

Welcome Conference Attendee

To the FAEDS 2006 Annual Conference Attendee,

Now in our 43rd year, FAEDS again takes pride in hosting the only conference that includes participants representing the broad spectrum of Florida educational institutions, our school districts, community colleges, and universities. FAEDS objectives, as stated in the by-law's, include the following: *to promote and encourage appropriate use of information technologies, to provide for the sharing and exchanging of ideas and to facilitate, at the state and local levels, communication and cooperation among educational entities, agencies, organizations... regarding the purpose and use of information technologies and systems.*
—www.faeds.org

With the rapid adoption of technology across our schools, colleges and universities by faculty and students, and the continuing improvement in the capabilities of the products and services we have to choose from, cooperation and communication are even more important than ever. This year we are pleased to once again welcome to the conference our colleagues from the Florida Council for Instructional Technology Leaders, the Florida Association for School Media, the Florida Association for Computers in Education, the Northwest Regional Data Center, and the Florida Department of Education.

In designing this year's program, we have taken into account member suggestions and recommendations. Consequently, the themes for this year's event reflect issues of major concern to Florida's educational IT community: business recovery, disaster planning, information security and the resiliency and robustness of IT infrastructure. In addition there are multiple sessions and panels on IT standards, instructional technologies and emergent trends in the profession.

In addition, we have continued the format from last year that provides a focused opportunity on Tuesday for attendees to work closely with many of our sponsoring companies and organizations. They represent a wealth of new ideas, products and services to the meeting. Our Tuesday Solution Day has been designed to provide a great opportunity to learn, have fun and network with other participants and company representatives; it will be featuring over 70 of our business sponsors who will be exhibiting the full range of IT solutions in presentations and displays from 74 booths in the exhibition hall. We strongly encourage all of you to make the time to visit with our business sponsors.

All in all, this year's program has over 50 sessions and workshops in four major subject tracks: instructional and training segments. The program features 5 keynote speakers from the Gartner Group, Cognizant, IBM Global Services, the National Center for Education Planning and the State of Florida CIO Council.

Back by popular demand is Monte Carlo. You will again have the opportunity to squander your money on the gaming tables. Those of you that number one can then apply those winnings at the prize drawing.

Networking is relationship building. We will have the opportunity to share your knowledge, your experiences and your time with your fellow conference attendees at this event. Our hope is that this will bring a new level of collaboration among all of us who are dedicated to the advancement of information technology in education.

Let us offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has worked hard to bring this conference together. We hope you will be a more informed and we encourage you to attend future conferences.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,



John Opper
President, FAEDS



A. Victor Ferreros
President-Elect, FAEDS