

# Jacksonville North South Foundation chapter unveils Mega Annual Educational Event 2011

National Institute for Early Education Research, says “Every \$1 spent on high quality early education programs saves society \$7 in future costs in special education, delinquency, crime control, welfare, lost taxes and other areas.” Sharing this vision, Jacksonville chapter of North South Foundation (NSF), a National level non-profit, volunteer driven organization, is announcing the Mega Annual Educational event for 2011 being held on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. 2 day event will be inaugurated on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 AM followed by a key note speech from **Duval County Public School Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals**. Venue for this education carnival has been identified as Florida State College of Jacksonville (FSCJ), Deerwood Campus Auditorium.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers who have fostered the growth of Jacksonville chapter. Jacksonville chapter is one the top performing chapters among the 70+ chapters across the US. **Mr. Rajiv Gupta**, Regional coordinator of Jacksonville NSF chapter says “We have seen significant growth in last 2-3 years in number of children participating in the event. Since last year we are offering 7 categories of contests - Spelling Bee, Science Bee, Math Bee, Geography Bee, Public Speaking Bee, Vocabulary Bee and Essay Bee. We are expecting more than 150 Kids to participate this year. We are happy to see that more organizations have come forward to sponsor this year event”

NSF offers once a year educational contests in 7 categories for children to showcase and enhance their talent, encouraging excellence through education. Over the years, these contests have helped to challenge the children to do their best academically and it has ultimately helped them to get admission to the top-ranking schools.

One of the front line program coordinators **Mr. MJ Charmani** says “This year our effort is to make this a fun filled and memorable event to participating children and parents. In order to drain nervous energy during these contests, we have added Martial Arts demo, Magic Shows, Cartoon Characters, face paint-

ing in this 2 day event”. **Mrs. Bhairavi Patel** who is the Event coordinator says “Event will also feature Education Expo – 2011 and free food and beverages for the children and parents participating in this event”.

In order to ensure a flawless organization of contests an elite team of Technical coordinators have been chosen who are known



From right to left, Raj Sangam, MJ Charmani, Bhairavi Patel, Rajiv Gupta, Vikas Hawaldar and Prabir Mandal – Coordinators of NSF Jacksonville 2011. Not in the Picture – Shishir Saxena. Sandhya Hawaldar, Mayukh Das and Shankar Mahalingam

for their prowess in event management. The spectacular Spelling Bee contest is being coordinated by **Mr. Vikas Hawaldar** and **Mrs. Sandhya Hawaldar**. **Mr. Mayukh Das** who holds a post graduate doctoral degree in Science will be coordinating the Science Bee Contest aimed at nurturing the interest and understanding of Science among children in grades 1 through 8. Vocabulary contest which is a word-meaning contest (in multiple-choice format) for children in grades 1 – 8 is managed by **Mr. Raj Sangam** who has also worked to identify the sponsor of this contest.

Math Bee which is aimed at nurturing mathematical skills among children in grades 1 – 8 is being organized by **Mr. Shishir Saxena**. The Geography Bee contest which helps children in preparing for the National Geographic Bee, which is an annual nationwide competition for US schools, is managed by Mr. MJ Charmani. The Essay Writing Contest was started in line with the “timed writing” component of current standardized tests designed to foster good writing skills in today’s youth. **Mr. Shankar Mahalingam**, past president of the Indo US Chamber of Commerce organizing the Essay Bee Contest and plans to have

the judges onsite and give away the awards by the end of the 2 day event. The Public Speaking competition brings out the ability to think quickly, speak persuasively and present well-connected ideas while presenting them in a coherent fashion. Public Speaking Bee contest is coordinated by MJ Charmani, who is also a Competent Toastmaster under the Toastmaster International Program.

Jacksonville NSF Chapter has offered six free workshops facilitated by experts in each of the contest categories and has garnered the support from prestigious business houses of North East Florida. **Magellan Academy**, a leading Child Development Center is the gold sponsor of this event. **HAGHIGHI**, A family and Sports Medicine center is the Silver Sponsor. Bronze sponsors include, **Jacksonville Country Day School**, a leading private school of Jacksonville, **YASH Creations**, an IT Consultancy and Placement services and **BlueCross and BlueShield of Florida**, a Leading Health Care Solutions Provider.

**FLAVORS**, Jacksonville’s award winning Indian Restaurant will provide free snacks and beverages along with value meal for parents and children. Organizations such as **Willis Defense Academy**, **ALOHA Mind Math**, **Sur Taal Music and Dance**, **Gandhi Memorial Society**, **SAMS Club** and **Costco** have provided their financial support. **CityMasala** is proud to be associated with this prestigious event as the Media Partner.

Extending the invitation to everyone in the state of Florida, volunteers at the NSF Jacksonville chapter are looking forward for the Parents of children to make the most of this event. Let’s join this effort to make Florida a better and brighter place for the next generation by encouraging excellence through education.

Venue:  
Florida State College Jacksonville (FSCJ),  
9911, Old Baymeadows Road,  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
9.00 AM to 5.00 PM  
April 30th and May 1st