



THE FLORIDA SENATE

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SENATOR GARY SIPLIN
19th District

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senator Gary Siplin announces Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) orientation for 2005.

ORLANDO: Senator Gary Siplin's "Brain Child", the POPS initiative, will have its first orientation for the teens selected to the 2005 project, on June 4, 2005. The orientation will take place at Jones High School and will cover details about the program and the plan for the 2005 project.

When: Saturday, June 4, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Jones High School
801 South Rio Grande Avenue
Orlando, Florida

The POPS program was established in Orlando, Florida in 2001 as a summer employment program for at-risk Orange County high school students and was expanded in 2004 to include Seminole and Volusia Counties. The primary goal of the POPS program is to motivate at-risk students to complete their high school education and to prepare them for future success. The secondary goal is to reduce some of the at-risk factors through tutoring, mentoring, counseling, character education, money management, and workforce developmental training.

In 2004, POPS placed 70 high school students from the above mentioned counties in paid internship positions that vary from working in county government to learning an electrical trade. Fifty-nine of these students successfully completed the internship portion of this program and were ready to start the new school year with renewed enthusiasm.