

## Annual Report to the Community 2008-2009

**Mission: Partnering for a Positive Change**

The East Gainesville Initiative (EGI), charged by Dr. Jackson Sasser to increase Santa Fe College's outreach and accessibility to East Gainesville, has had another productive year. As we complete our seventh year, the following information describes ongoing and or completed activities for the 2008-2009 academic school years. The EGI's five year plan and newest information brochure are available to every college employee and community resident or can be accessed on the college's website at [www.egievents](http://www.egievents) in the Community.

### **EGI Strategic Planning Process:**

This upcoming 2010 year, Community Outreach and the EGI will hold at least one meeting each with a group of educators, faith based leaders/churches, social services/organizations and community residents to help strategically plan the direction and vision of the college's community outreach efforts and the EGI for the next five years—2011-2016. The final strategic plan will unfold based on each group's feedback and be shared with the community at the next annual forum in September 2010. We want and need your involvement. Stay tuned.

Again, we extend our gratitude and thanks to all SFC employees, educational, social and faith based institutions, the community, youth, faith based leaders, and residents who continue to partner for a positive change.

### **Events in the Community**

Participated in the National AmeriCorps Vista Program that employed two persons to work as educational outreach specialists in the local community in Alachua and

Bradford Counties. Each person was given the opportunity to meet and work with community leaders, faith based organizations, public education officials, social service groups, parents and students all in an effort to expand educational empowerment opportunities for local residents.

For the sixth year in a row, the EGI provided summer camps for 28 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 for middle school youth. In partnership with The University of Florida College of Engineering, the Life Skills Camps provided hands on training that included CPR, financial literacy, conflict resolution, communication and etiquette training skills. To date, more than **200** students have participated in the EGI's East Gainesville summer camps. Students who complete the program are strongly encouraged to participate in the year round Gator Trax Program at The University of Florida, participate in campus visits and other SFC related activities during the academic school year, and beyond.

Continued to partner with local radio station and newspaper to disseminate news/events about the college's partnerships and outreach efforts in East Gainesville.

Continued for the fourth year in a row to participate in the community's Fifth Avenue Arts Festival and served as one of the co-sponsors of the event through monetary funding, resources, shared use of free SFC space and shared educational information. More than 6 SFC Departments were active participants in the arts festival this past year including such programs as, Displaced Homemakers, Community Outreach and the

## Events in the Community (continued)

EGI, Vocational and Technical Programs, Adult Education and GED Programs.

Participated in the National Night Out Program aimed at educating the community about successfully addressing juvenile and criminal behavior. Information about the college opportunities, entry and resources were shared and various SFC materials were distributed.

Provided in partnership with, the East Gainesville Development Corporation Inc., and Consumer Credit Counseling Inc., financial literacy education camps for high school students during the month of June 2009. Classes, training, travel and other information sharing focused on budgeting, credit, money management, and youth understanding the importance of long term planning. The overall goal is to increase their awareness of issues related to money and engage in more effective money management. Middle school students also participated in financial literacy workshop.

Provided presentation at the Alachua County Jail and spoke with inmates on the importance of literacy and literacy initiatives-specifically as it relates to men and their children.

## SFC Internal and External Partnerships

Established new community based partnerships that will assist us in making a difference in the lives of residents in East Gainesville. Some of the new partnerships include The Library Partnership Program, Florida Works new location, new faith based churches, the United Way Board, Eastside High School, Gardenia Gardens Apartments, Heart of Florida Regional Coalition, East Gainesville Development Corporation Inc., Gainesville Guardian, PACE Center, Partnership for Strong Families, Job Corps, Success by Six, GPD Police Explorers and Bank of America, Main Street. Our current community-based partnerships currently exceed **35** partnerships.

Continued to partner with The University of Florida Office of Community Relations. This office continued to collaborate with the EGI in providing varied services for the residents of East Gainesville by providing curriculum facilities and resources to implement varied programs. Our shared efforts continue to improve educational empowerment in our community.

Continued to partner with the United Way and this year, began to serve as a Success by Six Board Member and began service as a United Way Volunteer Evaluator of local community based programs that are seeking funding for their organizations.

Established new community-based partnerships that will assist us in making a difference in the lives of residents in East Gainesville, with an emphasis on literacy focused agencies. Such programs and facilities include, the Library Partnership Program, The FRED Program, etc.

Space for **100** community-based meetings was provided by Santa Fe College Downtown Blount Center during the 2008-2009 academic years.

Fifth year of existence for SFC Blount Center Advisory Board. Board consist of **23** community persons representing government, education, corporate, social services, business, churches, and life-long residents of the Pleasant Street District who are committed to educational empowerment downtown and in the east Gainesville community.

Continued the partnership with HIPPY, (Home Instruction for the Parents of Pre-school Youngsters) that previously provided families, with technology resources and support that complement their literacy resources initiatives in the home. HIPPY currently serves at least **136** families.

# East Gainesville Initiative

## Educational Outreach

Continued support of East Gainesville's Rawlings Elementary, the college's officially adopted school. Continued commitment to providing mentoring, tutoring, parent/teacher support, and educational resources as needed or upon request.

SFC's My Brother's Keeper, which consists of young college men, partnered with third grade boys from Rawlings Elementary during the spring of 2009. The overall goal was to assist the boys with academic and social skills. A long-term plan has been established with Rawlings, which includes ongoing support of many educational outreach programs at the school. Plans are underway this year to continue support of a more structured partnership that will enhance both parents and students at Rawlings.

Maintained a partnership with UF's College of Engineering to ensure educational opportunities in math and science and engineering for students who have completed the East Gainesville Initiative (EGI) summer camps.

Maintained a partnership with the Alachua County Public Library and will begin a new partnership with the new Library Partnership which is an extension of the main library. Major focus with new partnership is on literacy outreach initiatives that include males and fathers.

For the fourth year in a row, EGI provided a six-week tutorial program in East Gainesville called "Tutoring Tuesdays" for middle school students at Mount Carmel Baptist Church during spring 2008. The program focused on support for students from Lincoln, Howard Bishop & other middle schools, in math and science subjects, with tutoring provided by students from Santa Fe College's Math Department and The University of Florida's College of

Engineering, local math volunteers and Eastside instructors who coordinated the sessions. Sessions last a total of six weeks leading up to FCAT testing times. Continue to maintain partnership with the National Fatherhood Initiative. The EGI is the current recipient of **\$3,000** worth of materials and resources aimed at helping fathers build better relationships with their children and improve their literacy levels.

Continued to provide financial literacy education workshops upon request from the local community. Thirteen financial literacy education consultants currently provide training to residents in the local community, upon request from local churches & organizations

Continuation of similar community outreach programs in Bradford County which is referred to as the Bradford County Community Connection.

Began the "**Succeeding in Reading Program**" in partnership with Rawlings Elementary School. Current partners that helped in establishing the program included University of Florida Office of Community Relations, Alachua County Library, Santa Fe College's Community Outreach and the EGI, and PASSAGE Family Church. Two national consultants and literacy authors: Dr.'s Nancy Dean and Dr. Candice Harper, provided the training for the parents. PASSAGE Family Church provided the full funding for implementation for this program.

In partnership with the "**Quiet Courage**" Rosa Parks Committee, group read to at least 100 students and shared with them the historic legacy of Rosa Parks and her role regarding liberty, equality and social justice for all. EGI office provided materials and books for children to read about Rosa Parks. These books were also distributed at the a Annual

## Educational Outreach (continued)

community wide event. Continued to support Phoenix Apartments, Primetime, Compassionate Outreach, which provides afterschool programs and activities that support students and provide tutoring, mentoring, and resources and other academic and social support.

Continued support and commitment to East Gainesville's Rawlings Elementary School. Rawlings Elementary is Santa Fe College's official adopted school and has been since 2002.

Partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., to provide workshop on addressing parenting and the role it plays in student academic success. Event presented at CIED Building in February 2009.

Began initial partnership with Eastside High Schools mentoring program called "I Gotcha Back". The program is a one on one mentoring program for high school age students that are experiencing higher rates of absenteeism, and other school related problems. Plans are underway to establish an onsite mentoring program at the Blount Center's downtown campus.

Continued support of HIPPY Program (Home Instruction for the Parents of Pre-school Youngsters.) Focus on assisting parents with becoming their child's first teacher. Alachua County HIPPY Program currently serves 136 low-income families.

Worked with community outreach person, at the Alachua County Jail, to pursue potential opportunities of working with youth at Metcalf and men in the area of literacy and the FRED and literacy Program. Plans are underway to outline potential possibilities.

Continued nutritional and educational outreach efforts at the Primetime Program. Hired a nutritionist and consultant (Ms.

Vivian Filer and other staff) who provided educational nutritional program to local residents in East Gainesville.

Partnered with Metcalfe Elementary in its creation of the new Metcalfe Science Lab. The science curriculum support will be provided by the University of Florida and Santa Fe College's Natural Sciences Department. They will offer assistance and training, and help in developing science activities and projects and supplies, along with the lending of science models and examples from our collection. September 2009.

## Addressing the Digital Divide: Technology

Continue to stay in contact with some of the families who benefitted from the T.E.C.H. Program that supported **200** low income programs in Alachua and Bradford Counties. The program provided families with computers, printers, educational software and computer assistance. More than **100** persons continue to benefit from the computers placed in the various homes, churches and outreach areas. Efforts to continue this outreach include technical support through computer labs at local churches, computer support at the St. Francis House and weekly computer classes at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

Continue our established long term partnership with Mt. Carmel Baptist Church's computer lab to provide computer classes, services and support to residents of East Gainesville and other resident, on a weekly basis. The Family Life Center Computer lab continues to serve as a central site for techno classes, and technical support for low-income persons and the residents of East Gainesville. For this past year, more than **180** persons have taken advantage of the courses and training offered at this training site. Classes are posted monthly in The Gainesville Guardian.

# East Gainesville Initiative

## Addressing the Digital Divide: Technology (continued)

Continue to investigate the possibility of providing a premier technology training camp for low-income middle school students. The technology camp will provide exposure to animation, digital video, digital sound recording, and slide show presentation to **25** East Gainesville students. Plans are already underway to increase student exposure to the Virtual School which provides free on-line instructional services to resident students in the State of Florida.

Continued with provision of computers and/software at The St. Francis House and Soup Kitchen to assist homeless persons and families with acquiring their computer skills and improving job placement efforts. Santa Fe College's staff and EGI staff provided on-going technical support and maintenance upon request. The computer room, which is open daily, also assists clients with job readiness skills and other employment opportunities.

Continued to provide technical support and assistance through the use of donated computers for several afterschool educational sites including The Phoenix Apartments and Primetime after school program with future goals to include Gardenia Gardens Apartments in East Gainesville.

Continued commitment to the newly built youth community center in Starke, Florida, by providing computers/software and technical assistance for computer lab in Bradford County. The Church of God in Christ in Starke, Florida, houses the youth center for local residents. The community center serves many youth during the week.

Continued for the seventh year, the East Gainesville Initiative's 21 for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century computer initiative, which distributes computers and software to faith-based organizations and educational after-school sites in Gainesville. To date,

more than **288** computers have been installed in the local community. The overall goal is to establish computer labs in local churches that local members can benefit from on a regular basis.

Hired an additional tech person to assist in providing personalized assistance and maintenance support for all of the SFC computers at varied sites in the community. This will ensure an expansion of quality tech services and ongoing maintenance of the technology equipment at each site.

Investigated offering computer based college and business courses/training in local church computer labs in East Gainesville.

Continued to provide computer assistance/support efforts at Phoenix Apartments which services up to **75** school age children regularly. The computer center has the potential to serve more than **350** school age children who currently reside in the local neighborhood.

## Economic Outreach:

Increased partnership with SFC's CIED Program whose mission is to enhance economic development and job creation in the community by providing support and services to qualified startup companies. The goal is to increase the community's awareness of the varied services offered.

Continued to provide financial literacy workshops/training for local community and youth. Varied sessions included money management, banking tools, credit issues, etc. in collaboration with the Dollars and Sense Campaign.

Successfully partnered with the East Gainesville Development, Inc.'s Dollars and Sense Campaign. Their initiative provided free tax services to students and low income resident in East Gainesville and other parts of Alachua County. Through

# East Gainesville Initiative

## Economic Outreach (continued)

collaborative efforts, we helped them in serving over **400** families and retrieving more than a **half a million dollars** in tax refunds. This year, Santa Fe College was selected as the recipient of the Community Partner Award for serving large number of persons at the downtown Santa Fe College site (The CIED Building) on University Avenue.

Serve on board called the Heart of Florida Regional Coalition which has a focus that deals with plans (via the Chamber of Commerce), to increase job creation opportunity in the economy utilizing the assets of the region. The strategic planning process, headed by Ron Barnhill, is still in the development stage.

## Athletics and Transportation

Partnered with the Rosa Parks Quiet Courage Award Committee. Through this partnership, we were successful in the renaming of the Bus transportation Depot in East Gainesville. It is now called The Rosa Parks Transportation Bus Depot. The plaque was unveiled in November 2008. Thanks to all SFC employee, sponsors, and community partners who contributed to this community outreach effort.

Continued to partner with SFC Athletic Department to provide a "Fitness is Fun" day for middle schoolers who reside in East Gainesville. The program is in its third year and is focused on providing athletic and health related information to middle schoolers as well as serve as a recruitment tool for those interested in pursuing degrees at Santa Fe College. The program occurred during the month of March 2009.

Continued to pursue community outreach efforts/ basketball clinics at after-school programs in East Gainesville-particularly those programs that are currently in partnership with the EGI.

Continue to support a holistic approach/examination into transportation issues that relate to Santa Fe's East Gainesville Community. Through collaboration with SG and SLA, continued support of successfully expanding bus service hours to and from the NW Campus and the downtown Gainesville residential area, including East Gainesville.

College continued to provide weeklong sports camps and offer free scholarships to East Gainesville Youth. During the summer of 2009, athletic scholarships were awarded.

## Cultural Events

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

Continued to serve as co-sponsors of the Cotton Club Cultural Museum and Educational Center Inc., restoration project in East Gainesville. The EGI Director currently serves on board.

Santa Fe College served as one of the co-sponsors for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Fifth Avenue Arts Festival 2009 in East Gainesville. Santa Fe College provided information sites in the areas of Vocational and Technical Programs, Displaced Homemakers Programs, GED, Adult Education,

Santa Fe College's Humanities faculty served as active participants and judges in the second annual Juneteenth Festival and Juried Art Show in East Gainesville.

Community Outreach and EGI, the Health Sciences Department, and the Department of Graphic Design, displayed African American Artists, musicians and civil rights leaders at the festival and in the local community.

# East Gainesville Initiative

## Cultural Events (continued)

Students were also instrumental in designing the logo to support the festival's theme for the year. Santa Fe College Faculty served as active participants and judges at local schools and art shows in local schools and community based events.

Santa Fe College offers the community, under the direction of Dr. Naana Horne, classes in Ghanaian Dance. The classes are offered to students and the local community and funding is provided by the EGI and Student Leadership.

## Faith-Based Partnerships

Faith-based church leaders collectively made a financial commitment to expand the HIPPY Program in Alachua County. Funding allowed additional families to take advantage of the educational resources provided by this HIPPY program.

Coordinated faith-based involvement in the Dollars & Sense Campaign directed by the EGDC. Several churches have been instrumental in the overall success of this community outreach effort that provides tax assistance and financial literacy education to low-income residents in East Gainesville. PASSAGE Family Church provided the leadership in helping to coordinate volunteers & providing space.

Churches and faith-based leaders served as hosts, volunteers, and host sites for the Annual EGI summer camps held in East Gainesville each year. They also provided funds and sponsorships for the successful implementation of the camp.

Faith-based leaders committed to partnering with and mentoring young men that are part of My Brother's Keeper. MBK, is an outreach program at SFC, and it is designed to recruit and retain African-American males in higher education.

The EGI faith-based sub-committee is Currently partnering with Gainesville

Regional Utilities to provide utility bill payment assistance to low income residence. The program is called Project Share "SHAREing the Faith."

Local EGI faith-based model is being used as a national collaborative model of faith-based institutions and colleges working to help improve the quality and sustainability of local communities in Alachua County.

## Access, Success and Retention

Continued participation in educational outreach in Phoenix Apartments. Potential access to more than **350** school age children.

Offered college credit courses at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church in fall 2008. Long-term goal was to successfully recruit students to Santa Fe College. Course taught was The Marriage & Family Experience.

Continued partnership with the Reichert House after-school program in East Gainesville. Program provides educational support and mentoring for young males in Gainesville. This year SFC impacted 110 youth.

Partnered with Village Green Apartments to offer an ABE/GED Program to residents in spring 2008.

Assisted in ABE/GED/CPT preparation at the Downtown Blount Center, along with homework help for school age children.

Continued collaboration with the Reichert House to recruit and retain local students who want to attend SFC.

SFC's Adult Education Program offered support, testing, and tutoring for GED students at two community sites for

# East Gainesville Initiative

**Access, Success and Retention (cont.)**

homeless individuals, Sunrise Apartments of St. Francis House and The Arbor House. The Adult Education Program at the Downtown Blount Center continues to offer Adult Basic Education instruction in Reading, Language and Math to students to prepare them for their GED, CPT or TABE test. We are also offering some family literacy, transition services and ESOL classes. We are so proud of our **21** GED graduates from last year, and also of achieving nearly **200** literary completion gains as measured by our TABE assessment test, and assisting a number of students to transition into a SFC Program or employment.

**SFC continues to make a positive difference in the lives of people and in East Gainesville.**

**Thank you Gainesville Community, as we partner together for a positive change.**

**East Gainesville Initiative Subcommittees**

Education/Economic Outreach  
**\*Tom Mason** ext. 5362

Technology/Transportation  
**\*Eugene Jones** ext. 5375

Access, Success, Retention  
**\*Julie Falt** ext. 5967

Athletics  
**\*Jim Keites** ext. 5536

Faith-Based Partnerships/Poverty Outreach  
**\*Karen Cole-Smith** ext. 5767

Cultural Events  
**TBA**

EGI Co-chair  
**Eugene Jones** ext. 5375

Executive Director  
**Karen Cole-Smith** ext. 5767

\*Chairs of Subcommittees  
 Please contact a subcommittee chair if you would like to volunteer on any of the committees. SFC employees are also welcome to serve on the SFC EGI Leaders Group. Contact Karen Cole-Smith if you are interested.

Interested in an East Gainesville Initiative (EGI) brochure or a copy of the East Gainesville Initiative Strategic Plan? Call (352) 395-5767 or (352) 381-3840.

Please continue to share with our office any East Gainesville success stories or ways in which we can continue to partner for a positive change in line with our college mission and goals.

SANTA FE COLLEGE

# East Gainesville Initiative

SANTA FE COLLEGE

# East Gainesville Initiative