



Area 5 Directors Report

12-06-08

Director's Name: **Victor J. Hatfield**

Counties served: **Flagler - Lake - Orange - Seminole - Volusia**

F.A.S.T. Related Activities:

- ❑ I will be representing F.A.S.T. as a judge at the **Florida Science Olympiad**.
- ❑ **Dr. Donna Poniatowski**, Science Curriculum Specialist of Seminole County, organized a Genomics studies workshop October 10 at the University of Florida using the Area 5 Professional Development Grant. Teachers within the District studied with UF Professor Gary Peters to prepare and read gel suspensions of DNA bands.

Upcoming Events:

- ❑ The State **Florida Science Olympiad** will be February 28, 2009 at the University of Central Florida and directed by Mike McKee.
- ❑ Regional Science Olympiad competitions include:
 - ✓ January 24, 2009 – Regional Competition at Clearwater Central Catholic High School
 - ✓ January 31, 2009 – Regional Competition at Cypress Creek High School
 - ✓ January 31, 2009 – Regional Competition at Lake City Community College
 - ✓ February 7, 2009 – Regional Competition at Florida Atlantic University

Judges are still needed for the competitions. Please contact **Mike McKee** at mmckee@creol.ucf.edu if interested in helping judge.

Upcoming Opportunities:

- ❑ **Orange County Space Week** will bring over 2600 Orange County eighth graders to Kennedy Space Center in December for an educational study experience to explore the past, present, and future of America's space program from the place where it all began. Orange County Space Week is a tremendous opportunity for our students with funding made available through a partnership with NASA and Delaware North. Our hope is that Space Week will:
 - inspire our students about the importance of science and math in their future as a career path
 - encourage earlier pursuit of higher level science and math courses and competitions
 - add relevance and instill interest in the earth/space curriculum by challenging students with real-world learning opportunities

School/Teacher/Student Recognitions:

- ❑ **Valerie Ledford**, fifth grade teacher at Moss Park Elementary School, received the **Service-Learning Rising Star Award**. This is a new award from Florida Learn & Serve, given to someone who is relatively new to service learning, but who has engaged a large number of students, had a wide impact in his/her school or community, and who has great potential for further growth or achievement. She received \$500 to use toward advancing knowledge and skills in service learning - to attend conferences or trainings, purchase materials, or use the funds for remuneration for help provided to others.
- ❑ **Jeanne Neff** of Arbor Ridge in Orlando is a finalist for the **Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**. Winners selected from each state at the national level will receive an all-expense paid trip (for two) to Washington, D.C., for a week of professional development, including dinner at the Department of State with recognition from the President of the United States and the First Lady, as well as \$10,000 and additional prizes from vendors. Neff will find out next April or May if she is the winner from Florida.

❑ **PRISM (Promoting Regional Improvement in Science & Math)** and the Central Florida School Board Coalition support excellence in science instruction through a Regional Teacher Recognition Program which identifies top science teachers in each participating district. The 2008 PRISM Teachers of the Year were recognized by members of the PRISM Board of Directors and the Orange County School Board at a celebration dinner at Sea World and were presented with brand new lap tops from Lockheed-Martin Corporation and the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools. The 2008 PRISM Teachers of the Year were:

Patricia LaChance – Sunrise Elementary School

Beth Wile – Union Park Middle School

Melissa Cross-Juergens – University High School

❑ **PRISM (Promoting Regional Improvement in Science & Math)** and the Central Florida School Board Coalition support excellence in K-12 science and math curricula through a Regional PRISM Student Scholar Program, an incentive program for seventh grade students designed to encourage success in higher level science and math courses and competitions. The 2008 PRISM Student Scholars and their families were recognized by members of the PRISM Board of Directors and the Orange County School Board at a School Board Recognition celebration. Each was given a \$500 Savings Bond and a plaque. The 2008 PRISM Student Scholars were:

Outstanding Science

Evan Ellman – Glenridge Middle School

Amber Johnson – Chain of Lakes Middle School

Outstanding Math

Akash Nadan – Hunter’s Creek Middle School

Jieun Lee – Chain of Lakes Middle School

Most Improved Science

Leeana Peters – Piedmont Lakes Middle School

Travis Pulliam – Freedom Middle School

Most Improved Math

Jeremy Nguyen – Glenridge Middle School

Denise Bagarra – Hunter’s Creek Middle School

- ❑ Orange County Public Schools is proud to announce that a Colonial High School student **Steven Torres** has been named one of the best and brightest young scientific minds in the nation. He is among 300 semifinalists from 248 middle schools across the United States selected by the Society for Science & the Public's (SSP) 2008 Middle School Program in the **National Science Competition**.

Teacher Concerns and Needs:

- ❑ Where's the money?

Summary of Expenditures:

- ❑ \$50.00 (Travel Reimbursement)