

Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT)

Update #6 – June 2001

MA Degree For Career and Technical Educators

There will be an informal session to answer questions, provide applications, etc., for the new MA Degree in Career and Technical Education that USF is launching in the Fall of 2001 (no GRE required; distance and Saturday format). This will take place on Saturday June 2nd in the TECO conference room of the Tampa USF campus from 10:00 a.m. - noon (to the left after entering the main entrance to the College of Education Bldg.). For more information please contact Dr. Bill Blank, Professor, USF, 813-974-0314 or <blank@tempest.coedu.usf.edu>.

FACTE Annual Conference

Each year the Florida Association for Career & Technical Education (FACTE) hosts the Annual FACTE Conference and Trade Show. FACTE will have all areas of Career and Technical Education represented at the conference. The conference will be held July 22-25, 2001 at the Hyatt Orlando. However, this will be the only statewide conference for DCT, Marketing, Agriscience and Health. The other program areas not listed above will still have a program at the conference, but will also have a major conference in October somewhere in the state. If you would like to attend this summer conference please fill out the registration form on the web site (www.FACTE.org) and send it to us in county mail by Tuesday, June 5. (Sidebar) This is one professional organization that everyone should be a member of, besides the annual conference, they publish a quarterly newsletter, and fight hard for legislation that effects our programs.

District-Wide Back to School In-service

August 8, 2001 will kick off the start of the 2001-02 school year with Dr. Dan Nolan live on TV on every screen in the district. Then teachers will be released from their schools to attend content area in-service meetings. The ACT department will host a short general meeting with content area specific break-outs to follow. Your Department of Education State Program Directors for each area (Ag, BTE, Marketing, DCT, FACS, Health, Industrial and TE) have been invited to update you on the new and exciting developments that are taking place in the state in the area in which you teach. This is one in-service you can't afford to miss, please mark your calendars now for the fall dates so we can get 100 percent participation.

MTI Bragging Rights

Each year the SkillsUSA-VICA students and staff travel to the state conference where they compete against the sharpest students from across the state. MTI showed the state what we are made of - receiving MORE medals than any other school at the conference. Congratulations to all who shared in this event. You brought state attention to our programs in Manatee County. Best wishes for success at the Nationals this summer.

Microsoft Officer User Specialist (MOUS) Training Offered

Those interested in taking advantage in becoming MOUS certified will have another chance. MOUS training will be offered this summer in coordination with Sarasota County. If you are interested in Core, Expert, and Master levels of certification in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook contact Trish Litton (741-7229) for the particulars. We discourage last minute cancellations!

MOUS Authorized Testing Center

We have begun the process for Manatee County to become an Authorized Testing Center for Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) Certification. We have purchased exams and should be ready to go soon! If you want to certify in any Microsoft Office software area, let us know! Business teachers, we hope to offer the exams to students this coming school year! Let's give students the opportunity to enter the workforce with skills for today's workplace!

CBE Students Update

In the past, this office has provided funding to the high schools to pay the Cooperative Business Education (CBE) students to work in the front office of their high school during the year. We have had many inquiries about whether or not these funds will be available for next year. Keep in mind that in preparing next year's budget, we used our current Budget Report which did not show these funds, since they were turned over to the high schools in the fall of 2000. Therefore, we did not budget for it in the coming year. We will keep you informed through these monthly updates as to the outcome of this additional budget request.

OJT Teachers Update

Apparently it has been the practice of this office to pay teachers to return back to school early in the fall in order to find placements for the OJT students in their programs. Many of you have asked if this practice will be continued for fall 2001. We did budget funds for this program, but have asked for a increase to now cover all teachers who participate in finding placements for students. We are also looking at restructuring the current level of compensation to take into account the number of students placed. Unfortunately, as of today, the budget for 2001-02 has not been approved; therefore, we cannot give a definite answer. We will keep you all informed through our monthly update e-mail newsletter, or you can call this office to find out the status of this request if you are unable to access e-mail over the summer break.

ACT Spring Dinner/Meeting A Huge Success

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals who turned out after hours for the ACT meeting and dinner at the Olive Garden. It was a record-breaking crowd (every school was represented) who shared in good food, good conversation and plans for the future. And learned that like Butch O'Hare, the fighter pilot assigned to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific who was Easy Eddie's son, that we all have the opportunity to pass along the value of integrity and rise to the challenges that the future holds in our lives and professions (this part makes sense only to those who attended). If you could not attend our last meeting, please take a few minutes of your time to seek out someone at your school to find out what we talked about.

Cyber Learning @ Online High

Florida OnLine High School expands course offerings to include career/technical courses. The following courses are being offered: Business Computer Programming I, Business Systems Technology, Web Design I, Business Software Applications – PC Support (new for Fall 2001). For more information see the web at <<http://fhs.net/FHSWeb.nsf/Home?Open>>

Programs in Practice

Begin now to plan for next year! Each vocational (career and technical) teacher will have the opportunity to spend two days visiting other programs. One day you might visit a program that feeds your program and a program that your program feeds within the district. For your second day you might also visit a similar program in another district! The ACT office will provide a list of exemplary sites in other districts in each program area for you to visit. After the visits are made, you will be asked to share digital pictures and what you have learned over e-mail with other teachers in Manatee County. The cost for substitutes and travel will be provided through our

Perkins funds! The sooner you visit, the sooner you will be able to implement new ideas! Get ready because 2001-2002 promises to be a super year!

Last Word

When William Stidger taught at Boston University, he once reflected upon the great number of un-thanked people in his life. Those who had helped nurture him, inspire him or who cared enough about him to leave a lasting impression.

One was a **schoolteacher** he'd not heard of in many years. But he remembered that she had gone out of her way to put a love of verse in him, and Will had loved poetry all his life. He wrote a letter of thanks to her.

The reply he received, written in the feeble scrawl of the aged, began, "My dear Willie." He was delighted. Now over 50, bald and a professor, he didn't think there was a person left in the world who would call him "Willie." Here is that letter:

My dear Willie,

I cannot tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my late eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and, like the last leaf of autumn, lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught school for 50 years and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a blue-cold morning and it cheered me as nothing has in many years.

Not prone to cry easily, Will wept over that note. She was one of the great un-thanked people from Will's past.

You know them. We all do. They are you, the teachers.

On behalf of the Department of Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT) and the thousands of students who are educated, inspired and taught to believe in themselves by you (the teachers), we would like to express our sincere gratitude for a job well done. You are "extraordinary" leaders who are making a difference in the lives of our students (our future). You are all to be commended for changing the world - one student at a time. Have a great summer!

Thank you,

Marge DiBello
Trish Litton
Debbie Merrill
Debbie Revell
Doug Wagner