

Kudos to Eight DTL Students Hired as AIT Teachers

by Josephine Elliott

Eight students in the Department of Teaching & Learning (DTL) are teaching this fall as Accelerated Induction into Teaching (AIT) teachers. Seven have been hired by the St. Lucie County School District and one by the School District of Palm Beach County.

"There were limited opportunities available the past two years due to the economy and other factors," said Director Jan Andrew of Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT). "But now we are seeing increased activity."

This year's AIT teachers are all DTL education majors in the College of Education. They have landed a variety of positions at different grade levels. Shannon Hert is teaching fourth grade at Palm Pointe RS @ Tradition; Raynell Mowitz, kindergarten at Palm Pointe RS @ Tradition; Jackie Spircoff, second grade at Windmill Point Elementary; Heather Concepcion, first grade at Village Green Elementary; Bethanie Gallagher, first grade at St.

Lucie West K-8; Alexi Zastenik, fifth grade at Village Green Elementary, and Nicole Wise, second grade at Oak Hammock K-8 in St. Lucie County. In addition, Valmorria Smith is teaching secondary English at Atlantic High School in Palm Beach County.

AIT is FIAT's capstone program, a specialized form of student teaching done in the last semester of students' undergraduate degree. Students who apply and are approved by the Department have the opportunity to interview for open positions in partnering school districts. Each candidate must meet strict criteria, including grade point average and recommendations.

Interested students can apply to this unique program during their student teaching semester. For more information about AIT visit the FIAT website at <http://www.coe.fau.edu/CentersAndPrograms/fiat/ait.aspx>.

FIAT also runs two other programs: First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) and Substituting with Mentors



Cassie Mass Migliore (right), Spring 2011 AIT and FAU graduate with her mentor, Joyce Beck.

and Realistic Teaching (SMaRT). For an application and more information about these programs, as well as AIT, visit www.coe.fau.edu/fiat.

It could lead to a teaching position as it did for Cassie Mass Migliore (pictured above) who now teaches first grade at St. Lucie West K-8 in St. Lucie County.

FIAT Celebrates Success



Dr. Andrew Brewer shakes hands with a student during the Spring 2011 FIAT Annual Celebration of Success.

Photography by Teresa Crane

The Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) held its Annual Celebration of Success in Spring 2011. Two faculty members of the Department of Teaching & Learning, Dr. Andrew Brewer of the Northern Campuses and Dr. Philomena Marinaccio-Eckel of the Davie Campus, trained students at Palm Beach State College—Belle Glade in researched-based reading and motivational strategies. The training was part of a grant funded by the Florida Department of Education Mentoring and Student Assistance Initiative.



Dr. Philomena Marinaccio-Eckel (pink suit) poses with GoodFIT participants.