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Florida Reading Association Annual Conference will Feature CCSS and PARCC Researchers

The Florida Reading Association Annual Conference will be held this year at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando September 26-29. A special feature this year will be a research panel discussion on Friday September 27 from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the style of the International Reading Association Conference research panels. This "Evening with the Researchers" will feature Dr. Tim Shanahan, Dr. Dick Allington, and Dr. Bill McBride! These researchers will be taking questions from the audience, as well as discussing implications of the CCSS and the PARCC. There will also be several keynote presentations on Common Core topics.

Please visit <http://www.flreads.org/> for conference registration and hotel information.

Gifted SENG Conference and FLAG Membership

Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) Conference is coming to Florida! FLAG will be joining SENG this summer in Orlando. Please go to <http://www.sengifted.org/> for more information on SENG. More information about the conference is available here: <http://www.sengifted.org/2013-conference>

Florida Association for Gifted (FLAG) members are invited to register for the 2013 SENG conference using this link:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/FLAG2013registration>

This form has the option of a one-day attendance for Saturday, the day where FLAG board members are presenting a FLAG strand. Shari Valencic, Lori Moyer, Bryan Allen, Dianne Azzarelli and Suzanne Otero will be presenting on behalf of FLAG.

Members of course may also register for the entire conference.

If you are Interested in being a sponsor or vendor please click here for more information: http://www.sengifted.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2013-Sponsor_Vendor_Advertiser-info-for-SENG-Conference.pdf

Join Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG)

<http://www.flagifted.org/>

Gifted students in Florida depend on your advocacy and support. The FLAG organization:

- Provides newsletters that are always filled with interesting and up-to-date articles
- Acts as a clearinghouse for information dealing with the educational issues facing gifted students and creates a greater awareness of statewide issues affecting the gifted
- Supports year-round advocacy efforts to protect the interests of gifted students, provides support for regional activities and events, formulates and/or supports policy related to issues of funding, endorsement, and regulations concerning gifted education, and promotes the development of innovative programs at the school level
- Explores and disseminates written information concerning the identification and services provided to gifted students from special populations and shares on-going efforts and district progress made in serving these special groups
- Provides leadership and fosters advances in the education of gifted students by being responsive to the needs of the FLAG membership.
- Coordinates an exciting and informative annual conference featuring nationally recognized consultants in the field.
- Offers mini-grants to teachers
- Awards scholarships to gifted students
- Recognizes creative teachers with the Excellence in Creative Teaching Award



Since 2009, Florida's Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids have had the honor of recognizing twenty-seven Florida districts as Healthy School Districts. Recognition is based on submission of the completed Florida Healthy School District (FHSD)

Self-Assessment. This instrument is designed to assess the status of policies and practices that support the highest levels of health and academic achievement for students and staff.

The self-assessment is based on the eight component areas of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Coordinated School Health (CSH) model. It focuses on district infrastructure, policy, programs, and practices identified from national and state guidelines, best practices, and Florida statutes. We all know that health and academic success are interrelated. This tool provides a method for districts to assess areas of success and opportunities for improvement.

District infrastructure is critical to sustainability and overall success. Infrastructure strengths across the recognized districts are very similar. These include regular communication with school board and superintendent on health issues; wellness policies containing all eight components of CSH; budget commitment to health and wellness; school level wellness teams; an active, well established, School Health Advisory Committee with equal representation from school district, local health department, and community.

Recognition is awarded for a period of two years. If a bronze, silver, or gold level score is achieved, your district will be featured on the Florida Healthy District Web Site at <http://www.healthydistrict.com/best-practices/profiles/>. Additionally, your district will be eligible to participate in the Healthy District Collaborative supported by the Florida Departments of Health and Education.

Regardless of whether your district applies for recognition, Florida's Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids encourages your district team to complete the tool and use the self-assessment as an internal guide. Teams that completed the tool reported that the process improved their knowledge of standards, legislation, and best practices; and enhanced their ability to maximize resources and eliminate duplication.

The following districts are currently recognized through June 2014, but may reapply for a higher level of recognition. **Gold Level:** Nassau, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa, **Silver Level:** Brevard, Broward, Highlands, Lee, Leon, Okaloosa, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, St. Lucie, **Bronze Level:** Indian River, Manatee.

This year, a new online version of the self-assessment tool has been launched. Each member of the district team will need to request a password to log-in to the online system. The new system allows team members to complete, edit and update their district assessment on an ongoing basis. Multiple team members can view and work on the tool simultaneously, and see the updates as they occur. Users from other districts are not able to view your assessment. The tool automatically tracks progress toward completion and tabulates points toward recognition.

Applications will be downloaded by the Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids on June 1 annually to be evaluated for recognition as a Florida Healthy School District. The self-assessment tool and instructions are available online at <http://www.safehealthyschoolsfl.org/Home.aspx/Index>

Achieving designation as a Florida Healthy School District demonstrates the commitment of district leadership to their primary mission of educating students by providing supportive environments that nurture physical, social, and psychological health.

To learn more about Florida's Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids go to <http://www.healthydistrict.com>

If you have questions or comments, please send them to cshpmailbox2@gmail.com.

2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts

Two of the twenty students receiving 2013 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts awards came right here from Florida! Congratulations to both Katuscia Gregoire and Mateo Nava of Miami, FL for being recognized with this prestigious award. Nominated students who are a part of Young Arts are initially selected for candidacy based upon their artistic ability. The candidates then submit a comprehensive set of application materials which are reviewed by a committee of qualified individuals. Finally semifinalists' materials are reviewed by the Commission on Presidential Scholars using the same criteria as the committee. For more information please visit the U.S. Department of Education's Presidential Scholars Program link at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/about.html>

Congratulations to Emmanuel Ramirez for winning the Florida: An Icon of Student Achievement Contest!

Five students beat out hundreds of budding artists to become finalists in the Florida Department of Education's "[Florida: An Icon of Student Achievement](#)" student art contest. The winner, Emmanuel Ramirez from Deltona High School, will see his graphic design become the Florida Department of Education's social media icon. Stay tuned to the department's [Facebook](#) page for upcoming information.

[Free Online Climate and Energy Teaching Resources - Grades 6 - 16](#)

Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network ([CLEAN](#))

This collection features teaching materials on Climate and Energy that have been hand-picked and peer-reviewed for scientific accuracy and classroom effectiveness by scientists and educators. CLEAN is funded through the NSF, NOAA, and the Department of Energy.

How do we help students become literate with topics surrounding climate and energy? The CLEAN (Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network) collection offers the following resources and support:

The CLEAN project is led by TERC in Cambridge, Massachusetts, CIRES at the University of Colorado and SERC at Carleton College, Minnesota and funded by NSF, NOAA, & Department of Energy.

Florida Public Review of Next Generation Science Standards

Through a collaborative, state-led process managed by Achieve, new K–12 science standards have been developed. We are pleased to announce that the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are ready for public review and consideration by Florida stakeholders and constituents for statewide adoption.

Please share the revised Next Generation Science Standards with appropriate personnel and community members in order to provide feedback to the department. The link to review the final draft of the NGSS and to provide feedback can be found at http://www.cpalms.org/standards/NGSS_Public_Opinion_Survey.aspx. This review will be open from May 31 – June 29, 2013.

The NGSS are based on the [Framework for K–12 Science Education](#) developed by the National Research Council. The *Framework* provides a sound, evidence-based foundation for standards by drawing on current scientific research—including research on the ways students learn science effectively—and identifies the science all K–12 students should know. The [Framework](#) describes a vision of what it means to be proficient in science, including science as both a body of knowledge and an evidence-based model and theory-building enterprise that continually extends, refines and revises knowledge.

The NGSS were developed collaboratively with stakeholders in science, science education, higher education and industry. Additional review and guidance was provided by advisory committees composed of nationally-recognized leaders in science and science education as well as business and industry. As part of the development process, the standards underwent multiple reviews from many stakeholders including two nationwide public draft reviews.

Call for Nominations of Standards Review (with Possible Revisions) Committee Members

The Florida Department of Education will be conducting a thorough review of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for science and social studies beginning this month. We respectfully request nominations for committee members to participate in the standards review process which may include revisions and/or development of new standards. The work of the committee must be done on a volunteer basis; meetings will be conducted virtually through conference calls and webinars. Committee members should expect to commit up to ten hours a week for as much as ten to twelve weeks for each of these projects. The project period may extend into the spring of 2014.

We are seeking nominations for committee members that are representative of small, medium and large districts, content area teachers and supervisors, appropriate grade band representations, administrators, community and business members, and college/university faculty in science or social studies content areas. Individuals may also self-nominate.

- To nominate committee members for social studies standards committee please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SocialStudies-StandardsCommittee>.
- To nominate committee members for the science standards committee please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Science-StandardsCommittee>.

Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) 2012-13 Winners Announced and 2013-14 Books Lists Posted!

There was a clear winner in grades 3-5 where *The Familiars* by Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson pulled out a substantial lead over the rest of this year's titles. In grades 6-8 the top four contenders were separated by less than 100 votes but in the end *Lost in a River of Grass* by Ginny Roby, an adventure set in the Everglades, nosed ahead of the fierce competition. Thank you to all the students who read and voted and to their librarians and teachers for their support of the SSYRA program.

The book lists for grades 3-5 and 6-8 were announced April 19th. The short book lists can be found on the SSYRA pages of the Florida Association for Media in Education website: http://www.floridamedia.org/?page=SSYRA_List. Annotated book lists along with resources for school librarians and classroom teachers will be added to the site in the next few months.

The SSYRA committee encourages students, school librarians, teachers and parents to recommend titles for consideration; please [click here](#) to nominate up to three titles.