

# Governor's Mentoring Initiative Update

MAY 2004

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## News You Can Use!

### Florida's 2004 Mentors of Excellence and Mentor Coordinator of the Year Honored at the Florida Association of Partners in Education Conference

Recently, president of the Volunteer Florida Foundation, Liza McFadden, was joined by Secretary of Health, Dr. John Agwunobi, MBA, to award the recipients of the second annual Governor's Mentoring Initiative "Mentor of Excellence" Award and first ever "Mentor Coordinator of the Year" Award with a cruise vacation, courtesy of Carnival Cruise Lines. Mentor of Excellence awardees were selected from each of the five Department of Education regions in the state. Recipients will receive a three, four or five-day vacation cruise package for two aboard a carnival Cruise Line ship to the destination of their choice.

The Governor's Mentoring Initiative "Mentor of Excellence" award recognizes a community or school-based mentor who demonstrates service above and beyond the norm within the protocol of their mentoring program. Recipients were nominated based on their outstanding achievements in the area of mentoring. Governor's Mentoring Initiative "Mentors of Excellence" recipients were selected by various community, education and business leaders from around the state. Winners were selected based on essays submitted by nominators, who shared information on why these individuals deserve to be named as a "Mentor of Excellence". This year's winners include:

- Region 1- Ms. Julie Terrell, a mentor with Escambia County Schools and an employee of the Escambia County Health Department
- Region 2- Ms. Joy Brown, a 6-year mentor with the Take Stock In Children Program in Alachua County
- Region 3- Pastor Kenneth Scrubbs, of the First Baptist Church of Leesburg
- Region 4- Ms. Edna Rohland, a 15-year mentor with the Polk County school district
- Region 5- Ms. Judith Jacobson, who serves as a mentor with Take Stock in Children of Broward County
- Betsy McCauley, Leon County Public Schools Volunteer Coordinator, received the first ever "**Mentor Coordinator of the Year**" Award

**Governor Bush, Lt. Governor Jennings and Commissioner Horne Announce Preliminary FCAT Results for 3rd and 12th**

## Grade

**-More 3rd graders reading at or above grade level than ever before-**

Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Toni Jennings recently announced that nearly two thirds of all Florida third grade students are reading on grade level, the largest number in the state's history. Of the third grade students retained when Florida ended social promotion last year, most showed significant improvement. Of the 12th grade students who did not pass last year's FCAT, the majority are enrolled in post-secondary education.

The percentage of third graders scoring at or above Level 3 in reading rose to 66 percent this year, up from 63 percent last year and 57 percent when third graders began taking the FCAT in 2001. That is a 25 percent increase in the number of students reading on grade level since last year alone. Meanwhile, the percentage of third graders scoring at Level 1 in reading dropped to 22 percent from 23 percent in 2003 and 29 percent since 2001.

In addition, Florida continues to close the achievement gap. In 2004, performance rose among all student groups, with African Americans showing a 35 percent improvement and Hispanics showing a 25 percent improvement. Limited English Proficient (LEP) students showed the most dramatic improvement — 65 percent. For the full report or more information on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) visit [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org).

## Sample News from Around the State

*(we love to hear from you!... be sure and send your info for our website!..we update weekly!)*

[Law student is top Big Sister](#)

**(04/27/2004 © Jacksonville Daily Record)**

The highlights include visits to the zoo, trips to the beach, football and baseball games, movies . . . and the time that life-size plastic fly wound up on Shaelyn Haag's plate.

[Program gives teachers a technological boost](#)

[<http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/democrat/news/local/8464076.htm>](http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/democrat/news/local/8464076.htm)

**(04/19/2004 © Tallahassee Democrat)**

The governor's Mentor Coordinator of the Year is Elizabeth "Betsey" McCauley. She's served as Leon County Schools' volunteer coordinator for more than 20 years. The award, which falls under the **Governor's Mentoring Initiative**, recognizes one outstanding district, regional or statewide mentor coordinator. McCauley was selected based on a nomination form describing her hard work and dedication

[Brownsville to compete in health event](#)

**(04/25/2004 © Miami Herald)**

Legal Services of Greater Miami and the Legal Aid Society of the Dade County Bar Association were recently presented with the Dade Partner Exemplary Award for their joint venture with the city of Miami's "Mayor **Mentoring** Initiative" at Holmes Elementary.

[Students and mentors gather in Tallahassee in support of TSIC](#)

**(04/29/2004 © Bradford County Telegraph)**

Governor Bush took a few minutes from his schedule to speak to the group, referring to TSIC as the best **mentoring** and scholarship program in Florida. He also praised the combined efforts of TSIC, the Governor's **Mentoring** Initiative and Prison Fellowship Ministries.

# Grants, Free Stuff and Funding Opportunities

## 21st Century Community Learning Centers

This grant provides before, after, or summer school programs for Title I students and their families. The program serves students and families of students who attend schools with a high concentration of low income students, or are low performing schools or schools designated as needing improvement under Title I, Part A, Subpart I. **Deadline:** May 10. **Funding:** Applicants must apply for a minimum of \$50,000 per year. The amount varies depending on the type of services offered, the number of students served, and the number of centers within a program. Most 21st Century grant awards average about \$200,000 per center. **Eligibility:** Local education agencies, community-based organizations (including faith-based), other public and private entities, or a consortium of two or more such agencies, organizations, or entities. The statute encourages eligible organizations to collaborate in applying for funds. **Contact:** Brandy Bartol, Director, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, 850-245-0424, [brandy.bartol@fldoe.org](mailto:brandy.bartol@fldoe.org). For program details, visit <http://www.firn.edu/doe/curriculum/cclcgrant.html>.

## Technology is the key to success - Help youth in your community open the door to their future!

A Community Technology Centers grant (CTC) can be used to create or expand community technology centers that use instructional strategies to improve the academic performance of low-achieving students. Because this grant employs the "novice applicant priority," faith-based and community organizations are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information and a copy of the 2004 application, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2004-2/041604d.html>. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2004.

## Awards

The **America's Promise Youth Partnership Team** is introducing the [5 Promises Ambassadors Network](#) (5PAN). Set for launch in September, the network's goal is to engage hundreds of young people across the country in service and leadership initiatives that support the Five Promises. Communities of Promise, state efforts and several National Partners are invited to select 2 to 3 representatives between the ages of 12 and 25 to participate in 5PAN. For more information about 5PAN, contact Danielle Moore, America's Promise manager of youth engagement initiatives, at 800.365.0153, ext. 3832 or [DanielleM@americaspromise.org](mailto:DanielleM@americaspromise.org).

The **Governor's Points of Lights Award** is presented weekly to a Florida resident or organization that demonstrates exemplary service to the community. Awards are given to volunteers of all ages. Nominations for this award may be submitted on an ongoing basis. If you know of anyone deserving this prestigious award and would like to submit a nomination form, contact the Governor's Points of Light office at (850) 921-5172.

## National News

### Proposed Changes to Federal Mentoring Grant Guidelines

The US Department of Education has proposed restricting grants in Mentoring Programs to school-based mentoring only. They are soliciting public comment

about this change. We are submitting comment encouraging DOE to continue to keep Mentoring Programs grants open to all kinds of mentoring programs. We are also encouraging any other interested organization - whether it be a partnership, membership organization, or a local program - to submit comment as well. If your local programs are considering applying for the \$50 million in funding through Mentoring Programs, this proposed change could limit their ability to apply, or change their planned approach. For more information on proposed changes visit the National Mentoring Partnership website at [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org).

### **New Research from MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership**

Visit the [What's New](#) section at the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership Web site to learn about the latest scholarly research in the field of mentoring. The William T. Grant Foundation recently released two papers on [After-School programs](#) in the U.S.

In addition, MENTOR has compiled the pros and cons of the latest buzzword in the mentoring community: Online mentoring. This article is listed under the current New Research Corner, titled, [The promise and pitfalls of an emerging approach](#).

## **Dates to Remember**

- o May 1, 2004- Join Hands Day
- o June-July 2004 Summer Reading Camps- STATEWIDE
- o [July](#) 6-7, 2004 Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentor Summit- Orlando, FL

***The Governor's Mentoring Initiative is a program of the Volunteer Florida Foundation in partnership with the Governor's Office. Staff includes:***

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