



The Florida Humanities Council
Together with the School District of DeSoto

Welcome

Dr. J. Michael Francis

Monday, January 3, 2011

Historic Owens Schoolhouse

6:00 PM

To present

Before Jamestown: La Florida in the Sixteenth Century

This presentation explores the early history of European colonization efforts in Florida, a process that began almost a century before the founding of Jamestown. It introduces audiences to the remarkably rich, yet much neglected, history of the US southeast in the sixteenth century.

Dr. Francis, Professor of the Department of History, University of North Florida, holds a Ph.D. in History: Scholar Expertise in Florida Studies, Native American Studies and Colonial Studies.

We are extremely excited to welcome Dr. J. Michael Francis to our community and hope you will join us for this free presentation.

History Flick's

History Flick's will not be shown throughout Winter Break at the Desoto County School District Office. They will resume on January 5, 2011.

Two DeSoto Educators Honored for Excellence in Teaching

Jeff Wildt, Grade 4 teacher at Memorial Elementary School, and Alicia Woodall, reading teacher at the Carlstrom Juvenile Justice Center, were honored by the Foundation for Excellence in Education at a celebration dinner at the Peabody Orlando on October 30, 2010. Wildt and Woodall are two of this year's 76 exceptional Florida educators who received cash or prizes because their students reached at least 1.5 times the average achievement levels in math or reading.

Wildt was recognized for his work with students who are functioning below grade level. His group made significant gains exceeding 1.5 times the average in reading as measured on the FCAT. Woodall's students "made the greatest gains on the FCAT in Reading among all students for three consecutive years," according to a letter the district received from the Executive Director of the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Both honorees were saluted by former Governor Jeb Bush and educator Ron Clark at the event in Orlando.

The vast majority of educators honored at this event were from many of Florida's largest school districts like Dade, Broward, Orange, and Hillsborough. Having two honorees come from DeSoto, one of the smallest districts in the state, is confirmation that the "secrets of successful teaching" referenced by the Foundation Director are no secret at all to two of our finest teachers.

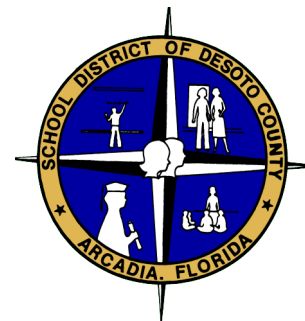
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We have added the popular social-networking site Twitter to our toolkit for providing information to parents, staff, and community members.

Users must have a Twitter account. A free account can be created at: www.twitter.com. The School District of DeSoto feed can be found and followed at: <http://twitter.com/desotoschools>.



School News