

# JUST FOR TEACHERS UPDATES



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
fldoe.org

## Exciting News

January 31, 2018

Dear Florida Educators,

It is with great excitement that I share a number of exciting developments and introduce myself.

Earlier this month, I began serving as the Florida Department of Education's Deputy Chancellor of Educator Quality. Like many of you, I started my career in the classroom where I taught French for 11 years. As my love for teaching grew, so did my interest in leadership. I have been an assistant principal and associate principal, and, most recently, I had the pleasure of leading Sarasota County's Riverview High School as principal. Each step of my professional journey has brought new experiences that continue to shape the person I am, and I feel truly honored for this opportunity to serve you and all of my fellow Floridians.

Abbey Stewart has done a tremendous job as the Department's Teacher Liaison, and she recently accepted the role of Educator Recruitment and Recognition Director. We appreciate her service in this capacity and look forward to supporting her in this next chapter.

Taking Abbey's place is Kelly Zunkiewicz, a passionate and accomplished educator who has been recognized nationally for her work in the field of education. Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, Kelly grew up watching and learning from her mother, Lauri, who taught first grade for 35 years. Kelly worked as a mathematics teacher and instructional coach at Lennard High School in Hillsborough County for nine years, during which time she earned [TNTP's Fishman Prize](#) and the [Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#). In 2016, she joined the Department to continue the development of Florida's Teacher of the Year Program and the Teacher Lead Network, and she has made tremendous strides. She is excited to expand her work and bring a new focus to the Just For Teachers Newsletter to support every educator in growing their teaching skillset.

Please join me in thanking Abbey and welcoming Kelly as the new Teacher Liaison.

Dr. Paul O. Burns  
Deputy Chancellor of Educator Quality  
#FLTeachersLead

## Featured Tweet



[#FFEA2018](#) - 490 high school students from 52 FFEA Chapters convened in Orlando this past weekend for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference. Students attended sessions like *Equality vs. Equity* to grow their own knowledge and skills. Keynote speakers included Jacob Oliva, Vice Chancellor of K-12 Public Schools, [Jessica Solano](#), 2017 Florida Teacher of the Year, and [Dorina Sackman](#), 2014 Florida Teacher of the Year.

You can learn more about starting your own FFEA Chapter [HERE](#).

## Black History Month

As a reminder, the deadline for students to submit art and essays for the Black History Month contests is **March 2, 2018** at 5 pm Eastern. Three students will earn a **4-Year Florida College Plan scholarship** – a tremendous, potentially life-altering opportunity. The deadline was extended to March this year to allow educators to incorporate the contests into their lesson plans during the month of February, when Black History Month is celebrated. I hope you will promote them in your classroom and school, as well as with any other student-focused organizations with which you are associated.

To learn more, please visit [www.floridablackhistory.com](http://www.floridablackhistory.com).