From the OEP

As you already know, a historic election has taken place in the United States, as Senator Barack Obama was elected to the Presidency. It was an exciting night for many, as people have begun to look ahead to the changes that may be forthcoming. The OEP congratulates both Senator Obama and Senator McCain in a hard-fought and exciting campaign, and wishes the best for both respectful men.

The OEP recently released a policy brief highlighting the candidates’ stance on education issues. Key issues that President-Elect Obama has raised include increasing in teacher pay, expanding pre-K programs, and amending the No Child Left Behind Act.

We will also be keeping you up to date with the state elections throughout the upcoming months. The Chairs for the Education Committee, Senator Jim Argue and Representative Mike Kenney, will not be returning. Much of the committee is remaining, but we will be sure to watch who fills these important positions and keep you informed. Two items were also passed that will affect education in Arkansas: the state lottery, which will provide scholarship money for college, and the annual legislature session.

As always, you can catch more K-12 news at our In the News section!

News from Around the Natural State

Lifting Lottery Ban a Winner, Voters Say Yearly Sessions Also OK
Arkansas voters opened their state to lotteries, been banned by the state constitution since 1836. They also OK'd measures requiring annual legislation sessions.

Possible Education Plans for ’09 Reviewed by Beebe
Governor Mike Beebe raised the possibility of offering incentives to public high schools as a way to get greater numbers of students to take the rigorous Smart Core curriculum to graduate.

News from Around the Nation
Obama Elected 44th President
Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, whose campaign platform laid out an expansive agenda for pre-K-12 education, will have the chance to fulfill those promises when he takes office Jan. 20 as the 44th president of the United States.

Site Seeing
Read about the youngest student at the University of Connecticut, a boy of only 12 years, and his aspiration to receive a PhD in environmental science and a law degree.

Mark Your Calendar

The following events will be held on Thursday, November 13th:
- 2008 Conference on the Mathematics Teaching, Learning, and Research of African American Students in Little Rock
- Arkansas Curriculum Conference in Little Rock
- TeachArkansas Information Session in Jonesboro

Meetings at the State Capitol:
- Joint Auditing – Educational Institutions, November 13th
- Joint Education Committee Meeting, November 24th

For more details about these events and others coming up in Arkansas, visit the OEP calendar.

Final Thoughts

If the children are untaught, their ignorance and vices will in future life cost us much dearer in their consequences than it would have done in their correction by a good education. – Thomas Jefferson

Thanks for reading! See you next week!

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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.