

Annual Report to the Community

2011-2012

Mission: Partnering for a Positive Change

SANTA FE COLLEGE East Gainesville Instruction

The East Gainesville Instruction (EGI), charged by Dr. Jackson Sasser with increasing Santa Fe College's outreach and accessibility to East Gainesville, has had another productive year. As we complete our eighth year, the following information describes ongoing and/or completed activities for the 2010-2011 academic school year. The EGI's five year plan and newest information brochure are available to every SF College employee and community resident through the EGI office and can also be accessed on the college's website at www.sfcollege.edu/egi.

EGI Strategic Plan : In action

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 provide ongoing feedback and who continue to partner for a positive change. Your feedback helps us to strategically plan the direction and vision of the college's community outreach efforts and the EGI for the next five years, 2011-2016. Please contact the EGI office at any time by calling 352-395-5767 or 352-381-3840.

Events in the Community

SFC Internal and External Partnerships-NEW

The EGI continued to establish new community based partnerships that will prove valuable making a difference in the lives of residents in East Gainesville. Some of the new partnerships include The Library Partnership, new faith based organizations, Envision Task Force, Plum Creek Development, the Oral Health Framing Committee, the NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium, the Foster Care Redesign Committee, Hawthorne Middle/High School, the Federal Reserve, Jacksonville, the Heart of Florida Regional Coalition, PACE Center, Partnership for Strong Families, WIRED, and

Bank of America. Our community-based partnerships currently exceed **35**.

The EGI provided space for at least **100** community-based meetings at the Santa Fe College Downtown Blount Center during the 2010-2011 academic year.

The 2010-2011 academic year marked the fifth year of existence for SFC Blount Center Advisory Board. The Board consists of **23** community persons representing government, education, corporate, social service, business, and faith-based entities, as well as life-long residents of the Pleasant Street District who are committed to educational empowerment downtown and in the east Gainesville community.

EGI continued the partnership with HIPPY, (Home Instruction for the Parents of Pre-school Youngsters), and had previously provided families, with technology resources and support to complement their literacy initiatives in the home. HIPPY currently serves **150** families along with their E-PAS (Educational Pipeline to Academic Success) initiative that serves families that have graduated from the program. EGI also partnered with HIPPY as they embarked on the Cradle to College Pipeline Program. The program is designed to provide support for students and their families through family centered mentoring, tutoring and academic training from birth to graduation. More than 60 educational partners have agreed to work collaboratively to ensure the success of E-PAS.

Educational Outreach

For the eighth year in a row, the EGI provided summer camps for **30** middle school students who reside in East Gainesville or attend schools there. The SF/UF Math/Science, Astronomy and Life Skills Camp highlighted the importance of these areas and provided hands on learning activities for middle school youth. In partnership with the NASA Florida Grant Consortium and the University of Florida College of Astronomy, the EGI was

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Educational Outreach (continued)

able to include a life skills -component which provided hands on training in CPR, financial literacy, conflict resolution, communication and etiquette. To date, more than **280** students have participated in the EGI's East Gainesville summer camps over the years. Students who complete the program are strongly encouraged to participate in the year round Gator Trax Program at the University of Florida to gain exposure to the college experience through, campus visits and other SFC related activities. In the spring -2011 the NASA Florida Grant Consortium also funded a NASA Ambassador program which allowed camp participants to share their camp experiences in order to encourage their middle-school peers to pursue math and science careers.

EGI continued to participate in the community's Fifth Avenue Arts Festival for the sixth year in a row and served as one of the co-sponsors of the event by providing funding, resources, free use of SFC space and educational information. More than 7 SFC departments were active participants in the arts festival this year including such programs as Displaced Homemakers, Community Outreach and the EGI, Vocational and Technical Programs, Adult Education, the GED Program, the Admissions Center and Health Programs.

In partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., EGI provided financial literacy education camps for high school students during the month of June 2011. Classes, training, travel and other information sharing activities focused on budgeting, credit, money management, and helping youth understand the importance of long term planning. The overall goal of the program was to increase students' awareness of issues related to money and to help them engage in more effective money management. Middle school students also participated in a financial literacy workshop during the EGI Summer Camp. A total of **43** students were exposed to financial literacy education sessions during the month of June. The EGI presented the literacy program in collaboration with the Library

Partnership in East Gainesville and Habitat for Humanity.

EGI continued support for East Gainesville's Rawlings Elementary School, the college's officially adopted school and continued its 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, will partner with faith based leaders and pastors who have agreed to work with African American males in order to increase the college's retention rate for African American males and ensure long term success and graduation at the college level. The overall goal is to assist the young men with academic and social support and develop a more structured partnership/mentoring relationship for them beyond the academic walls of the college. More than **200 college** men participate in the My Brothers Keeper's Program.

EGI has maintained a partnership with the Alachua County Public Library and will expand that partnership to include the Library Partnership, a component of the Alachua County Library system located on NE 16th Avenue. The major focus will be on literacy outreach initiatives and financial literacy education. This year, the EGI assisted the library in providing financial literacy education in conjunction with their varied programs. This commitment is ongoing.

For the fifth year EGI has provided a six-week tutorial program in East Gainesville called "**Tutoring Tuesdays**" for middle school students. The program is held at Mount Carmel Baptist Church during spring 2011. The program focused on support for students attending Lincoln Middle School, Howard Bishop Middle School and other schools in East Gainesville, as well as

Educational Outreach (continued)

Caring and Sharing Learning School. Tutoring was provided by students from Santa Fe College's Math Department, the University of Florida's College of Engineering, the SF CROP Program and local math volunteers. The Program was directed by Eastside High School instructor, Ms. Pam Minniefield. Sessions lasted six weeks leading up to FCAT testing. Past EGI camp participants were also encouraged to attend. Additional FCAT review materials were distributed to students upon completion of the program.

EGI continued to provide financial literacy education workshops in response to requests from the local community. Financial literacy education consultants are currently available to provide training to residents in the local community, when requested by from local churches and organizations.

EGI community outreach programs in Bradford County are referred to as the **Bradford County Community Connection.**

In partnership with the Rosa Parks "**Quiet Courage**" Committee EGI's educational outreach included visits to local schools to share the historic legacy of Rosa Parks and her role in promoting liberty, equality and social justice for all started by Rosa Parks and other civil rights legends . The EGI provided materials and books for local children that focused on the life of Rosa Parks and others that have fought to improve the enforcement of equal rights and opportunities for all. Additional books were distributed at the Annual Rosa Parks community wide event.

EGI has continued to provide support to various afterschool programs. Tutoring, mentoring, resources and other academic and social support are provided upon request.

The EGI Math, Science, Astronomy and Life Skills Camp received major funding and support from the NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium for summer camp 2011. The one week summer camp is offered to students in grades 6-8 with opportunities to learn mathematics, science, astronomy and life skills through hands on activities.

The EGI established a program called "Mentoring Mondays" designed to positively impact high school girls enrolled at Eastside High School. The year long program, which operated at the SFC Downtown Blount Center, focused on mentoring, personal counseling and advisement and academic support. Students were paired with professional women in the community who committed to program for one year. The long term goal was to maintain the relationships through the students' high school years to graduation. Plans are underway to reestablish the Mentoring Mondays Program in spring 2012. The students were selected from the "I've Got Your Back Program" at Eastside High School.

Addressing the Digital Divide: Technology

The EGI continued to maintain contact with some of the families who benefitted from the T.E.C.H. Program which provided technical support for **200** low income families in Alachua and Bradford Counties. The program provided families with computers, printers, educational software and computer assistance. More than **100** families in Alachua and Bradford counties 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 St. Francis House and weekly computer classes at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

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Addressing the Digital Divide: Technology (Continued)

The EGI has established a long term partnership with Mt. Carmel Baptist Church's computer lab, established the lab as a hub for EGI's technology outreach programs. The Family Life Center Computer lab continues to serve as a central site for technology classes, and technical support for low-income persons and other residents of East Gainesville and Alachua County. This past year, more than **100** persons took advantage of the courses, training, and support offered at this site. Classes are posted monthly in The Gainesville Guardian.

EGI continued to investigate the possibility of providing a premier technology training camp for low-income middle school students. The technology camp would provide exposure to animation, digital video, digital sound recording, and slide show presentation for **25** East Gainesville students.

Community Outreach and EGI will partner with WIRED, and innovative year long program for students grades 4-9 to learn about popular multimedia software. This after school program is designed to expose children to fun and engaging courses that will enrich their technology education. Classes offered would include such topics as digital photography, movie making, computer animation, robotics and will be supported with classroom projects and presentations.

EGI is steadfast in its commitment to the newly built youth community center in Starke, Florida which is in Bradford County. EGI provides 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 and has an average of 75 students enrolled.

EGI has continued, for the seventh year, the East Gainesville Instruction's 21 for the 21st

Century computer initiative, which distributes computers and software to faith-based organizations and educational after-school program in Gainesville. To date, more than **300** computers have been installed in the local community since the inception of the computer initiative.

SF College provided funding for the hiring of a technology person to provide personalized support and maintenance for all of the SFC computers at various sites in the community. This ensures an expansion of quality tech services and ongoing maintenance of the technology equipment at each site.

EGI has established a partnership with Florida Works, which has agreed to install computer software at various computer labs located in churches in East Gainesville. The software will assist local residents with finding jobs, preparing for interviews, and improving computer skills. It will also ensure that residents have immediate access to job opportunities in Alachua and Bradford counties as well as the expansive knowledge available through the Worldwide Web. This partnership helps to expand the college's vision of "reducing the digital divide."

Economic Outreach:

EGI has continued its partnership with SFC's Center for Innovation and Economic Development (CIED), whose mission is to enhance economic development and job creation in the community by providing support and services to qualified startup companies. EGI's goal is to increase the community's awareness of the varied services offered by CIED.

EGI continued to provide financial literacy workshops and training for youth and the local community. The sessions included money management, banking tools, and credit management.

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Athletics and Transportation

EGI has instituted basketball clinics at after-school programs in East Gainesville—particularly those programs/churches that are currently in partnership with the EGI.

EGI also integrated a basketball camp with a “Fitness is Fun” theme into its Math, Science Astronomy and Life Skills Camp for June 2011. Plans are underway to offer a “Fitness is Fun” athletic session for students who reside in East Gainesville during fall 2011.

After more than seven years of advocating for expanding bus services provided by the Regional Transit System for the city of Gainesville (RTS), Santa Fe College achieved its goal this year. SF students will now have access to safe transportation at no charge.

Cultural Events

Cultural enrichment remains a high priority for the EGI. During the past year, EGI provided educational information about local cultural events and continued to promote the arts in the community.

EGI also continued to serve as a co-sponsor of events benefitting the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center, restoration project in East Gainesville. The EGI director continues to serve on the board of directors for projects.

Santa Fe College, under the direction of Dr. Naana Horne, offered Ghanaian dance classes to Santa Fe students and the local community through funding provided by the EGI and Student Leadership.

EGI continued its partnership with the Rosa Parks Quiet Courage Committee, which recognizes local participants who exhibit quiet courage through their involvement in civil rights and social justice activities. Accomplishments this year include informational presentations made in local high schools an increased focus on providing

educational materials related to Rosa Parks for schools at all levels.

Faith-Based Partnerships

The EGI continued to work towards expanding its faith based/community leader outreach efforts to Alachua and High Springs. The overall goal was to develop and maintain a community of faith-based leaders, which would, in partnership with Santa Fe College, pursue a clear, shared mission for empowering the residents of Alachua and High Springs.

Gainesville faith-based church leaders continued to provide funding for the expansion of the HIPPY Program in Alachua County. The funding allowed additional families to take advantage of the educational resources provided by HIPPY.

Several churches have been instrumental in the overall success of EGI’s community outreach efforts that provide financial literacy education to low-income residents in East Gainesville.

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 that contributed to the successful implementation of both camps.

Faith-based leaders have committed to partnering with and mentoring young men that are part of My Brother’s Keeper (MBK). MBK, is an outreach program at SFC, and 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 residents. The program is called Project SHARE, “SHAREing the Faith,” and is coordinated by Ms. Nona

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Faith-Based Partnerships (continued)

Jones, Community and Government Relations Director at Gainesville Regional Utilities.

The local EGI faith-based model is being used as a national collaborative model for faith-based institutions and colleges working to help improve the quality and sustainability of, local communities around the country.

Partnering churches Compassionate Outreach, PASSAGE Family Church and Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in partnership with the University of Florida and EGI participated in the OASES program, a program designed to introduce K-5 students to the importance of space sciences and Astronomy. The overall purpose was to foster elementary school student interest, particularly that of minority students, in the fields of math, engineering and the sciences.

Access, Success and Retention

EGI worked in partnership with African American Accountability Alliance 4 A's to address the issue of low high school graduation rates in Alachua County and curriculum changes mandated by the state of Florida and the Alachua County School Board.

EGI worked with Hawthorne Middle and High School to offer parent empowerment sessions and address academic success and access to college. This partnership and commitment continues.

EGI has maintained a partnership with the Reichert House after-school program in East Gainesville for several years. The program provides educational support and mentoring for young males. In addition, the Reichart House program collaborates with EGI to recruit and retain local students who want to attend SFC.

EGI partnered with Village Green Apartments to update the computer lab located at the

complex and provide technical support for residents who use the lab.

EGI assisted with TABE, GED, CPT and preparation sessions for students at the Santa Fe College Downtown Blount Center.

EGI provided information to increase community awareness of educational opportunities and resources at SFC during non-traditional hours and weekends.

EGI identified community based groups that would benefit from sessions on financial aid, the greatest barrier to getting an advanced degree.

EGI developed a transitional model that helps selected students experience academic success in the areas of Math and Science from K-12 grades.

SFC's Adult Education Program continues to offer day and evening classes and lab support at the Blount Downtown Center for the following community members: (1) those who would like to prepare for the GED test to obtain their high school diploma, (2) those who have a high school diploma but would like to improve their academic skills prior to taking the college placement test before transitioning to post secondary education and (3) those whose first language is not English and are seeking to improve their career and post secondary opportunities, help their children succeed in school, and function more effectively in their community. The SF College Adult Education Program is committed to improving the lives of individuals, families and the community in East Gainesville by offering educational opportunities and support, so that students can successfully reach their future academic and career goals.

Please continue to share with the EGI office any East Gainesville success stories or ways in which we can continue to partner.