

7-15-2002

Press release : 2002 : 07 : 15 : USF St. Petersburg Receives \$125,000 Literacy Grant From Verizon

Deborah Kurelik

Bob Elek

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases

Recommended Citation

Kurelik, Deborah and Elek, Bob, "Press release : 2002 : 07 : 15 : USF St. Petersburg Receives \$125,000 Literacy Grant From Verizon" (2002). *USFSP News and Press Releases*. 882.
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/882

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the University Advancement at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in USFSP News and Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.

Media Advisory
July 15, 2002

USF St. Petersburg Receives \$125,000 Literacy Grant From Verizon
Florida Speaker Designate to Speak

St. Petersburg, Fla. – The University of South Florida St. Petersburg's College of Education will host a luncheon to announce a \$125,000 grant award from Verizon Foundation for literacy programs targeting three south St. Petersburg elementary schools. This grant will both establish these proven programs and sustain them through on-going training made possible by the funding.

WHEN: July 18, 2002
Luncheon: Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Comments and grant presentation: 1:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Campus Activities Center
USF St. Petersburg
Corner of 2nd Street and 6th Avenue South
Parking is available adjacent to the Campus Activities Center

WHO: Johnnie Byrd, Florida House Speaker Designate
Bill Heller, USF St. Petersburg CEO and Vice President
John Blanchard, President, Southeast Region, Public Policy and External Affairs, Verizon
Suzanne Dubose, President, Verizon Foundation
Barbara Frye, Associate Professor, USF College of Education

BACKGROUND: Improving literacy rates is being increasingly prioritized at both the state and the federal level as one of the key factors in academic achievement. The College of Education has been concentrating efforts on the same objective throughout the 1990's and into the new millennium. Reading scores at Lakewood, Campbell Park and Fairmont elementary schools suggest that the proven programs developed at USF St. Petersburg to improve literacy skills in other settings will also have a positive effect on key grades at these schools. As part of its commitment to be "America's literacy champion," Verizon Foundation has previously funded some of these USF programs, as well as many other literacy efforts in Florida and around the country. This grant signifies a continuation of that commitment, both at USF and in general.

CONTACT: Deborah Kurelik, USF St. Petersburg, 727-553-3458
Bob Elek, Verizon, 813-483-2541