Sean Turner interviews Dianne Ruff, Southern Union associate education director, about the "Truth 4 Youth" crusade that she conducted at Mt. Sinai Junior Academy. Watch the interview

Conference Events
- January 7-17 10 Days of Prayer
- January 17 Miami Union Academy Constituency Meeting
- January 16-17 Prison Ministries Convention
- January 23-24 SEC Youth Convocation

SEC Office of Education Launches Conference-wide STEM Initiative
By Hope Payton
The Southeastern Conference Office of Education recently launched a conference-wide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative that is designed to foster learning experiences in the classroom that are relevant, engaging and designed to increase the number of minorities that pursue degrees in STEM fields. More

Shiloh Dedicates Community Service Building
By Donna Mitchell
On August 23, the members of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ocala, Fla. held a dedication service for its newly built community service center. More

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Communication/Technology Director Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Southeastern Conference Sketches: SEC Office of Education Launches Conference-wide STEM Initiative

The Southeastern Conference Office of Education recently launched a conference-wide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative that is designed to foster learning experiences in the classroom that are relevant, engaging and designed to increase the number of minorities the pursue degrees in STEM fields.

On September 15, 2014 representatives from nine SEC schools attended the STEM Initiative Workshop that was held at the SEC office.

The workshop, spearheaded by Robert Henley, director of communication and technology, and chairman Southeasterns office of education STEM Committee, focused on implementing a robotics engineering program. The teachers were presented with two options to integrate robotics as a club or as an elective course, the latter was encouraged.

Minorities are severely underrepresented in STEM areas, said Henley. Providing them with authentic and meaningful STEM experiences in k-8 education will be the key to increasing the number of minorities entering the lucrative STEM arena.

Henley also gave valuable insights on how to establish and prepare a team to compete in the annual Adventist Robotics League Southern Union Challenge, which will be held on March 22, 2015 at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN. He even explained and demonstrated how to program a robot.

It is the goal of Carol Byrd, Southeasterns superintendent of education, to see each of Southeasterns 15 schools implement a STEM program and field at least one team to compete the ARL.

As we look to the future we realize that implementing and sustaining a conference-wide STEM education initiative will be critical to the success of our students, said Byrd.

Three Southeastern Schools competed in the ARL 2013-14 season - Mt. Calvary Junior Academy, in Tampa Bay, Fla. and Bethel Junior Academy in Florida City, Fla., Mt. Sinai Junior Academy in Orlando, Fla. Mt. Sinai has implemented a robotics engineering course and conducts an annual STEM summer camp for the community.

Nine of Southeasterns schools plan to field teams to compete in ARL 2014-15 season. With these programs in place both teachers and students will be empowered to take education to the next level in Southeastern.
Southeastern Conference Sketches: Shiloh Dedicates Community Service Building

Shiloh Dedicates Community Service Building

By: Donna Mitchell  
Date: 11/20/14  
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On August 23, the members of the Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ocala, Fla. held a dedication service for its newly built community service center.

The purpose of the center, which was the vision of the late Jay Winston, former pastor of Shiloh, was based upon Winston’s philosophy of ministry, the Three Cs - Connecting with God, Connecting with one another and Connecting with the community. Winston believed that souls could be won in non-traditional ways - outside of the 4 wall of the church.

Once the church embraced his vision, God prepared the way. The members of Shiloh collected and received money from friends, sponsors and made sacrifice to raise the money for this project.

Shiloh faced a number of obstacles that threatened to prevent the erection of the facility. One such obstacle was a land boundary dispute, but God be praised, all was overcome.

Unfortunately, Winston died before he could see the project completed. The facility was completed under the pastoral direction of Curtis Crider, current pastor of Shiloh, who took hold of and continues the vision of the three Cs.

To honor Winston’s memory, the church named center the Jay Winston Lifestyle and Community Center. The open air facility is equipped with a full size basketball court and a kitchen.

To commemorate the centers completion a weekend celebration was held from August 22 24. On Friday evening, Lewis Edwards, D.Min., pastor of the Mt. Zion Church in Kissimmee, Fla. and the Poinciana Church in Poinciana, Fla., a close friend of Pastor Winston, challenged the church to Think Outside of the Box. Hubert J. Morrell, D.Min., president of the Southeastern Conference, delivered the dedication sermon on Sabbath. Both were powerful messages.

More than 300 individuals attended the dedication service including City Councilwoman Mary Sue Rich and City Manager Matt Brower.

Since its opening, it has served as a shaded workout for Shiloh School students B-Smart exercise program and the Churchs Community Services mass food distribution.