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November 22, 2004

TO: District Student Services Directors
High School Counseling Supervisors
High School Guidance Counselors
Community College Student Services Directors
State University Student Services Directors

FROM: John L. Winn 

SUBJECT: 2005 *Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*

Welcome back to what has been an unusual start to the academic year! With the upheaval in people's lives and schedules, the work of counselors becomes even more critical to the continued success of Florida's students. Counselors are often the primary source of encouragement and direction for students, and the challenges counselors overcome to assist our children do not go unnoticed.

One resource that counselors have depended upon for many years is the *Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*. This publication, updated annually, provides a comprehensive reference guide to postsecondary education in Florida. For the very first time, the *Handbook* is available in a new Web-only version. Providing this information in a Web format permits easy navigation, keyword searches, and the ongoing updating of information. In addition, students and parents can be directed to the *Handbook* to find a wealth of information without necessitating an appointment.

As counselors continue to emphasize the importance of rigor in their students' course work, the *Handbook* provides invaluable information on the various acceleration mechanisms available to students, as well as the expectations our state university system holds for entering freshman. Sections taken directly from the *Handbook* can be used as handouts at parent meetings or advising sessions or as supplements to a school's own curriculum guide.

The 2005 *Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook* can be found at www.FACTS.org, under Advising Manuals. For those who desire a desk copy of the document, there is the option to download and print a PDF version of the *Handbook*; however, those who use a printed version are encouraged to check the Web periodically for updates.

We hope you find the new *Handbook* helpful, and we welcome your input on future improvements. Best wishes for an outstanding academic year in Florida!