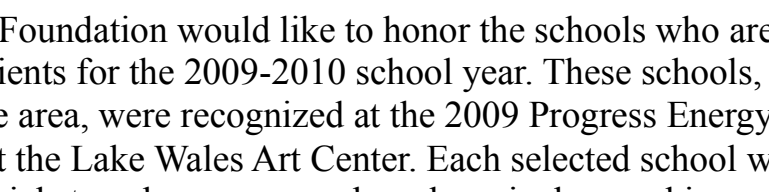


Congratulations 2009 Progress Energy Grant Recipients!

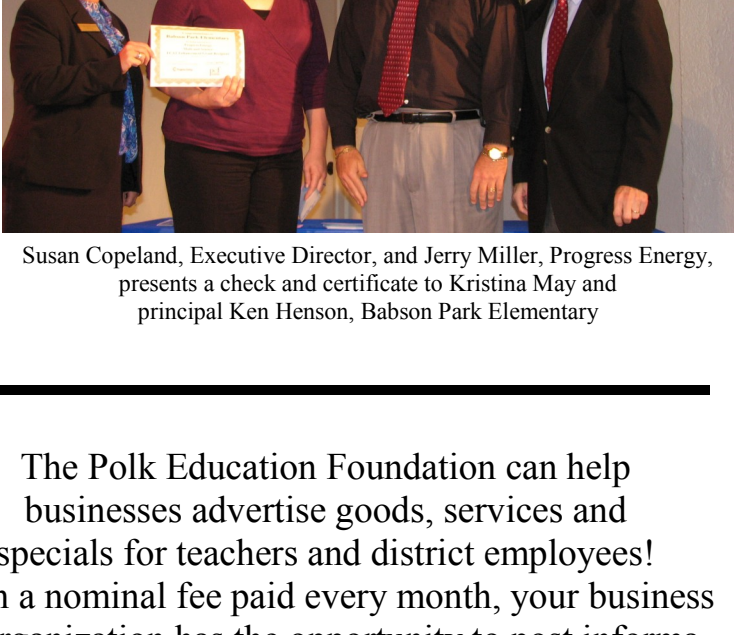


The Polk Education Foundation would like to honor the schools who are Progress Energy Science Grant recipients for the 2009-2010 school year. These schools, all located in the Progress Energy service area, were recognized at the 2009 Progress Energy grant reception held on December 1, 2009 at the Lake Wales Art Center. Each selected school will receive \$2,000 to purchase science materials to enhance energy-based curriculum and increase student achievement on state standardized tests. This grant program, now in its fourth year, is sponsored by Progress Energy and has provided over \$150,000 to the classrooms of the local Progress Energy service area. Thank you Progress Energy, for your commitment to education! These schools are making great strides to increase students' scores and enrich the learning process in all grade levels.

Alturas Elementary
Boone Middle School
Eastside Elementary
Hillcrest Elementary
Our Children's Academy
Ridge Community High

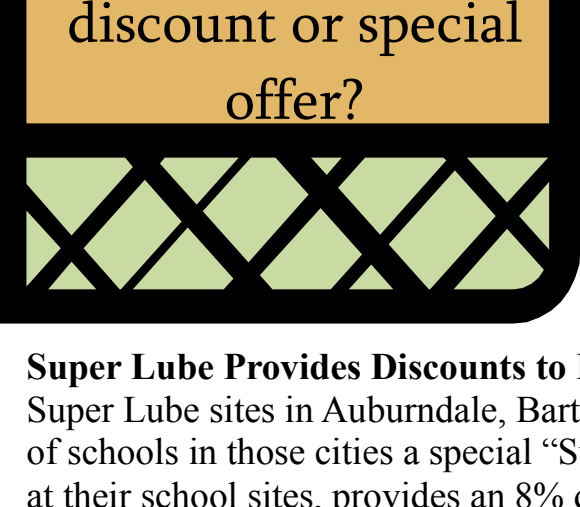
Congratulations to:
Babson Park Elementary
Daniel Jenkins Academy
Frostproof Elementary
J.H. Wilson Elementary
Palmetto Elementary
Roosevelt Academy
Spook Hill Elementary

Bethune Academy
Dundee Elementary
Frostproof Middle/Senior
Lake Wales High
Polk Avenue Elementary
Sandhill Elementary



Susan Copeland, Executive Director, and Jerry Miller, Progress Energy, presents a check and certificate to Melanie Tucker, Daniel Jenkins Academy

Susan Copeland, Executive Director, and Jerry Miller, Progress Energy, presents a check and certificate to Kristina May and principal Ken Henson, Babson Park Elementary

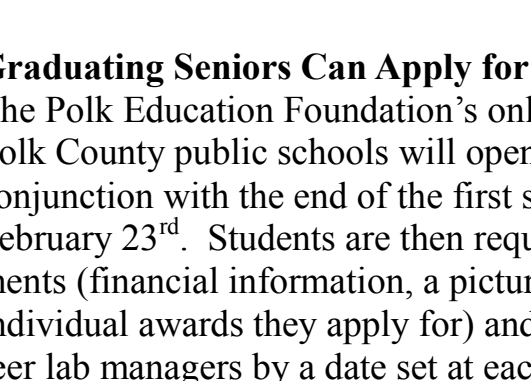


The Polk Education Foundation can help businesses advertise goods, services and specials for teachers and district employees! With a nominal fee paid every month, your business or organization has the opportunity to post information regarding special deals, discounts or services on the "staff offers" page of the PEF website www.polkeeducationfoundation.org

Contact the PEF office if you or someone you know is interested in this monthly advertising campaign to provide discounts to teachers and other staff. **Let us help you help others!**

Super Lube Provides Discounts to Employees and Rebates to Schools

Super Lube sites in Auburndale, Bartow, Lake Wales and Winter Haven are offering teachers of schools in those cities a special "Super Rewards Card". This card, which teachers received at their school sites, provides an 8% discount on any purchase and another 7% fundraising revenue back to the school to use for programs and supplies. Any employee may use the coupon posted on the PCSB "Staff Offers" page. By doing so ALL employees can take advantage of this offer, not just those who teach in close proximity to a Super Lube, and those proceeds are returned to the Polk Education Foundation. For the second time this year, Super Lube distributed quarterly checks to the schools in their community totaling just over \$100.



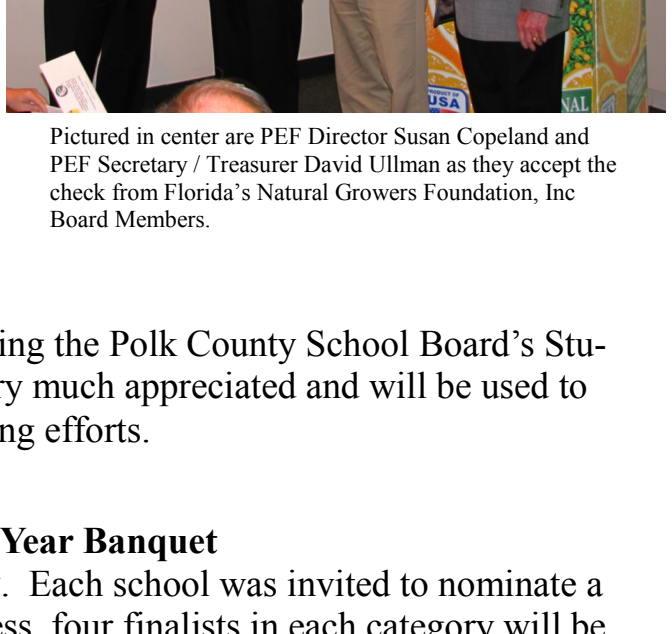
Bill Reid of Verizon recently presented the Polk Education Foundation a check for \$5,000 to support scholarships in the Take Stock in Children program. This amount coupled with an original \$8,000 Verizon donated earlier this year to AmeriCorps Polk Reads brings their total support to the PEF this year to \$13,000. Thank you Verizon!

Bill Reid of Verizon and Susan Copeland from the PEF

Graduating Seniors Can Apply for Scholarships

The Polk Education Foundation's online scholarship application for seniors graduating from Polk County public schools will open Tuesday, February 2, 2010. This date was selected in conjunction with the end of the first semester. The online application will close at NOON on February 23rd. Students are then required to print the application, gather all required attachments (financial information, a picture of themselves and any reference letters required by the individual awards they apply for) and submit the application packages to their college and career lab managers by a date set at each school. Those interested in scholarships for graduating seniors can visit polkeeducationfoundation.org and look under "PEF Scholarships" to view the list of scholarships offered last year. Work is being finalized with scholarship donors now to post a current list at application time. Students are encouraged to visit their College and Career Lab Manager for more information.

Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, Inc. of Lake Wales presented the Polk Education Foundation \$2,000 to be used to purchase materials associated with AmeriCorps Polk Reads, a reading tutoring program for kindergarten through third grade students.



Pictured in center are PEF Director Susan Copeland and PEF Secretary / Treasurer David Ullman as they accept the check from Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, Inc Board Members.

Thank you WS Badcock!

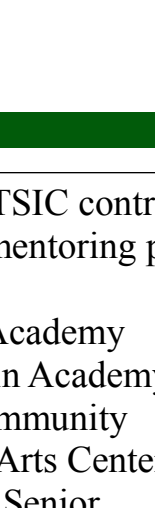
Thank you to WS Badcock for once again sponsoring the Polk County School Board's Student Poetry Contest! The \$1,000 donation was very much appreciated and will be used to highlight students work and reward their outstanding efforts.

2010 Teacher / School-Related Employee of the Year Banquet

This event will be held on Thursday, February 25th. Each school was invited to nominate a person in each category. After an application process, four finalists in each category will be named with one being the top winner in each group. Sponsors for the event are still being sought to provide complimentary tickets to all nominees and their guests. Those with sponsorship inquiries should call 863-534-0434. No nominees and other invited guests should RSVP before February 4, 2010 to 863-534-0519.

PROGRAMS OF THE POLK EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

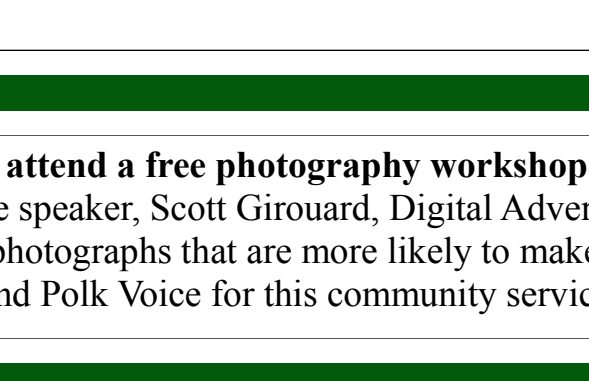
TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN (TSIC):



On September 21st Take Stock students were treated to a tour of the USF Polytechnic and PSC Lakeland campus along with a college prep workshop.

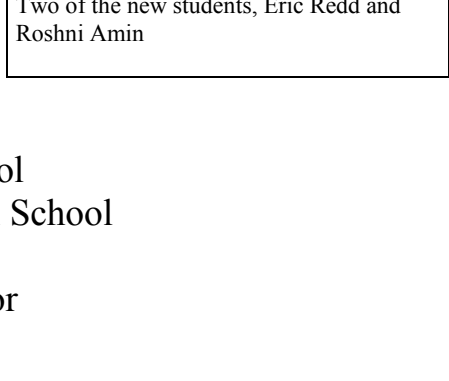
Many questions were answered including...*What is a polytechnic school?* Everyone was surprised to find that polytechnic schools are not limited to technical majors. Polytechnic means that technology along with other teaching methods are used to help students gain a better understanding of

Thank you to our hosts and workshop instructors: Dr. Jennifer Beyer, Zach Crum and Shawn Kewala (USF Polytechnic Staff)



On October 23, sixteen students signed TSIC contracts to become the newest recipients in the Take Stock in Children scholarship/mentoring program. Students receiving a tuition scholarship are:

Roshni Amin	McKeel Academy
Javier Calderon	Summerlin Academy
Brandon Maya	Ridge Community
Vanessa Kurrle	Harrison Arts Center
Kyaw Win	Lakeland Senior
Cerra Wood	McKeel Academy
Danielle Gamble	Tenoroc High School
Reshawn Morris	Tenoroc High School
Eric Redd	McKeel Academy
Kiersten Nelson	Harrison Arts Center
Brekia Henderson	Haines City Senior
Norshawnndria McCombs	Lake Region High School
Anton Cardinal	Ridge Community High School
Kaylee Bledsoe	Harrison Arts Center
Karina Escobedo	Frostproof Middle Senior
Aliyah Lawson	Lakeland Senior



Two of the new students, Eric Redd and Roshni Amin

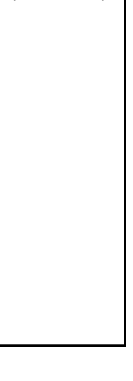
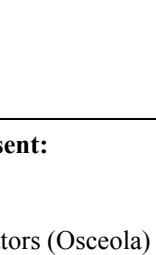
Thank you to Polk Works, MM Parrish Construction, Citrus Center Kiwanis and all of our golf sponsors for making the dream of college a reality for these young people.

The Polk Education Foundation staff was able to attend a free photography workshop, hosted at The Ledger for POLK VOICE online. The speaker, Scott Grouard, Digital Advertising Manager, provided great information on taking photographs that are more likely to make it to print or other media. Thanks to both the Ledger and Polk Voice for this community service.

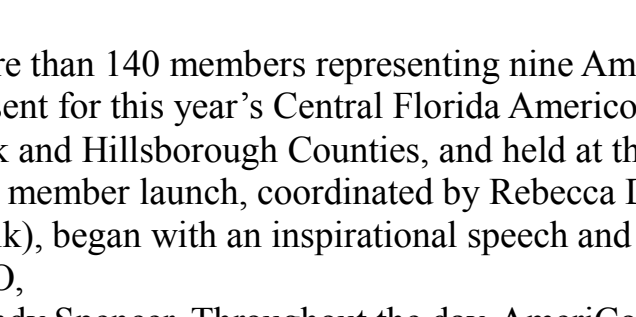
AMERICORPS POLK READS:

READ Polk corporate spelling bee

A Spelling Bee, or for that matter any competition, is always a tense and often spellbinding event. However, this corporate spelling bee was a nicely laid back and relaxed affair with food, drinks, and lots of laughter all going for the good cause of adult literacy. AmeriCorps Polk READS is required to participate in literacy based community service projects. READ Polk's Corporate Spelling Bee consisted of adult spellers competing for bragging rights that their company had some of the best spellers in the county. Each corporation made a sponsorship donation to READ Polk for slots to compete. Members of AmeriCorps helped at the event by setting up tables and event signs. During the event, they sold drink tickets and monitored the silent action.

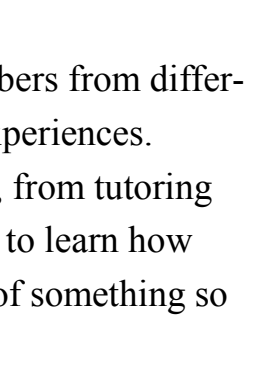


AMERICORPS: MEMBER LAUNCH



One of the many group photographs taken during the ceremony

- Central Florida AmeriCorps programs present:
- ⊗ AmeriCorps Clearwater
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Community Resource Navigators (Osceola)
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Community Stepping Stones
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Great Explorations
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Mentor Solutions
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Polk Reads
 - ⊗ AmeriCorps Red Cross of Lee County
 - ⊗ Notre Dame AmeriCorps



Melissa, Jo, Amanda, & Robert

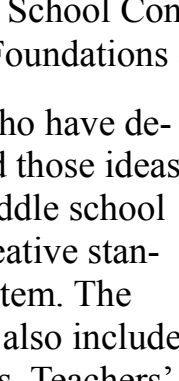
More than 140 members representing nine AmeriCorps Central Florida programs were present for this year's Central Florida AmeriCorps Member Launch ceremony hosted by Polk and Hillsborough Counties, and held at the Lakeland Civic Center on October 22. The member launch, coordinated by Rebecca Davis (Hillsborough) and Vicki Ginda (Polk), began with an inspirational speech and presentation from Volunteer Florida's CEO, Wendy Spencer. Throughout the day, AmeriCorps members rotated through the following trainings:

- ⊗ Civic Engagement, by trainer Sue Lawton
- ⊗ Disability Training, by trainer Judith Barrett
- ⊗ Diversity Appreciation, by trainer Paula Deboles-Johnson
- ⊗ Volunteer Reception Center Training, by trainer Mary Lee White

During lunch, members were given the opportunity to mingle with members from different programs. It was a great opportunity to hear about each member's experiences. AmeriCorps reaches out to local communities through various activities, from tutoring and mentoring youth to preventing and reducing local crime. Being able to learn how each program serves their community, and knowing that we all are part of something so big, is very humbling.

The day ended with a swearing-in ceremony conducted by the Honorable John K. Stargel, Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit, making us "official" AmeriCorps members. Representative Kelli Stargel also was in attendance.

(Special thanks to the Clearwater Police Department for supporting this event. Also, a special thanks to the event sponsors: Bright House Networks, Huntington Learning Centers, MIDFLORIDA Credit Union, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Polk County Schools, and TECO Energy)



Jasmine, Annette, & Janeen

TEACHER TO TEACHER / SCHOOL TO SCHOOL CONNECTION (TTC/SSC):

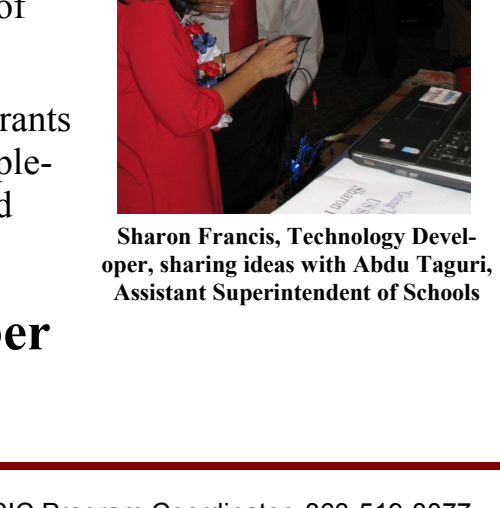


2009 Idea Expo Highlights

Over 500 educators from Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties attended the 2009 IDEA Expo, held by the Teacher to Teacher/School to School Connection Program, in conjunction with the Polk, Hardee and Highlands Education Foundations and local business sponsors.

Featured were over 60 area PreK-8th grade teachers who have developed innovative classroom programs and presented those ideas in order to network and encourage elementary and middle school educators in the task of creating and implementing creative standards-based units for students in the public school system. The Expo not only featured visually exciting displays, but also included area business vendors, such as Bright House Networks, Teachers' Exchange, MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union, Bank of America and Bok Tower Gardens. Door prizes and free giveaways were also a part of this great teacher event. Food and refreshments were prepared by the Winter Haven High School Culinary Arts Program. All Education majors attending local colleges and universities were also invited to attend. We'd like to thank program sponsors: PCSB School Technology Services, Bright House Networks, MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union, Teachers' Exchange, Badcock Home Furniture, Public Super Market Charities, Killebrew, Inc., Dr. and Mrs. David Misch, Bank of America, Belk, Office Depot and Macy's Foundations.

Those teachers who visited the Expo are now eligible for Adapter Grants of \$200 for their classrooms or \$800 for their schools in order to implement from the program's website www.polkeeducationfoundation.org/t2t



Sharon Francis, Technology Developer, sharing ideas with Abdu Taguri, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Adapter Grant Applications are due December 18, 2009.