



# Florida Digital Educator Program

*A statewide integration initiative*

Karen C. Seddon

## Special points of interest:

- FDE Research
- Gaggle.net revisited
- Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches
- **Best Of eXample**  
Autumn Stiene  
Jessica Short

**Teachers of the Year**  
Three of the Osceola County FDEs were named Teacher of the Year at their schools. Congratulations!



Gail Fronzak, Deerwood Elementary



Byron Wong, Zenith Programs



Stacey Poole, Lakeview Elementary

## Research

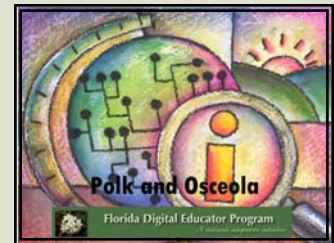
The Florida Digital Educator Program is an EETT grant funded initiative and is being evaluated by two independent entities. CREP, Center for Research in Educational Policy, from the University of Memphis has designed tools for observation (SCU/SOM) that capture a snapshot of the school day through target observations of teaching/facilitating lessons (45 min.) and a multi-class observations of 8 minutes measuring the amount and types of technologies available at a school. Teachers in Polk and Osceola Counties were randomly selected by CREP for these observations. Trained evaluators included Master Digital Educators and representatives from the University of Florida and the University of South Florida.

Once the observers visited the randomly selected schools, they compiled the data from the observation instruments and uploaded it into the CREP data collection system online. Approximately 60 of our 194 teachers were randomly selected for this type of research observations. Each of these teachers will be re-visited in the late spring for a follow-up observation using all the same tools.

A second research tool being used is an interview process being conducted through the University of South Florida. Administrators, teachers and district personnel were asked a series of questions by Dr. Mark Howse, Director of

Assessment at Bethune-Cook University. Questions included perception about the effectiveness of the Florida Digital Educator Program at the school and district levels and the impact that technology is having in the classrooms of the teachers going through the program. Approximately 25 individuals were interviewed by Dr. Howse and his findings were sent to Dr. Bruce Jones and his team at the College of Education (University of South Florida). Dr. Howse will return in late spring also to follow-up with the same individuals to determine any changes/differences in the program throughout the year.

One final arm of research as a part of the Florida Digital Educator Program is Action Research. The Department of Education is encouraging all educators to view themselves as research practitioners evaluating what works and does not work in their classrooms. Ten of our teachers in the FDE Program have agreed to participate in a formal Action Research project to evaluation technology impact in their classrooms. Next month, we will highlight the ten teachers (six in Polk and four in Osceola) who are conducting research in their classrooms, working collaboratively to see what is effective and sharing their results in an online tool designed through the University Florida. Cathy Cavanaugh and Kara Dawson from FSU are our research coordinators throughout this initiative. Next month, we will take a look at their specific proposals.



Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, the FDEP podcast, first episode features the answer to this questions, "How has technology made an impact in your classroom?"



*"I have found that technology has been a huge help in building background knowledge for my students. Sometimes we forget that we've lived a whole life and they've only been around for 10-11 years and they don't know a lot of things. It's always easier to show them things that to try to describe them. It makes their reading assignments a whole lot more interesting because they have something to hold on to in their heads."*

Ramona Fischer, Boone Middle School, 6th grade Language Arts

Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, is the FDEP podcast will be available soon. Watch for upcoming announcements for subscription information.

## Autumn Stiene, Jessica Short

### Polk County Tech Contacts

Would you believe it if I told you that 1st graders are uploading PowerPoints into Blackboard? I saw it with my own eyes! **Autumn Stiene**, 1st grade teacher at Dundee Elementary School, is so excited about the power of technology that she has empowered her students to a degree that proves just how savvy our students are today when given time and opportunity. Although, I was unable to visit Autumn's teammate, Jessica Short, Autumn explained that collaboration as technology coaches has been one of the best professional development opportunities she and Jessica have experienced. Her first grade team at Dundee is constantly looking at ways to integrate technology and get the staff involved. In Ms. Stiene's room, every student has a desktop computer station where they can work on PowerPoints, Word documents and webquests and are able to seamlessly utilize technologies on a daily basis. Autumn's favorite addition to date is her new SMARTBoard.



### Welcome to the Polk/Osceola FDE wiki!

PO BOX - Polk/Osceola Best Of eXamples

<http://pobox.pbwiki.com>

Don't forget to revisit the POBOX wiki from time to time. This collaborative website is constantly being updated with files from teachers throughout the grant and filled with training materials from the Hubs of Learning. It's yours to share with your faculty and other interested teachers learning to make a technology impact on learning in their classrooms.



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### Hubs of Learning

*iTeach, iLearn, iShare*

optional trainings for FDEs and collaborating teachers



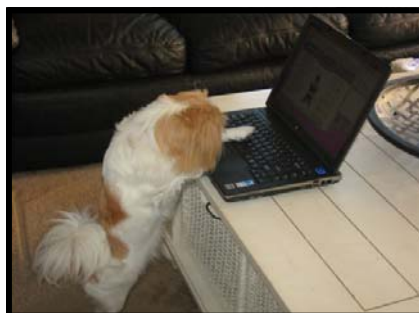
Hubs of Learning afford teachers in the FDE program an opportunity to collaborate, integrate digital tools in the classroom and share with other teachers on their campus.



## Optional Hubs of Learning

The three main trainings, to date, have been Gaggle.net, Audacity and PhotoStory. I would like to revisit Gaggle.net as a tribute to creative teachers. One of the best examples of digital storytelling I have seen to date is Mrs. Sawyer's "**Wild, Wild Day in Kindergarten.**" This clever and personal story was created with the voices and digital images of her students. Please contact Mrs. Sawyer for permission to see it. You will be SO impressed. The reason I am mentioning it in this revisit to Gaggle.net is because Mrs. Sawyer is using the digital locker in her Gaggle.net account to

give her students (kindergarten!) access to files from class. The parents of her students can use their child's account and download the movie by simply going to Mrs. Sawyer's digital locker! Jonathan Zenzel, at St. Cloud Middle School is actively recruiting his whole team of teachers



to utilize the educational advantages of communicating in this secure manner. Now you know you are Gaggle crazy, when even your dog can log in! Aurora, Stephanie Middleton's buddy, is checking Gaggle out nightly as Ms. Middleton students are required to check their Gaggle.net accounts daily for updates, news flashes, digital locker items and much, much more. Stephanie has become our FDE Gaggle.net expert. If you want some tips for getting started and maintaining this initiative, visit the [pobox.pbwiki](http://pobox.pbwiki.com) or contact Stephanie at [middlets@osceola.k12.fl.us](mailto:middlets@osceola.k12.fl.us)

Stephen Klupp, Kindergarten, Sandhill Elementary School, is convinced that technology enhances the mundane tasks of learning letters and numbers by making it exciting through interaction.



Nylene Anderson, Poinciana High School, is so excited about having a web presence for her students this year. With six student stations in her art classroom, her students more excited to get projects completed, keep up with their assignments and research art initiatives.



Visit our website at [www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT](http://www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT)