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Press release : 2003 : 06 : 09 : Florida Department of Education Awards Grants to USF St. Petersburg

Pam Bellis

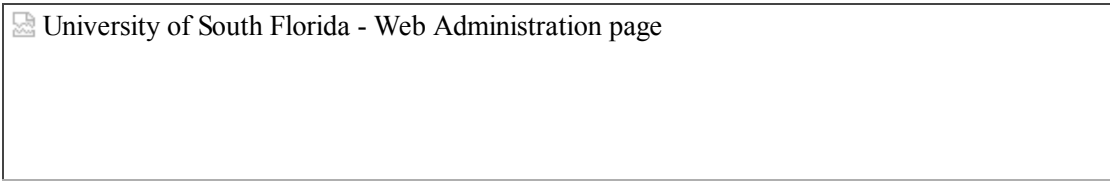
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDS GRANTS TO USF ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg Fla - June 9, 2003

USF St. Petersburg was successful in its endeavor to secure two Florida Department of Education grants that will benefit Pinellas county students. In two separate grant competitions, the College of Education received a total of \$127,201 to fund the Teach Florida program and to conduct two 'Reading First' Reading Academies.

"I collaborated with Dr. Lyman Dukes to write a grant in response to a request from the Florida Department of Education (DOE)," said William Heller, USF St. Petersburg College of Education professor. "The DOE created a Teach Florida grant competition that was designed to recruit persons with degrees in fields other than education but who wanted to work with exceptional children."

They were successful in the competition and received \$77,201 to provide a program for 30 students designed to prepare participants for positions teaching children with varying exceptionalities at the secondary level. "We put out a request for interested candidates and the response was wonderful," said Heller. "We have 30 excellent students enrolled in six hours of coursework being taught this fall by special education professors Dr. Kim Stoddard and Dr. Bonnie Braun."

Heller also collaborated with Lori Massey, Comprehensive System for Personnel Development project coordinator, on a grant funded at \$50,000 by the Florida Department of Education to host two Reading First Reading Academies. "Our academies are two of eight to be conducted for Pinellas county K-3 teachers as part of the state's effort to improve the reading skills of the state's students," said Heller.

Each academy enrolls 160 teachers for four days of intensive instruction and research-validated programs related to reading instruction. "The first academy hosted by USF St. Petersburg was conducted June 2-5 at the St. Petersburg Hilton and the second will be conducted June 22-26, also scheduled at the Hilton," said Heller.

Located on the vibrant downtown St. Petersburg waterfront, USF St. Petersburg is a rapidly growing, fiscally autonomous, urban campus of the University of South Florida, a Carnegie-designated Doctoral/Research Extensive University. More than 4,000 students enroll in 45 undergraduate and graduate degree programs through the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, and Education.

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