue to work with Doug and Trish and many of you through the schools that are part of the magnet grant (and with academies, too!). I will miss working with you in my current role, but look forward to working with you in my new capacity". Debbie Merrill

Debbie's position of Career Education Specialist will go to the Board on October 22, 2001 for approval to advertise. The job will then be posted on the Manatee County website <<http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us>> with all of the other vacancies in the county.

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**Digital Revelation:**

With the infusion of the new Sony's we are seeing more and great things going on in the programs (keep e-mailing us your great photos). We have still not received the second round of ordered equipment but should be soon, we will put out an e-mail about the next training when the ordered items are received. We have enclosed a website link e-mailed to us from Cindy Rees, Business Technology Education Teacher at Southeast High School, where you can see some of the pictures the teachers/students have taken with the digital cameras received in August. There are many more departmental pictures that are archived until they get the web pages for the school's curriculum created. Thank you Cindy for the e-mail!

<[http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/southeast/ACADEM\\_1/Academies/academies.html#Culinary%20Arts](http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/southeast/ACADEM_1/Academies/academies.html#Culinary%20Arts)>

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**America The Beautiful Fund:**

The America the Beautiful Fund, a nonprofit group that seeks to encourage Americans to beautify their environment in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks, announced that it would provide seeds to be used to plant "Freedom Gardens" across America. Seeds are available on a first-come, first-served basis with over \$1 million worth of flower, vegetable and herb seeds. Applicants may request 100 to 1,000 seed packets each and just pay for shipping. If you can use them, check out the Website at <[www.freeseeds.org/html/abf/news/FreeSeeds\\_order.htm](http://www.freeseeds.org/html/abf/news/FreeSeeds_order.htm)>.

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**DOE Teacher Recruitment Site:**

In response to Florida's critical need for teachers, the DOE unveiled the alternative teacher certification Web site. The site, entitled <<http://www.timetoteach.org>> is designed to serve as a user-friendly vehicle for drawing Floridians into the teaching profession. The purpose of the Web site is twofold. First, "Time to Teach" provides information for prospective teachers from out of state to encourage and assist them in becoming Florida educators. Second, "Time to Teach" offers school districts a program for alternative teacher certification for the 2001-02 school year. Statistics indicate a need for more than 160,000 new teachers in Florida within the next 10 years. This year alone, close to 15,000 teachers will leave the profession, and over 1,000 additional teachers will be needed to meet current student enrollment rates.

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**Sears Kid Hero Program:**

Sears Roebuck and Co. announced the new 2001 Sears Kid Hero Program, which recognizes youth, ages 6-14, for their community involvement and awards them with scholarships; charitable contributions and Sears gift cards. The Kid Hero Program is presented by Sears Good Life Alliance and Sears Kids Department. A winner will be named in each of Sears' 860 department stores across the country, each receiving a \$50 Sears gift card and a \$100 donation to the charity of the winner's choice. For more information visit any Sears store for entry information.

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**Harlee Hosts "Pizza Paradise":**

Colleen Keip's 6th grade family and consumer science students hosted a "Pizza Paradise" party Friday, October 5, 2001. We were greeted at the door by a host who seated us, waiters that took our orders, cooks that actually cooked our meal; servers that served us a delicious meal all as beautiful orchids and music surrounded us. This was an outstanding effort from both students and teacher. We know the students learned lessons beyond what was visible in room 701. A phenomenal job for this age group. If you have an event like this remember to send us an invitation.

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**Farm City Week 2001:**

This year's events will take place November 12-17th with a week filled with excitement and fun for all! Be on the lookout in the Bradenton Herald on Monday for Guest Editorials. Tuesday brings the Kiwanis Luncheon recognizing the Outstanding Agriculturist. On Wednesday middle and high school agribusiness students will travel to an undisclosed community destination for their Land Judging Contest. This day also hosts the Leadership Manatee Tour. Thursday receives the Historical Luncheon. Inductees into the Manatee County Agriculture Hall of Fame will be honored. Middle and high school essay contest winners will also be honored at the historical luncheon. Friday brings the Farm Tour. The Tomato Festival rounds out the fun filled week events.

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**Last Word:**

We dedicate the last word (a quote) to Debbie Merrill who has given so much energy the last four years of her professional life to the advancement of our department as the Career Education Specialist.

"Your first and foremost job as a leader is to raise your own energy level and then to help orchestrate the energies of those around you". *Peter Ducker*

For this quote from Peter Ducker is consistent with the good energy that Debbie has brought to our department over the years, for she is someone special who has the energy to make great things happen. Good luck Debbie, we wish you continued success in your new position.

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Thank you,

Marge DiBello  
Trish Litton  
Debbie Merrill

Debbie Revell  
Doug Wagner