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## **USF Tutors Make a Difference to Local Middle School Students** ***Program Kickoff to be held September 29th***

**TAMPA, Fla. (Sept. 17, 2009)** – The College of Education, through the leadership of the SunCoast Area Teacher Training (SCATT) Honors Program staff, is proud to announce the kick-off of its second year partnering with the Hillsborough County Public School District to implement the Middle School Tutoring Program. The program is distinctive among other tutoring/mentoring programs because its premise is that the tutors are “future teachers” who are prepared to encourage motivation for school achievement and provide support for academic improvement with a strong emphasis on the use of instructional technology. This year, the program will expand by providing tutoring to fifteen middle schools – up from ten last year.

This is a “win-win” service-learning project, for both our tutors and tutored students.” said Lori Hartwig Yusko, Interim Director, SCATT, “Our tutors are able to practice and apply the knowledge and skills learned in their coursework and the tutored students gain a mentor and have one-on-one instruction.”

“This program is only possible through our partnerships with and the support of many businesses and organizations,” stated Colleen S. Kennedy, Ph.D. Dean, USF College of Education. Partners include the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Michelin Golf Classic, Inc., Olin Mott Tires, Suncoast Kids Foundation, and the Hillsborough County Public School District. Together, the sponsors have contributed over \$150,000 to implement this program. The schools involved this year are: Adams, Buchanan, Ferrell, Franklin, Greco, Jennings, Memorial, Sligh, Van Buren, Young, Dowdell, Madison, McLane, Pierce and Webb Middle Schools. A final report regarding the results of the 2008-2009 Program is available upon request of the SCATT Office staff.

In celebration of the second year of implementation and to recognize new and former sponsors, tutors, school and USF liaisons and school principals, the College of Education’s Development Office is holding a reception in their honor on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. In the TECO Room. Also attending and addressing the honorees will be: Dean of the USF College of Education, Colleen S. Kennedy, Ph.D.; Hillsborough County Public School District Superintendent, MaryEllen Elia; General Director, Hillsborough County Public School District, Josie Sanders, Local Philanthropist, Mr. Olin Mott and Interim Director, SCATT, Lori Hartwig Yusko.

For more information: <http://scatt.coedu.usf.edu/>

*The USF College of Education is ranked 54th by U.S. News & World Report of graduate schools in the country, is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and is fully*

*approved by the Florida Department of Education. The USF College of Education is the fourth largest public college of education in the nation. For more information on the USF College of Education, visit:*  
[www.coedu.usf.edu](http://www.coedu.usf.edu)  
[Itunes.usf.edu](http://itunes.usf.edu)

*The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of 39 community-engaged, four-year public universities as designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded more than \$360 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2007/2008. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The university has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 46,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.*

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