



Up to \$7,000 off your favorite vehicles



- > Search Classified
- > Find a Job
- > Buy a Car
- > Find Real Estate
- > Find an Apartment
- > Place a Classified Ad
- > Buy a LocalLink
- > ShopLocal
- > Boodle Coupons

LOCAL NEWS NEWS BY AREA

- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Regional/Florida
- Cuba
- Nation/World

NEWS TOPICS

- The Help Team
- Education
- Lottery Results
- Obituaries
- Traffic
- News by E-mail
- News Quiz
- Next Generation
- Kids of Character
- Character Counts

CHANNELS

- NEWS**
- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Regional/Florida
- Cuba
- Nation/World
- The Help Team
- Education
- Lottery
- Obituaries

WEATHER

- Hurricane
- Webcam

SPORTS

- Miami Dolphins
- Florida Marlins
- Miami Heat
- Florida Panthers
- University of Miami
- High School
- College
- Weblogs/Columns

BUSINESS

- Real Estate News

EDITORIAL

- Letters

'Good Fit' students at FAU get training, support for teaching before going it alone

By Scott Travis
 South Florida Sun-Sentinel
 Posted February 22 2007

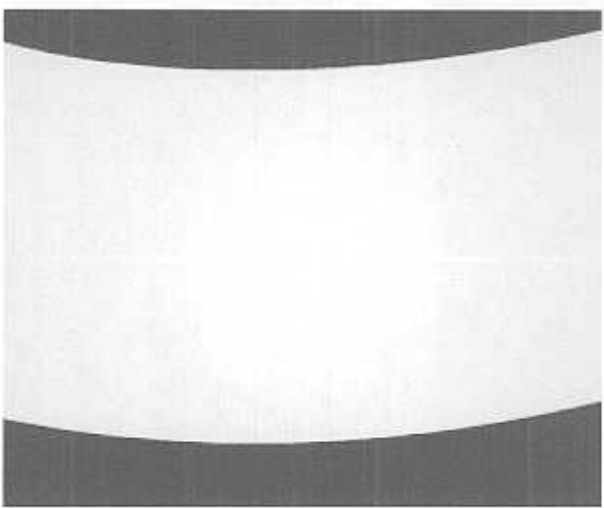
FORT LAUDERDALE - They start their teaching careers energetic and ready to change the lives of children, but quickly leave exhausted and discouraged.

That's been the story for many young teachers in South Florida and elsewhere, who find themselves overwhelmed with unruly or hard-to-teach students, and disappointed by low pay and lack of support. Researchers estimate that half of all new teachers leave the profession within five years.

Officials at Florida Atlantic University decided they needed to do something to help reverse this trend.

FAU's College of Education is using a \$300,000 state grant to pilot a program called "Good Fit," which provides experience and support for future teachers early in college.

Many participants are education students attending community college who plan to transfer to FAU their junior year. The program also encourages FAU students in other majors to give teaching a try.



- E-mail
- Print story
- Most e-
- News or
- RSS feed

PHOTO



Creative at
 See larger
 (Sun-Senti)
 Feb 16, 2007

LocalLinks



- Chan Lowe
- Cartoons
- [SOUTHFLORIDA.COM](#)
- Entertainment
- Events
- Restaurants
- Movies & TV
- Music & Stage
- Nightlife & Bars
- Florida Getaways
- Celebrity News
- Horoscopes
- Dating/Personals
- Attractions/Outdoors
- Visitor's Guide

- FEATURES**
- Lifestyle
- Arts
- Food & Recipes
- Home & Garden
- Travel
- Books

BLOGS/COLUMNS

HEALTH & SCIENCE

COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTERS

RSS NEWS FEEDS

CORRECTIONS

OTHER SERVICES

- Archives
- Customer Service
- News by E-mail

For eight hours a week, these students help a teacher in a local public school. They are paid \$500 for each semester they work.

"Teaching is a demanding job. The kids don't let you fumble around if you don't know what you're doing," said Glenn Thomas, an administrator in the College of Education. "It takes a special person with a lot of preparation."

Jewel Johnson, 19, a sophomore at Broward Community College, helps algebra teacher Jose Brevil at Stranahan High School in Fort Lauderdale, where she graduated. She has a knack for math and helps students solve equations. This is her second semester in the Good Fit program and she says she loves it.

"When I get my actual class, I'll be more relaxed and a better teacher, because I'll already know the ups and downs," she said.

While students may observe classroom teachers during college, most don't get hands-on experience until they student-teach their senior year, Thomas said.

Half of education students at FAU change to another major by their junior year, largely because they feel disconnected from the teaching profession, officials said.

The Good Fit program may convince some students that teaching is not for them, but it's better they know that earlier on, Thomas said. But educators believe most of these prospective teachers will enter the classrooms more confident and skillful.

"They work with teachers who are well-trained, enthusiastic and passionate about what they do," said Malease Marko Berg, who coordinates the Good Fit programs for Broward County schools. "They're not just sitting off in a corner watching. They're interacting with students in a professional manner."

The College of Education graduates about 450 students every year, barely making a dent in the state's teacher shortage. Florida needs about 30,000 teachers every year, according to the state Department of Education.

School district recruiters often travel across the country, and sometimes even internationally, to fill teacher vacancies. But the Good Fit program focuses on teachers who live in South Florida and want to stay here.

The 134 Good Fit participants work in schools in Broward, Palm Beach and Okeechobee counties, as well as the FAU-A.D. Henderson School on the Boca Raton campus.

What's Your Credit Score?

The average Florida credit score: 670. The cost to see yours: \$0.
www.freecreditreport.com

Alternative to Open Back Surgery

Minimally invasive, corrects most spinal disorders, 21st century laser techniques, outpatient surgery.
www.LaserSpineInstitute.com

[Buy a link here](#)

LATEST

ADD TO

- [Ju issues](#)
- [Pa Intern increa](#)
- [Fil 911 M keep f](#)
- [Fa Photo: old AM](#)
- [Ex the AM buildir](#)
- [Ba Nicole contin](#)
- [Pr relief | debate](#)
- [Lo officer trainin](#)

Check .

PLAY A

RELATED THE WEB

- Kids
 - Family
- Powered by

MOST (last

1. Develop 12,235 l Wellingt
2. State Hc voters to tax for r
3. SunFest celebrat Ludacris Lewis
4. Mayor ir property 'disastrc
5. U.S. to i from pa: See the c

 **Click I**
subsc
the St
call 1-

Vanessa Peña, 19, an FAU freshman from Boca Raton, said she values the chance to know early whether teaching is right for her.

"This experience will either make you or break you," she said. "It makes you decide this is what I want to do, or this is not for me."

After a few weeks in Good Fit, Peña has her answer.

"I'm definitely a teacher."

Scott Travis can be reached at stravis@sun-sentinel.com or 561-243-6637.

[Read 1 comment »](#)

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:

Post Comment



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the Terms of Service and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator.



Subscribe today to the Sun-Sentinel and find out how to get one week extra!

[Click here](#) or call 1-877-READ-SUN

Sun-Sentinel.com

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-flbocteachers0225feb25,0,6809134.story>

Program helps would-be teachers prepare

Good Fit students get in-class training, support before their teaching careers start

By Scott Travis
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

February 25, 2007

Delray Beach · They start their teaching careers energetic and ready to change the lives of children but quickly leave exhausted and discouraged.

That's been the story for many young teachers in South Florida and elsewhere, who find themselves overwhelmed with unruly or hard-to-teach students, as well as disappointed by low pay and lack of support. Researchers estimate half of all new teachers leave the profession within five years.

Officials at Florida Atlantic University decided they needed to do something to help reverse this trend.

FAU's College of Education is using a \$300,000 state grant to pilot a program called "Good Fit," which provides experience and support for future teachers early in college. The program started in the fall. FAU officials are asking the state Legislature for \$3.2 million to continue this program and other teaching initiatives next year.

For eight hours a week, the Good Fit students help a teacher in a local public school. They are paid \$500 for each semester they work.

Many participants are education students attending Palm Beach, Broward or Indian River community colleges who plan to transfer to FAU their junior year. The program also encourages FAU students in other majors to give teaching a try.

"Teaching is a demanding job. The kids don't let you fumble around if you don't know what you're doing," said Glenn Thomas, an administrator in the College of Education. "It takes a special person with a lot of preparation."

Crisna Gedeon, 18, of Delray Beach, helps in a second-grade class at Village Academy in Delray Beach. She's a freshman at Palm Beach Community College and has always wanted to be a teacher.

"I had so many teachers who inspired me," she said. "I want to help young people, and we need teachers."

Gedeon works with 12-year veteran Lawanda Brown, helping students learn math and vocabulary words. In a recent class, she was helping them count coins.

Now through
Saturday
Only!

- CLICK**
www.officedepot.com
- CALL**
800.GO.DEPOT
- COME BY**
locate a store near you

While students may observe classroom teachers during college, most don't get hands-on experience until they student-teach in their senior year, Thomas said.

Half of education students at FAU change to another major by their junior year, largely because they feel disconnected from the teaching profession, officials said.

The Good Fit program may convince some students that teaching is not for them, but it's better they know that earlier on, Thomas said.

"They have an opportunity to see a master teacher at work and get a feel for the school," said Tammy Ferguson, principal at Village Academy, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. "When they start teaching, they'll be able to hit the ground running."

FAU's College of Education graduates about 450 students every year, barely making a dent in the state's teacher shortage. Florida needs about 30,000 teachers every year, according to the state Department of Education.

School district recruiters often travel across the country, and sometimes internationally, to fill teacher vacancies. But the Good Fit program focuses on teachers who live in South Florida and want to stay here.

"When the teachers move here from out of state, they're often here a couple of years and then get homesick and are ready to leave," Ferguson said. "Or they can't afford to live here."

Scott Travis can be reached at stravis@sun-sentinel.com or 561-243-6637.

Copyright © 2007, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Joe Kollin looks into the issues that affect South Florida condo and homeowner associations.

- > Search Classified
- > Find a Job
- > Buy a Car
- > Find Real Estate
- > Find an Apartment
- > Place a Classified Ad
- > Buy a LocalLink
- > ShopLocal
- > Booodle Coupons

LOCAL NEWS
NEWS BY AREA

- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Regional/Florida
- Cuba
- Nation/World

NEWS TOPICS

- The Help Team
- Education
- Lottery Results
- Obituaries
- Traffic
- News by E-mail
- News Quiz
- Next Generation
- Kids of Character
- Character Counts

CHANNELS

NEWS

- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Regional/Florida
- Cuba
- Nation/World
- The Help Team
- Education
- Lottery
- Obituaries

WEATHER

- Hurricane
- Webcam

SPORTS

- Miami Dolphins
- Florida Marlins
- Miami Heat
- Florida Panthers
- University of Miami
- High School
- College
- Weblogs/Columns

BUSINESS

- Real Estate News

EDITORIAL

- Letters

Through FAU program, students get in-class training teaching careers start

By Scott Travis
South Florida Sun-Sentinel
Posted February 21 2007

Delray Beach · They start their teaching careers energetic and ready to change the lives of children, but quickly leave exhausted and discouraged.

That's been the story for many young teachers in South Florida and elsewhere, who find themselves overwhelmed with unruly or hard-to-teach students, as well as disappointed by low pay and lack of support. Researchers estimate half of all new teachers leave the profession within five years.

Officials at Florida Atlantic University decided they needed to do something to help reverse this trend.









FAU's College of Education is using a \$300,000 state grant to pilot a program called "Good Fit," which provides experience and support for future teachers early in college. The program started in the fall. FAU officials are asking the state Legislature for \$3.2 million to continue this program and other teaching initiatives next year.

For eight hours a week, the Good Fit students help a teacher in a local

-  E-mail
-  Print
-  Most e-mail
-  News
-  RSS



LocalLinks

- LATEST NEWS
- ADD TO
 -  Mc Nicole buried
 -  W... to dea debt
 -  Bo with f slingsl
 -  He your ic tax se
 -  Ba Nicole contin
 -  Et filed a commi
 -  Hi talks t Miami
 -  Ar of Den tape
 - Check .
 - PLAY ALL**

- Chan Lowe
- Cartoons
- [SOUTHFLORIDA.COM](#)
- Entertainment
- Events
- Restaurants
- Movies & TV
- Music & Stage
- Nightlife & Bars
- Florida Getaways
- Celebrity News
- Horoscopes
- Dating/Personals
- Attractions/Outdoors
- Visitor's Guide

FEATURES

- Lifestyle
- Arts
- Food & Recipes
- Home & Garden
- Travel
- Books

BLOGS/COLUMNS

HEALTH & SCIENCE

COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTERS

RSS NEWS FEEDS



CORRECTIONS

OTHER SERVICES

- Archives
- Customer Service
- News by E-mail

public school. They are paid \$500 for each semester they work.

Many participants are education students attending Palm Beach, Broward or Indian River community colleges who plan to transfer to FAU their junior year. The program also encourages FAU students in other majors to give teaching a try.

"Teaching is a demanding job. The kids don't let you fumble around if you don't know what you're doing," said Glenn Thomas, an administrator in the College of Education. "It takes a special person with a lot of preparation."

Crisna Gedeon, 18, of Delray Beach, helps in a second-grade class at Village Academy in Delray Beach. She's a freshman at Palm Beach Community College and has always wanted to be a teacher.

"I had so many teachers who inspired me," she said. "I want to help young people, and we need teachers."

Gedeon works with 12-year veteran Lawanda Brown, helping students learn math and vocabulary words. In a recent class, she was helping them count coins.

While students may observe classroom teachers during college, most don't get hands-on experience until they student-teach in their senior year, Thomas said.

Half of education students at FAU change to another major by their junior year, largely because they feel disconnected from the teaching profession, officials said.

The Good Fit program may convince some students that teaching is not for them, but it's better they know that earlier on, Thomas said. Educators think most of these prospective teachers will enter the classrooms more confident and skillful.

"They have an opportunity to see a master teacher at work and get a feel for the school," said Tammy Ferguson, principal at Village Academy, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. "When they start teaching, they'll be able to hit the ground running."

FAU's College of Education graduates about 450 students every year, barely making a dent in the state's teacher shortage. Florida needs about 30,000 teachers every year, according to the state Department of Education.

School district recruiters often travel across the country, and sometimes internationally, to fill teacher vacancies. But the Good Fit

What's Your Credit Score?

The average Florida credit score: 670. The cost to see yours: \$0.
www.freecreditreport.com

Alternative to Open Back Surgery

Minimally invasive, corrects most spinal disorders, 21st century laser techniques, outpatient surgery.
www.LaserSpineInstitute.com

[Buy a link here](#)

RELATED THE WEB

- Education
- Family
- Kids

Powered by

MOST (last

1. State Ho voters tr tax for r
 2. Scientist stages c
 3. \$200 mi class cor apartme in Delra
 4. Florida C want to tax in fa hike in s
 5. Greek S Mushroc
- See the c



Click I subsc the Si call 1-

program focuses on teachers who live in South Florida and want to stay here.

"When the teachers move here from out of state, they're often here a couple of years and then get homesick and are ready to leave," Ferguson said. "Or they can't afford to live here."

The 134 Good Fit participants work in schools in Broward, Palm Beach and Okeechobee counties, as well as the FAU-A.D. Henderson School on the Boca Raton campus.

Georges Bernavil, an FAU junior from Hypoluxo, is a civil engineering major who recently decided to consider teaching. He's worked with the program for two weeks now, mostly observing middle school math teacher Sandra Owen. But he said the experience has already shattered some misconceptions.

"I thought it would be little kids throwing paper," he said. "But there aren't many behavior problems. I guess that's what happens when you have a really good teacher."

Scott Travis can be reached at stravis@sun-sentinel.com or 561-243-6637.

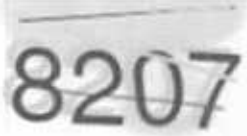
Read 2 comments »

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the Terms of Service and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator.

Sun-Sentinel.com

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-flbbwteachers0225feb25,0,6214716.story>

Program targets future teachers

By Scott Travis
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

February 25, 2007

Delray Beach • They start their teaching careers energetic and ready to change the lives of children but quickly leave exhausted and discouraged.

That's been the story for many young teachers in South Florida and elsewhere, who find themselves overwhelmed with unruly or hard-to-teach students, as well as disappointed by low pay and lack of support. Researchers estimate half of all new teachers leave the profession within five years.

Officials at Florida Atlantic University decided they needed to do something to help reverse this trend.

FAU's College of Education is using a \$300,000 state grant to pilot a program called "Good Fit," which provides experience and support for future teachers early in college. The program started in the fall. FAU officials are asking the state Legislature for \$3.2 million to continue this program and other teaching initiatives next year.

For eight hours a week, the Good Fit students help a teacher in a local public school. They are paid \$500 for each semester they work.

Many participants are education students attending Palm Beach, Broward or Indian River community colleges who plan to transfer to FAU their junior year. The program also encourages FAU students in other majors to give teaching a try.

"Teaching is a demanding job. The kids don't let you fumble around if you don't know what you're doing," said Glenn Thomas, an administrator in the College of Education. "It takes a special person with a lot of preparation."

Crisna Gedeon, 18, of Delray Beach, helps in a second-grade class at Village Academy in Delray Beach. She's a freshman at Palm Beach Community College and has always wanted to be a teacher.


"I had so many teachers who inspired me," she said. "I want to help young people, and we need teachers."


Gedeon works with 12-year veteran Lawanda Brown, helping students learn math and vocabulary words. In a recent class, she was helping them count coins.

While students may observe classroom teachers during college, most don't get hands-on experience until they student-teach in their senior year, Thomas said.


**Office
DEPOT**
Taking Care of Business

**Don't risk
running
out of ink
and
slowing
down
your
business!**






CLICK
www.officedepot.com



CALL
800 GO DEPOT



COME BY
locate a store near you

Half of education students at FAU change to another major by their junior year, largely because they feel disconnected from the teaching profession, officials said.

The Good Fit program may convince some students that teaching is not for them, but it's better they know that earlier on, Thomas said.

"They have an opportunity to see a master teacher at work and get a feel for the school," said Tammy Ferguson, principal at Village Academy, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. "When they start teaching, they'll be able to hit the ground running."

Copyright © 2007, South Florida Sun-Sentinel