

Update #31

January 5, 2004

Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT)

Manatee County School District

January 6th District In-service Day

Eight ACT teachers will present at the District In-service Day, January 6, 2004. Be sure to check out these exciting and educational sessions to be presented by: Bonnie Condor-Board Certification, Bill Gaynor-Oracle, Angie Grasberger-Academies, Diane Lehman-Business Panel, Gretta Sancho-Reading Strategies, Don Sisemore-Oracle, Chuck Routhier-Oracle, and Kristey Richardson-Construction Technology Careers (CTC). There promises to be something for everyone with topics ranging from reading strategies in Career and Technical classes to a panel of business folks coming in to discuss desired workplace skills with our teachers! Be sure to peruse the upcoming electronic schedule of sessions. The morning sessions will take place at BHS and MTI. Be sure to visit the vendor area in BHS's cafeteria. Then in the afternoon attend the general session at the Civic Center.

Training Requests Encouraged

If you have a specific need for training for a specific piece of equipment or for a computer program please contact the ACT office during the month of January. Your requests will enable us to bring to our district the appropriate particular training component. With the ever changing workplace it is imperative that we keep our teachers on the cutting edge to be able to bring to our students the skills they need to be competitive.

Great News From Marketing Education

The results of the District 10 Testing are just in and seven DECA members from Lakewood Ranch High School qualified as District 10 Finalist to take place on January 8, 2004 at Edison Mall in Fort Myers. This is a record number of students from this program and more than any other program in the County. Congratulations to DECA Advisor and teacher Bob Jenkins!!!!

Academy's On Track

Over the last three years our current academies have worked hard to rise up to the challenge of meeting the county level criteria used to ensure all academies are implementing the necessary components that would qualify them to use the Academy terminology. In a few short weeks an evaluation team from the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) will fly down from Washington D.C. to meet with and evaluate each academy to see if they have what it takes to call themselves academies. Those who are successful in achieving this feat will be recognized by the School Board and be certified as an Academy. Stay tuned for the next ACT Update when we will celebrate our academies.

Industrial & TechEd Take The Show

We would like to thank the many teachers who attended the teacher in-service this semester. The Florida Association of Technical and Industrial Education (FATIE) and the Florida Technology Education Association (FTEA) combined their conference and we had a record crowd (even more attendees than Orange County who hosted the event). It is critical that we continue to reach for the stars and move our content knowledge forward to better educate the students. A special thank you goes out to the 53 Technology Education and Industrial Education teachers and staff who took the time and efforts to attend this important event.

Give Your Students The Choice!!!!

The 2004 version of Choices has arrived and has been or will be installed on the computers at the high schools. The program has been modified and many new enhancements have been added. We have invited Peggy Land from the DOE to present a workshop on it for our high school instructors. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2004 at Lakewood Ranch High School from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The ACT department will pay for substitutes for our

Career and Technical Education and Academy instructors who use this program and would like to attend. Space is limited so please contact Angie Grasberger by email or call 545-4668 to sign up for the workshop.

Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Hits The Students

This last month five of Chuck Griggy's (Master Certified) Business Technology Education students from Palmetto High School came to MTI to take Microsoft Office Specialist certification exams. What a success they were! All five students not only passed these difficult exams, but they all scored above 90%. One even made the highest score ever recorded on PowerPoint at this IQ Center--984 out of 1000. Super job!!! We are in our third year of offering free testing to all BTE teachers in this district who teach Microsoft Office. If you have not yet started down this path to become master certified please start today. Contact our office on what to do next. Congratulations to all of these outstanding students and the teachers who are making this happen.

Schools Share Success Stories

One of the tasks given to the department chairs for the month of November was to meet with their teachers and gather success stories, bring them back and share them at the December department chair meeting. A joint meeting was held for middle and high school chairs at Johnson Middle School on December 9, 2003. Stories ranged from the professional satisfaction experienced by a teacher once a middle school student learned to read a scale to the writings of illustrated poetry in another career and technical classroom. Teachers shared what could be considered a small insignificant teachable moment to life changing acts of learning! Discussion centered on the impact a teacher has on the life of a student. We all agreed that we sometimes forget the positive impact a teacher has on their students; we are fortunate that we have such dedicated individuals teaching in the ACT department.

Curriculum Development Mini Grant Opportunity

Teachers are reminded to submit their application for ACT Mini Grant Funding for Curriculum Development by the second deadline February 2, 2004. An application can be found in your ACT notebook that was handed out at the August 4 at our Back to School Kick Off. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to come together to develop current, hands-on curriculum to be used within their classrooms. Please do not confuse this opportunity with an equipment request. Curriculum development is directly related to our ACT curriculum frameworks and standards. If you should have questions please direct them to our office prior to the deadline. We will be happy to work with individuals or groups setting goals.

Vocational Funding Legislative Support

If you have not already done so, be sure to write a letter today in support of vocational funding. Remember, the Florida Legislature has eliminated weighted funding for middle school vocational programs altogether this year (a cut of almost \$200,000 this year to our programs), which has brought the cost of a middle school vocational program to the same level as an English or math class! Let legislators know how you feel. Write a letter today! See your department chair for key addresses and sample letters. I believe we are leading the state in the number of calls from the Governors' Office about this issue. However, action speaks louder than words, and we must keep up the pressure and keep pushing forward. Do your part for your fellow teachers! Act today! We can not afford to lose any more funding.

Equipment Funding For ACT Teachers Approved

During this first semester the ACT department is pleased to report that requests for new equipment submitted by the teachers have been processed in the amount of \$54,971.39. Each request is evaluated separately on its own merit. Total student impact, need, and program completion are all weighed before a decision is made. The ACT department takes great pride in moving programs forward when purchasing new equipment. All ACT teachers are encouraged to submit requests that will benefit student achievement. Needed forms may be accessed on-line or found in the ACT notebook which was handed out August 4th, at our Back to School Kick Off.

Program Reviews

For those of us who have been around for sometime you remember when the DOE would come out to our schools and conduct a program review. The ACT department would like to conduct their own program review complete with feedback and improvement. We are looking for a few programs to step forward and pilot test this initiative. Contracted experts from other districts as well as the DOE will meet with each teacher, review the program and provide feedback. Our sole purpose is to strengthen each vocational program in Manatee County. It is important to keep moving forward, we must have strong programs that are effective and efficient that meet the needs of the workforce and continuing

educational opportunities. If you would like to volunteer to be one of the few programs to step forward and pilot test this initiative please contact our office by February 5, 2004.

Teachers Gear Up For TIES

It's time again this year for ACT teachers to submit paperwork to take part in the Teachers in Industry for Educational Support (TIES) program. Teachers received the TIES Information Sheet, TIES Application for Participation and TIES Training Agreement in their notebooks at our Back To School Kick Off on August 4th. Teachers are to select, contact, and make application to a business directly related to their teaching assignment. All documents are to be completed and returned to the ACT office by April 15, 2004 in order to be considered as a participant for this year's program. Don't be left out in the cold. Get started today with this exciting School-to-Work initiative. Learn first hand what business is really looking for in an employee in the year 2004!

The 2004 County Fair Update "The Spirit of America"

Spirit of America in 2004 starts January 22, 2004 and runs through the 31st. Thank you to those of you who have offered to help out by manning the Career and Technical Education booth in the Ayers Building, and the MTI booth in the Harlee Building. If you did not have a chance to sign up, please contact Marge DiBello at 708-8770 (ext. 2234) to get on the schedule. All participants who help will receive fair passes (this is our way of saying thank you). Check out the fair website at <http://www.manateecountyfair.com> for more information.

Fair School District Events

*** Adult, Career & Technical Education**

The Adult, Career & Technical Education Department will provide a display in the Ayers Building depicting the "American spirit" in our vocational programs from the early 1900's to our 21st Century technology. Representatives will be available each day at the Fair to talk with students, parents and community members about the benefits of career and technical education. They will provide pamphlets of information about our programs currently at the schools for the public.

*** Agriculture**

Five schools with Agriculture programs (Palmetto, Lakewood Ranch, Southeast High, Haile and Lincoln Middle) will show their animals in the Autoway Ford Arena at the Fair. Students are responsible for the daily care of their swine, cows, and steer. Students were responsible for getting to the preliminary weigh-ins and periodic checks prior to the final fair competition. Animals will be judged on weight and condition. Students will be evaluated on their showmanship abilities.

*** Art Exhibit**

There will be a countywide school art exhibit held in the Harlee Building throughout the 10 days of the Fair. It will be showcasing students K through 12 creative art from all our county schools. With the help and hard work of the district art teachers, this art display demonstrates the students' creativity. Special thanks to organizers Elaine Graham and the K-12 Art teachers for their dedication to this event.

*** National FFA Organization**

Students will showcase FFA Chapter work related to leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education. The broad areas of agriculture, food, fiber, natural resources and environmental sciences will be on display in the Ayers Building. Each of the 5 schools with Agriscience and Natural Resources programs will be represented.

*** Student Talent Show**

On Saturday, January 24th at 11:00 A.M., middle and high school students will demonstrate their talents and skills on the Gold Bank Main Stage. Last year, this event ran past 5:00 P.M. thanks to our tremendous turn-out. This is the place to be seen on Saturday!

*** Tech Bowl**

Be sure to come out on Friday, January 23 at 6:00 P.M. at the Manatee Herald-Tribune Stage to support your high school TECH BOWL team. Stick around and watch your administrators compete, with our very own Herb Tschappat hosting this event!

* **MTI's Demonstrations** (inside and outside the Harlee Building).

Thursday January-22 FAIR OPENS

MTI Industrial Program...Carpentry Building Playhouse for Fire Dept. (a playhouse will be built every day during the Fair). - 5:00 p.m.

Friday January-23

MTI Law Enforcement Program...Vehicle and Class Demo - 5:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Tech Bowl [HS Teams] - Manatee Herald-Tribune Stage - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday January-24

MTI Culinary Program...Sauté' and Children's Cup Cake Decorating - 10:00 a.m.

MTI Culinary Program...Ice Sculpture Demonstration - 10:00 a.m.

MTI Fire Science Program...Fire /Ladder Engine & Class Demo - 10:00 a.m.

Middle and High School Talent Show - Gold Bank Main Stage - 11:00 a.m.

MTI Health Programs...Glo-Germ Kids Infection Control Demo - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday January-25

Monday January-26

MTI TBA - 5:00 p.m.

Manatee Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Registration - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday January-27

MTI Health Programs...Glo-Germ Kids Infection Control Demo - 5:00 p.m.

Manatee Regional Science and Engineering Fair - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday January-28

Manatee Regional Science and Engineering Fair - Open all day.

MTI TBA - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday January-29

Manatee Regional Science and Engineering Fair - Open all day.

MTI TBA - 5:00 p.m.

Friday January-30

MTI Industrial Programs...Welding Class & Projects Demo - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday January-31 FAIR CLOSES

MTI Industrial Programs...Welding Class & Projects Demo - 5:00 p.m.

4-H / FFA Awards Ceremony IMC Arena - 7:00 p.m.

Business Academy Update (Bayshore High School)

Business Academy students have had the opportunity to hear from some outstanding guest speakers from our local business community. Heidi Lewis from Barbizon, shared some excellent information about "The Art of Communication." Kenji Trujillo from Keiser College has visited the Academy twice, the most recent being a presentation on "Business Ethics." Academy students participated in a competition to design a sticker to be used with the EDGE laptop program. Four academy students will represent Bayshore High School at the 2nd Annual Tech Bowl to be held at the Fairgrounds in January. Academy students have just begun a long-term community service project where students will be serving 10-15 hours volunteering at various agencies. They will also be writing a research paper on a related topic, writing a press release about the cause, documenting the experience through a journal as well as a PowerPoint presentation that will include pictures and/or video of their experience. Students receiving web credit will be designing a web page about the project, while other students will be designing a brochure. At the end of the project each student will give a presentation about their experience to other students and teachers in the academy.

ACTE Conference Update

Much celebration has taken place by those who took the time to attend this year's Association for Career and Technical Education Annual Conference (ACTE) last month in Orlando. We heard legendary leaders such as Joe Clark, Susan Sclafani, Neil Howe and Jack Canfield, attended many relevant career and technical education workshops that will help move student achievement forward, and visited with hundred of vendors. This opportunity to attend was offered to all teachers and staff in the ACT Department. We pre-printed the registration application and inserted them in the ACT notebooks at the August 4th meeting. We also encouraged participation to all who attended the CTSO Leadership School in October. Due to the change in technology and ever changing global society it is imperative that we all make efforts to attend professional development conferences to further the knowledge and skills in the area we teach. A big thank you goes out to the following participants who attended. A. Radigan (BRMS), L. Elkin, B. Elkin (PHS), A. Grasberger, K. Kennedy, T. Litton (ACT), B. Gaynor, R. Thomas, D. Grenier, J. Ferraro (MTI), M. Kauffman, B. Condor, L. Maddox

(BHS), C. Keip, L. Chambers (HMS), S. Lestock (SMS), G. McGrew (LRHS), E. Waldron (JMS), V. Cunningham, and B. Kebler (HMS).

Are Your Students Ready For Gold Seal?

As registration for the 2004-2005 school year approaches it's time to think about rising seniors. Specifically, will they be taking the right courses to help them achieve the Bright Futures Gold Seal Scholarship? It's time to check with your students to see if they understand the requirements and are they on track to "make the grade". It is important to understand that "completing three classes in a program area" is only one of the requirements for the Gold Seal Scholarship. Talk to your students about the Gold Seal Scholarship opportunity or have an ACT staff member come talk to your students. Kelli and Angie are available for class presentations. Remember the Gold Seal Scholarship pays 75% of tuition and fees (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester) to a public institution.

Gold Seal requirements:

3.0 weighted GPA using the 15.5 course core classes (see brochure for list).

3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 vocational credits in one vocational program.

Students must earn the minimum score on each of the subsections of the either the CPT or SAT or ACT:

CPT:	Reading	83
	Sentence Skills	83
	Algebra	72
SAT:	Verbal	440
	Math	440
ACT:	English	17
	Reading	18
	Math	19

For more information on Gold Seal requirements go to www.myfloridaeducation.com/brfuture or call 1-888-827-2004.

Career & Technical Education Course Offering (on-line)

University of West Florida, Spring 2004 Course Schedule, Internet Courses – EVT 3065 - Principles and History of Vocational Education (4 credit hours) Term B (January - March), EVT 4562/5565 - Vocational Special Needs (3 credit hours) - Term C (March - May), DEC 4401 - Special Methods of Distributive Education (February - DECA Conference attendance required) Internet follow-up assignments – 4 credit hours, ADE 5081 - Principles of Adult Education – 3 credit hours, [ADE 5260 – Org. and Adm. of Adult & Continuing Education](#) – 3 credit hours, [EVT 5175 - Curriculum and Staff Dev.](#) for CTE Programs – 3 credit hours, B Term, Jan 7-Feb 29, EVT5266 – Organ. And Mgmt of CTE Programs – 3 credit hours, C Term (March-May), [EVT 5260 – Mgmt. & Supervision of Coop Programs in CTE](#) – 3 credit hours, EVT 6669 - Trends and Issues in Vocational Education – 3 credit hours. For more information contact Dr. Bouchillon - wholmesb@uwf.edu or Dr. White - jwhite@uwf.edu

Supplemental Funding Opportunity

All secondary ACT teachers have a voluntary opportunity to receive additional funding for consumable supplies. The January 20, 2004 deadline is fast approaching. The ACT department will fund programs that submit appropriate documentation within their notebooks, the following 10 areas cover the possibility of points:

- Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum
- Final Class Reports
- Tools, Equipment & Safety
- Recruitment and Articulation of Students
- Legislative Content Area Support
- Professional Development-Content Area
- Professional Participation-Content Area
- Community/Guidance/Principal/Support Center Visits
- Positive Public Relations
- Awards Teacher/Student/Program

Teachers please record the appropriate information under the Total Points and Date column on the outline sheet; complete your sign-off sheet with all signatures prior to submitting the notebook. Notebooks are due to the ACT office on or before January 20, 2004. Notebooks will not be accepted after January 20th. Each notebook will be evaluated and funds transferred as soon as possible. If you miss this opportunity for this round of additional funding the second

submission date is June 20, 2004. Keep in mind this is a voluntary opportunity and could be used by programs that are in need of additional funds for consumable supplies.

MTI New Facility Update

As everyone is aware, we are moving forward with a 30+ million dollar facility that will not only be the newest technical institute in the state but designed to be a world class trend setting facility utilizing the most updated engineering principals and construction materials available. We have partnered with internationally recognized HOK Advance Strategies to ensure that the vision of the facility meets the needs of today and the vision for the future. A few weeks ago HOK leadership flew in from Atlanta to host our second visionary meeting with local businesses and civic leaders and are on track for the scheduled meetings in January. Stay tuned for more information as we forge forward to build a world class facility for a world class faculty.

Family & Consumer Science “Professional Pride”

Earlier this semester, most of Manatee County FACS teachers attended one or more days at the State Conference held in Tampa. On Thursday, a special "Jump Start" session was held to inform teachers about the new Finance Course being offered for high school students. Lynda Elkin, PHS; Ginny Page, BHS; and Joan Stencik, MHS, attended the action packed and fun-filled workshop. They came away with wonderful activities and hands-on games to use with their students. On Friday, 14 of the Manatee County FACS teachers enjoyed an awesome in-service day at the conference. Present were (random order) Wendy Holden, Ginny Page, Linda Stokes, Elaine Bowling, Joan Stencik, Lynda Elkin, Rita Tomaselli, Millie Torres, Peggy Coon, Elaine Neuenschwander, Jennifer Horn, Jill Bergeron, Colleen Keip, and Susan Lestock. They enjoyed wonderful keynote speakers, including Patrick Grady, FCCLA State Executive Director, as well as fantastic, hands-on and enriching concurrent sessions and a delicious luncheon.

Shining Stars - Way To Go!

MTI exceeds the United Way Challenge and raised over \$7,000 with personal donations and proceeds from the Annual Chili Cook-off. Congratulations to all who participated! Way to go!!

Marie Chirico (LMS) HOSA chapter students organized a foster care program with the Manatee Humane Society. Way to go!!

Kelli Kennedy and Trish Litton (ACT) were presenters at the National Tech Prep Conference. Way to go!!

Sharon Herman (MTI East) has just informed us that the Health Program has accepted 108 new students into the program. Way to go!!

Bill Kebler (HMS) and Vickie Cunningham (HMS) organized a super holiday dance to raise money for TSA and FBLA. Way to go!!

Kimberley Lough (LMS) has passed her state subject area Ag exam. Way to go!!

Gayle Twitty (PHS) was selected to represent the Florida Business Technology Education Association (FBTEA) on the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education Board. Way To Go!!

Linda Rio (MTI) passed two Microsoft Office Specialist Tests and is on her way to Master Certification. Way to go!!

James Kapper, Bud Elkin (PHS), Ray Weiland (SEHS), Jim Eisner, Jim Staffiles, Paul O’Neal, and Rod Williams (MTI), all completed their National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) certification training. Way to go!!

Joan Stencik, (MHS) has been elected to the Executive Board as Secretary of the Florida Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences. Way to go!!

Adam Baggett (Haile MS) organized a great FFA Wild Beast Feast banquet on December 20 that featured wild rabbit, bore, venison, quail, dove, duck and gator just to list a few. Way to go!!

Angie Grasberger (ACT) was accepted to be a national presenter at the National Career Academy Coalition Conference. Way to go!!

FETC Update

In the past three years the ACT Department has approved 100% of the requested expenses of any ACT teacher who wanted to attend the Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC). At the start of the year (August 4th, Back To School Kick Off Meeting) we announced that we would be covering the cost for 100% of all ACT teachers and staff to attend the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) conference since it was in Orlando this year in December (first time in four years and the last time to come to Florida), therefore not expending funds for FETC as we have in the past three years. People are starting to ask about next year attendance, based on our funding levels at the start of the school year (ACT Back-To-School Kick-Off Update Meeting on 8/2/2004) we will have a list of all approved conferences that we will financially support for the year. Thank you for your interest to attend professional development opportunities.

Up Coming CTSO Events:

CECF/BPA - <<http://www.cecf.org>> <<http://www.bpa.org>>, March 18-21, State Leadership Conference, Airport Marriott Hotel, Orlando.

DECA - <<http://www.flDECA.org>>, January 8, District 10 Finalists, Edison Mall, Fort Myers.

FBLA - <<http://fbla-pbl.org>>, February 12, Site testing at your school, February 19, District Competition, Sebring High School.

FCCLA - <<http://www.fcclainc.org>>, February 19, - District proficiency events, location TBA.

FFA - <<http://flaffa.org>>, January 23, FFA District Competition, Woodland Baptist, Bradenton.

HOSA - <<http://www.flhosa.org>>, February, specific date to be determined, District Competition MTI East Campus.

PBL - <<http://floridafbla-pbl.com>> April 1-4, - State Leadership Conference, Orlando.

SkillsUSA-VICA - <<http://www.FloridaVICA.org>>, February 26-27, Regional Contests, Marchman Educational Center, New Port Richey.

TSA - <<http://www.Florida-TSA.net>>, January 23, Florida State Fair TSA Events, Project Drop-off, Linda Chambers@ Harlee Middle School , (http://floridastatefair.com/upload/documents/technology_Comp_Info.pdf)

The ACT Department is here to support you in any way we can to help you achieve a successful Chapter. Attending conferences with students is one of the most exciting and most demanding aspects of being a CTSO advisor while providing student centered educational opportunities that last a lifetime.

Last Thought:

For the last 34 months we have kept this section short and to the point. We are breaking from tradition this month to give you a special treat. Your own virtual tour of a national CTSO Conference seen through the eyes of a first time Advisor attendee.

National FFA Convention (Virtual Tour)

Imagine 2 charter buses with 95 high school students and chaperones. Imagine a 7-day journey with these agri-minded adolescents. Would you immediately think of fun, of respect, of being inspired by their character or their integrity? Probably most people would not. If you have the joy of working with the crème-de-la crème FFA students, you might. If you want to be inspired by the potential of the next generation, take a journey with us. We left the school around 10:00 am on Sunday. We had instructed our students to **not** bring their music listening machines so that they might maximize the opportunity to acquaint themselves with fellow agriculturists. It worked. New friendships, as well as a few arduous fires, were kindled. Our students immediately set to work on their school lessons for the week, so that they

might better enjoy the rest of the journey. If someone needed help on any subject, honors or regular, there was always someone available to tutor. We traveled north to Lake City Community College where the students were advised to "know what you want to do," by a professor there. He shared the expertise of that institution, and also tried to inspire them to start immediately on the task of mapping out their future.

We continued northbound and reached Cordele, GA. The following morning was quite memorable due to riding the *HOG* – the Heart of Georgia train. We took the rail from Cordele to Plains, the hometown of President Jimmy Carter. We all enjoyed the ride. We left Cordele to continue northward to Atlanta, more specifically, the Pro Bass Shop in Atlanta. It was a major hit with the students, of course. We took our repose in Atlanta and renewed our journey by way of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We enjoyed the entertainment at the Country Tonight Theater and the Comedy Barn. We also visited the Knifeworks store. Of course the boys were overwhelmed with so many choices.

We finally arrived in Louisville, KY, at noon Wednesday, whereby we were duly inundated with an overload of FFA memorabilia. The convention center was outfitted with all manner of agriculture related products and services. The students were in awe of the plethora. So much so, that one student even fainted. Well, he really fainted because he got sick, but, because he fainted at one of the vendor's stations, he invoked the sympathy of the fellow and walked away with a pink swine show cane, and later received a show stick from the same chap. What a thespian!

The real inspiration though, finally came from attending the "sessions." The National FFA Officer Team led 40,000-50,000 blue clad FFA members into memory makers that will provide them with countless moments of reflective ruminations. The retiring speeches, the exemplary moral and religious discourse, and the leadership of these officers inspired adults and adolescents alike. I encourage you to take the time to ask any of our students in attendance what they came away with. We were all very impressed. We also were able to attend several national competitions. Daily breakout sessions were also provided for the edification of all the students.

We left Louisville on Saturday evening, around 5:30 pm, to begin one of the longest nights of my life. We, especially the students, did receive a bonus in Nashville, at the Cracker Barrel. The manager of the restaurant was so impressed at the exemplary behavior of our charter bus load of students that she boarded our bus and remarked that it been many years since she had been in the company of so many remarkably courteous, well-mannered young people. Whereby, she handed out candy to all, as well as, a Cracker Barrel Almanac. It was icing on the cake, especially after we had been sermonizing about good manners all along the way. From Nashville, we headed south, homeward. Fourteen mostly uninterrupted hours on a bus, even a charter bus, is a long time. Although it was a tiring week, I can now agree with my esteemed colleagues, "The only way to go is by charter bus!"

Daniel Bryan-Beachler, Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor, Lakewood Ranch High School.

Important ACT Dates to Remember:

5/6/2004 - ACT End-Of-Year Update Dinner (ES, MS, HS and MTI) - 4:30-6:30, Location -Twin Dolphin
8/2/2004 - ACT Back-To-School Kick-Off Update Meeting, 8:00-3:00, Location TBA

ACT Department Staff (941-708-8770)

Marge DiBello, Tech Prep Administrative Secretary (ext. 2234)
Angie Grasberger, Vocational Career Counselor (works one day at each High School) (ext. 2228)
Kelli Kennedy, Tech Prep Specialist (works for MCC, Sarasota and Manatee School District) (ext. 2233)
Trish Litton, Secondary Vocational Program Specialist (ext. 2232)
Diane Lehman, Coordinator, Career & Technical Advisory Councils (full time at Chamber) (748-4842 ex.137)
Deb Revell, Administrative Secretary (ext. 2228)
Doug Wagner, Director (ext.2227)