

# Annual Report to the College 2004-2005

The East Gainesville Initiative, charged by Dr. Jackson Sasser to increase SFCC outreach and accessibility to East Gainesville, has had another productive and exciting year. We extend our gratitude to all SFCC employees who continue to partner for a positive change in the East Gainesville community. The following describes ongoing and/or completed activities for the 2004-2005 academic year. The 2005 EGI newsletter and the EGI's five-year strategic plan are available to every employee.

## **Strategic Planning**

The college's five-year strategic plan is complete. It is created to guide our community outreach efforts, establish guiding principles and priorities and direct our resources towards fulfilling specific goals.

## **Events in the Community**

\*Successfully partnered with the Heart of Florida Prosperity Campaign to provide free tax services to students and low income residents in East Gainesville and other parts of Alachua County. Through our collaborative efforts we served 891 families and retrieved more than a half million dollars in tax refunds for the local community, a 17% increase over last year's.

\*Provided a community-wide forum for East Gainesville residents and interested parties in Spring 2005 to solicit their input and recommendations for developing the college's East Gainesville Initiative's Strategic Plan. A follow-up community-wide meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2005 to unveil the plan.

\*Co-sponsored the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fifth Avenue Arts Festival 2005 in East Gainesville. SFCC provided the graphics design for this year's theme; health screenings for festival goers; information on Vocational and Technical Programs, the Displaced Homemakers Program, Adult Education and Literacy, Performing Arts, Community Outreach and the East Gainesville Initiative. The Zoo Technology Program provided a learning experience for the children, including hands-on interaction with zoo animals.

\*Provided two summer camps for middle school students who reside in East Gainesville. The Pre-Saints Gator Trax camp provided hands-on learning activities highlighting the importance of math, science and engineering. Students will be invited to participate in the year-round Gator Trax program at the University of Florida and participate in campus visits during the year. This was a collaborative effort with the University of Florida's College of Engineering, 14 East Gainesville churches and the Governor's Front Porch Initiative, along with the EGI.

\*Offered a life skills camp providing hands-on training that included CPR, financial literacy, conflict resolution, communication skills and etiquette training.

\*Provided cultural performances at local elementary and middle schools located in East Gainesville.

\*Logged through the Student Builders Association over 250 hours working at Celebration Oaks in East Gainesville this past year. This Habitat for Humanity Housing development is designed to provide affordable housing for low-income residents.

\*Acted as guest speakers--SFCC coaches and students alike--at several events in East Gainesville

and visited after-school programs to provide basketball camps and hands-on sprinting activities.

\*Provided literacy materials for parents and children at the Clinton Portis Foundation Community event at the Alachua County Fairgrounds in Spring 2005. Books were provided for more than 100 children.

\*Partnered with local radio stations to disseminate news and events about the college and community partnerships and outreach efforts in the East Gainesville community.

### **SFCC Internal and External Partnerships**

\*Established 20 new community-based partnerships that will assist us in making a difference in the lives of residents in East Gainesville and in our overall outreach efforts.

\*Participated with city and county officials on an on-going basis to assist the community.

\*Continued to work with local ACTION NETWORK-a partnership of faith-based organizations designed to engage in political activism that provides physical, structural and educational changes in the local communities.

\*Served as board members on the UF/East Gainesville Alliance-an alliance committed to university collaborations designed to enhance the East Gainesville community.

\*Continued partnership with the Reichart House in East Gainesville and committed to providing support for high-risk youth in this community-wide after-school program.

\*Expanded volunteer opportunities listings in East Gainesville.

\*Formed a new advisory board for the Blount Center in Downtown Gainesville. Board consists of 23 community persons representing government, education, corporate, social services, business and life-long residents of the Pleasant Street district.

## **EGI Subcommittee Highlights**

### **Education/Economic Outreach**

\*Provided funding and FCAT tutoring during after-school hours at Howard Bishop Middle School, Lincoln Middle School and Oasis Enrichment Academy Charter School. Eleven instructors and more than 140 students participated in the after-school tutorials. The FCAT instructors reported great academic improvement with students who participated in the program.

\*Adopted East Gainesville's Rawlings Elementary school last year and continued to commit to providing mentoring, tutoring, test proctoring, parent/teacher support and educational resources as needed or upon request.

\*Maintained a partnership with UF's College of Engineering to ensure increased educational opportunities in math, science and engineering for middle school students in East Gainesville.

\*Provided a "Visit SFCC Day" for Rawlings Elementary School children in Spring 2005. More than 100 students visited our campus for fun, games and lunch as a reward for good behavior and academic achievement. The Zoo Technology program also provided events and activities for the students.

\*Conducted a family literacy grant project successfully that provided GED classes, adult education, computer and family literacy at the Fred Cone Center. Currently 55 persons are being served.

\*Began a planning process for financial literacy education in local schools, as a part of the Heart of

Florida Prosperity Campaign efforts to educate local residents about money matters.

\*Provided tutor training in the Laubach Way to reading. Overall goal is to train adults to teach other adults how to read and/or improve their literacy skills in Alachua County.

\*Installed several computers at St. Francis House to assist homeless persons and families with acquiring or improving their computer skills. From April-July the Saint Francis House computer lab served 230 clients with 91 clients receiving personalized attention.

\*Completed computer expansion efforts at Phoenix Apartments, which serves up to 75 school age children daily. The computer center has the potential to serve the more than 350 school age children who reside in the local neighborhood.

### **Access, Success and Retention**

\*Began collaboration with the Reichart House to provide GED programs to appropriate candidates.

\*Assisted in coordinating the FRED literacy program in East Gainesville and participated in the Literacy Festival at the Alachua County Public Library.

\*Offered computer access and beginning computer classes to East Gainesville Community members through classes at the Boys/Girls Club and Thelma Boltin Center.

### **Faith-Based Partnerships**

\*Continued with the 21 for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Computer Initiative, which provides computers and computer software for the churches and training to volunteers.

\*Coordinated faith-based involvement in the Heart of Florida Prosperity Campaign. Several churches served as mobile sites in the East Gainesville community and assisted with the tax preparers training program.

\*Increased the number of partnering churches in East Gainesville to sixteen churches.

\*Coordinated the Gator Trax and Life Skills summer camps in collaboration with the East Gainesville churches. Educational camps were held at faith-based churches and supported by faith-based volunteers.

\*Continued to work with faith-based organizations to provide outreach to the East Gainesville community, churches, congregations and the local community.

\*Participated as faith-based partners in the Habitat for Humanity's Celebration Oaks building project in East Gainesville during fall 2004.

\*Collaborated with Title III program and faith-based congregations to identify fathers to participate in FRED Program, (Fathers Reading Every Day), a literacy program designed to increase father and child interaction.

\*Coordinated Laubach Adult Literacy training programs coordinated through the partnering churches. Fourteen persons from various churches participated in the training program that teaches adults how to read.

## **Cultural Events**

Continued to enrich the East Gainesville community through information, education and continued promotion of the arts throughout the community.

## **Athletics**

\*Provided weeklong sports camps and offered free scholarships to East Gainesville youth.

\*Provided basketball clinics at after-school programs in East Gainesville (PRIMETIME)

### **East Gainesville Initiative Subcommittee**

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