

# **FAQ: General Information about First Coast Scholars**

## **What is First Coast Scholars?**

The inspiration for creating First Coast Scholars (FCS) began in September, 2004. The collaborators include the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership, Duval County Public School System, Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida and Edward Waters College.

The primary purpose of FCS is to provide First Coast teachers with an opportunity to deepen content knowledge by participating in scholarly seminars. The seminars are presented by faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business with the outcome being the development of high quality research based lesson plans that will help improve the academic performance of students in Northeast Florida.

## **How do I apply for one of the 2010 spring seminars?**

The information session for the spring 2010 FCS seminars will be held October 29, at 3:30 p.m. and again at 5:00 p.m. Attending one of these information sessions is the best way to get all the information about the seminars being offered. Following these sessions the seminar application will be available online at [www.schultzcenter.org/fcs.shtml](http://www.schultzcenter.org/fcs.shtml). To download the form, click on the application link, save it to your desktop, complete the form and then email the application to [deridderd@schultzcenter.org](mailto:deridderd@schultzcenter.org).

## **How is this different from other programs offered in Duval County?**

This is a collaborative program developed by active classroom teachers, working with university professors, to provide a content rich opportunity for Duval and surrounding county teachers. Seminars are designed to be scholarly discussions. These are not methodology courses, but a chance to investigate topics of interest without the pressure of tests.

## **Who is eligible to participate in the seminars?**

Eligibility is open to all elementary thru high school **classroom** teachers in all disciplines currently under contract in Duval and surrounding counties.

## **How many seminars may I sign up for?**

You may sign up to attend one seminar, however, you will be asked for your first and second choice.

## **How long are the seminars?**

The seminars begin the second week of February and end the last week in April. The seminars meet once a week and consist of eight, two hour discussion sessions and three curriculum support sessions.

## **What are the spring 2010 seminar topics?**

- Florida's Frigid Environment: Hurricanes, Heat and Humidity (Oh my) - seminar leader, Dr. Quinton White, Jacksonville University
- Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults - seminar leader, Dr. Betsy Nies, University of North Florida
- SustainAbility: Exploring Environmental, Economic, and Social Equity - seminar leader, Elizabeth Porter, Jacksonville University

**When will I know if I have been chosen as a seminar participant and which seminar I have been chosen for?**

Selections will be made in November, 2009. Notifications will be delivered via email.

**How will participants be chosen?**

A selection sub committee composed of First Coast Scholars Advisory Council members will select participants. Each seminar has 15 available spaces. The goal is to have a cross-section of elementary, middle and high school teachers in each seminar.

**Can I earn recertification points?**

Yes, up to 60 points can be earned upon successful completion of the program.

**How do I earn the honorarium?**

An honorarium up to \$200 honorarium can be earned. To receive the full honorarium you will need to successfully attend 9 of the 11 seminar and curriculum support sessions and complete a curriculum unit with a minimum of four lesson plans.

**What is the purpose of developing lessons?**

The purpose of developing lesson plans is to demonstrate the ability to transfer the knowledge learned in the seminar into application in the classroom. It is also to show that in a multi-disciplined environment you can teach one subject and get many different outcomes. The lessons will be published on Riverdeep for access by all Duval district teachers. Teachers are asked to develop lesson plans that follow Sunshine State Standards and fit into the appropriate grade level learning schedules. Each participant will build their lessons in a word document template that is provided and are due by May 31, 2010.

**Are there any costs?**

There are no costs for participating in the FCS seminars.

**How do I become eligible to apply for the Princeton Scholars Summer Experience program?**

Teachers who are actively participating in a 2010 First Coast Scholars seminar and have committed to developing a curriculum unit of four or more lessons are eligible to apply for participation in the Princeton Scholars Summer Experience. The selection process will be determined by members of the FCS Advisory Council. Each participant will be required to create two new classroom lessons following their experience in the seminar at Princeton University which is presented by a Princeton faculty member. Expenses for air fare, room and board and transportation between Princeton University and the airport will be covered.