



Community Outreach and East Gainesville Instruction Annual Newsletter

September 25, 2014

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From the President's Desk



Dr. Jackson Sasser

This fall Santa Fe College received national recognition when our college, for the second consecutive time, was named one of the country's top ten community colleges.

This national achievement is founded upon local roots, none deeper, stronger and more abiding than in East Gainesville. All the individuals associated with Santa Fe can lay claim to it, especially our friends who reside in East Gainesville.

The leaders, churches, institutions and neighborhoods provide Santa Fe's East Gainesville Instruction with guidance, direction and encouragement. We jointly develop programs that boost economic opportunities and bring life to the ambitions and aspirations of our students.

Santa Fe has a distinguished history of collaborating with community partners to enhance our area's quality of life. None is more rewarding than our affiliation with East Gainesville Instruction. Our shared work and achievements comport fully with the mission, values and goals of the college. East Gainesville provides us with an ideal learning environment that assures best results. Steeped in history; rich in its cultural heritage; committed to personal, spiritual and intellectual growth; and rooted in a tradition of service, East Gainesville is an exceptional community of people inspired by a greater purpose.

East Gainesville Instruction is a natural consequence of our college and community. We take pride in all we together have accomplished since joining hands 12 years ago. Through our partnership, individuals realize their full potential, the community has prospered, and the future is filled with promise.

Florida-Spain Small Satellites Education Program is first of its kind in the world!



U.S.—Spain NASA Winners

Fifteen Alachua County high school students were selected to participate in a NASA sponsored program that allowed students to team up with peers from Spain and participate in a state of the art space technology project. With an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related fields and strong academic backgrounds, they were able to collectively design, build and fly scientifically engineered payloads on a weather balloon, making this international science program the first of its kind in the world. Partners who helped provide this once in a lifetime experience for students were the University of Florida's Department of Astronomy, NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium, Santa Fe

College's EGI, Eastside High School, the School Board of Alachua County and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. The winning team from Florida, in partnership with their colleagues from Spain, were named Florida Space Ambassadors. They were invited to build their payloads for launching during a two week summer program at the Kennedy Space Center for Space Education at Cape Canaveral. The winning team's topic focused on how the environment affects the power generated by solar cells in space and on other planets. The winners were Nicolas Simmons (GHS), Jahari Williams (SFHS) and Terrell Quaterman (EHS). Congratulations to these students who represented our country, while building their academic skills through international learning experiences.

ACE: Architecture, Construction, Engineering

Eastside High School students Inspired to Pursue Careers in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

The ACE program continues at Eastside High School for the third consecutive year. Founded in 1994, ACE is the construction industry's fastest growing high school mentoring program, reaching over 8,000 students annually. The program's mission is to engage, excite, enlighten and encourage high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction. ACE employs a strong mentoring program to support the continued advancement of young people who enter the industry. This year, sponsors and mentors provided real world opportunities in various fields for the 15 students enrolled in the program. Each student worked with professionals, in an actual work environment and gained hands on education. Santa Fe College's EGI, Sanska, GRU, the University of Florida's College of Design, Eastside High School, and Habitat for Humanity, along with local attorneys and construction companies partnered to give students this wonderful experience. Rewards and incentives for participation in the program included college scholarships, scholarships for the ACE summer camp and recognition at the state and local level. Leadership for the program was provided by Ms. Pam Minniefield (EHS), Dr. Richard Smailes (UF) and Ms. Gabrielle Burch (GRU).



ACE Students

Project Turn Around — Training for National Faith-Based Model is Coming To Gainesville

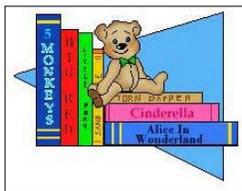


The goal of Project Turn Around is to work with faith-based leaders, pastors, educators and community partners, in an effort to transform the lives of youth and their families. This proactive educational intervention was first established by Dr. Tony Evans, a Dallas, Texas pastor, and is currently being used in 73 public schools in Dallas County as well as schools in many other states with documented long-term success. The program offers various services that specifically target public school youth and their families. Dr. Evans states that "Our approach is practical...the use of the church and public school partnerships to effect positive social change in the communities we serve." The Project Turn Around approach offers many programs under the public school outreach component, including mentoring, life skills, summer youth programs, technology programs and an education institute, along with stay in school messages.

Pastors who are part of Santa Fe College's EGI faith-based committee, the Gainesville Ministerial Christian Alliance, Alachua County School personnel, local community leaders, and educators interested in collaborating and making a positive impact in our local schools will receive training from the National Project Turn Around office prior to implementing the program in Alachua County.

Project Turn Around offers a means for providing positive change in our local schools. Sponsors of the program include the Gainesville Police Department, the Alachua County School Board, the Gainesville Ministerial Christian Alliance and Santa Fe College's Office of Community Outreach and East Gainesville Instruction.

Fathers' Voices Are Heard as Inmates Read To Their Children in Literacy Program



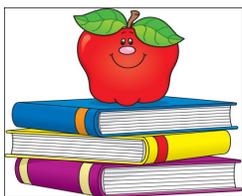
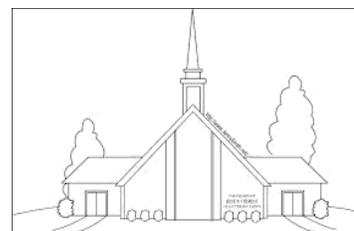
The Literacy Program at the Alachua County jail provides an opportunity for inmates to read to their children utilizing an audio or video recorder. When the recording is completed, the book and recorded story are mailed home to the inmate's children. Four collaborative educational partners, the Alachua County Jail, Catholic Charities, Inc., the Library Partnership, and the Alachua County Library District, joined Santa Fe College's Community Outreach and East

Gainesville Instruction to develop the program. The project not only promotes literacy for both the father and child, it also provides a means of sustaining relationships between the incarcerated father and his children. Studies show that participation in storybook programs like this one helps keep families together and increases the chances of a parent staying at home once he is released from prison. The program has the potential of encouraging inmates to read more often and may motivate them to improve their reading skills, which is critical for any success upon release.

The most recent adult literacy survey estimates that 70 percent of inmates in the United States are functionally illiterate. Programs that encourage inmates to make reading a part of their lives can only be an added benefit for their future. The children will also benefit since the program will help them develop better listening skills and vocabulary and, most importantly, maintain the relationship between parent and child. Three inmates are currently enrolled in the program and participated in a reading training program provided by the Alachua County Library District prior to starting this program. Others have expressed an interest in participating in the program and plans are underway to get them enrolled.

EGI Churches and Public Schools Form Lasting Partnerships

Mr. Hershel Lyons, Deputy Superintendent for Alachua County schools, recently challenged the local EGI faith-based group to increase the resources and programs that their churches provide to support local youth and assist them with attaining academic success in school. Many exemplary educational programs were already in existence, but as a result of the discussions, communication between the churches and schools has improved. Churches have teamed up with schools to tackle educational issues and support initiatives for academic success. Programs resulting from these joint efforts provide opportunities to deepen relationships among school administrators, community members, pastors and ministry leaders. The overall goal is to expand the line of communication between schools and the community and share best educational practices that will benefit students. The EGI faith-based group committed to identifying educational programs within their churches and sharing them regularly with the schools. The master listing of practices outlines what is occurring at each partnering church and will be forwarded to the Deputy Superintendent. Other churches are also invited to share the programs and services they offer in their respective churches with the Deputy Superintendent.



"We are committed to the success of every student!"
Alachua County School Board's Mission Statement

EGI and Grace Marketplace are Bridging the Digital Divide

One of the strategic goals of East Gainesville Instruction (EGI) for 2011-2016 is to improve technology literacy and narrow the digital divide for underserved populations. To achieve this goal, EGI has partnered with Project Grace Marketplace, which provides comprehensive services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Services include job training, mentoring, crisis management, legal support and preventive medical care as well as classes in life skills and budgeting. With access to a permanent computer lab site, homeless persons are able to search for jobs, apply for social services, improve their job seeking and job skills, find additional programs of support, enroll in college and take classes as they transition to housing and/or employment. To date, several computers, along with technical support, have been provided to Grace Marketplace by Santa Fe College. The ultimate goal is to insure that homeless persons have the knowledge and tools needed to connect to and navigate the system that provides resources and services.



Grace Marketplace will also offer men and women the opportunity to learn computer skills and develop resumes, both of which are important tools for ending homelessness. EGI is glad to be in partnership with Grace Marketplace as a consistent contributor and supporter of its computer lab and other educational opportunities available to homeless clients. Members of the EGI staff also teach basic computer skills for the project.

The overall goals are to: (1) Increase the level of familiarity with computers and computer use. (2) Expand resources for the homeless. (3) Identify job opportunities for the homeless and assist them with developing workplace etiquette. (4) Increase enrollment in available courses, trainings, certifications and other educational opportunities.

EGI Launches New REFOCUS Program

In response to research indicating that the years between the ages of 18 and 24 are a critical time for young men, EGI has created the REFOCUS program, which utilizes educational and workforce development strategies to assist young men entering or re-entering the workforce or school. The program is in direct response to an increasingly competitive employment market that requires higher levels of education and more defined employability skills. 25 partners currently offer services specifically geared toward the targeted group (18-24 year olds). Many of these “disconnected youth” are neither employed nor in school and need resources, support and services to move forward. Since the level of education, work experience and training that young adults have directly influence their long term market success, the goal of REFOCUS is to provide the training, experiences, resources and information that will better prepare those in the program for college and/or employment. The program will ensure that the young men acquire training and skills that are relevant for gaining employment in local industries and will improve access to a successful pipeline to college.



REFOCUS Program

There are fourteen young men currently enrolled in the REFOCUS program. Each participant has completed a written ILP (Individual Life Plan) that identifies their short term and long term goals.

Funding for the REFOCUS program was provided by the Plum Creek Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. For more information about enrollment for January 2015, contact Ms. Tyeshia Redden, REFOCUS Program Specialist, by calling 352-381-7053.

Fathers Reading Every Day (F.R.E.D)

"This F.R.E.D program allowed me to spend time with my children and get to know them."

"I was surprised that even my infant son began to recognize my voice when I read to him. He couldn't understand the story, but he understood the voice."

"I have received many awards, but this is the award that I am most proud of receiving-- as it was for being a dad and reading to my child."

The office of Community Outreach and East Gainesville Instruction (EGI) is continuing its outreach efforts in the area of literacy by partnering with the local F.R.E.D (Fathers Reading Every Day) program. FRED is a national program designed to encourage fathers, grandfathers, and other positive male role models to read to their children on a daily basis.



The four week program aims to increase the involvement of fathers in their children's literacy development and to improve the quality of father-child relationships. Fathers who complete the program are given free books for their children, library support, literacy development information, and other resources directly related to literacy. The fathers are also recognized at the end of the four week program with a culminating program and a certificate of completion.

The ultimate goal of the FRED program is to encourage the fathers to continue to read to their children so that reading becomes a part of their daily interaction with their child. Studies show that when fathers take an active role in their child's literacy development the child does better in school, has higher self-esteem, receives fewer referrals for poor behavior and develops into a successful adult.

Partners collaborating to make the FRED program a success for local fathers include Innovative Dads, Incorporated, SF Community Outreach and East Gainesville Instruction, the Alachua County Library District, the Library Partnership and pastors in East Gainesville.

The next orientation for fathers interested in participating in FRED is scheduled for October 8, 2014 at the Library Partnership on NE16th Avenue. The session will begin at 6:00 p.m. Call 352-395-5767 if you are interested in participating in the program.

EGI is Powered by Collaborations and Partnerships

EGI's collaborations and partnerships include:

- A partnership with the Rosa Parks Quiet Courage Committee. The committee is dedicated to protecting the legacy of Mrs. Rosa Parks and educating youth about the importance of civil rights.
- A collaboration with the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center, Inc. in East Gainesville to restore the Cotton Club building and build an African American history museum. The museum, when completed, will celebrate and preserve African American history and culture and contribute to economic revitalization in the Springhill community.

(continued on page 6)

EGI: Highlights of Community Connections and Linkages 2013-2014 The Power of Partnerships

(continued from page 6)

- A partnership with the Catholic Charities' Bridges To Prosperity Program. The program is designed to look at the core issues surrounding poverty and its impact on the community. Training, resources and assistance are provided to individuals and families moving toward economic stability.
- A partnership with the Digital Divide Project, whose goal is to provide technology and Internet access to school age children residing in public housing. Housing areas served include Eastwood Meadows, Woodland Park and Pine Meadows. The program was developed by the NAACP and implemented with several partners, including Cox Cable, the Gainesville Housing Authority, and Alachua County Schools.
- A partnership with Plum Creek's Envision Alachua Project, which is entering its third year. Plum Creek's plan is to create economic development opportunities that will support and grow the innovation economy and provide job opportunities, education and services for local residents.
- A collaborative partnership with the Hawthorne Education Initiative. The partnership was developed to create greater educational opportunities for residents in eastern Alachua County. To date, eleven community and continuing education classes have been provided for local residents. 70 individuals attended the classes. Additional classes will be offered in the future.
- Continuation of a partnership with Eastside High School through the PASS (Preparing for Academic and Student Success) program. The program is specifically designed to provide high school students from Eastside and Hawthorne High schools with the skills, resources support and information needed to graduate from high school and successfully transition to college.
- Collaboration with HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters), Inc. through the E-PAS Program (Educational Pipeline to Academic Success). This cradle to college pipeline, established through HIPPY's national office, employs a systematic longitudinal approach aimed at increasing local graduation rates and college entry.
- A partnership with Mt. Carmel's Saturday Academy, which provides academic support, mentoring and educational resources for East Gainesville students in grades K-5. Partnering schools include Lake Forest, Duval and Williams Elementary. The partnership is now in its fifth year.
- A partnership with the Youth Diversity Summit. Coordinated by the City of Gainesville's Office of Equal Opportunity, the diversity summit targets middle and high school students in Gainesville for the purpose of promoting respect for others and awareness about issues concerning diversity that directly affect the students.
- Collaboration with the Visionaires, Inc. to offer a "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" for middle school girls in Alachua County. 15 girls were paired with a professional mentor in her desired career field. An expanded mentoring program for TODTW participants will continue in the coming months.
- A partnership with the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which helps to identify local students with high academic and leadership promise. The aim is to nurture the students' leadership skills and facilitate successful completion of degrees in areas where minorities are underrepresented.



*"Adding value to the lives
of our students and
enriching our community"*
Santa Fe College Mission
Statement



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SPECIAL THANKS...

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Mt. Carmel Baptist Church — For extended use of the tech-
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All community, faith-based and business partners — For
your commitment to education and empowerment