University focusing on expanding IT department

ROBERT MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer
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Newly appointed Dr. S. Sitharama Iyengar, with support from the University and the School of Computing and Information Sciences, has been working to attract the best and brightest students and faculty in an effort to break into the country’s top 30 research institution. “I fell in love with this university, and it’s potential to be great,” said Iyengar, who completed his first semester at the University. “Prior to me being at FIU, I spent 20 years at LSU taking their Robotics Research Laboratory from obscurity into prominence to which it today enjoys a top 30 ranking. I feel that this department and FIU as a whole can compete with the likes of MIT, Cal Tech and Stanford.”

Recently, The Huffy Foundation, a university “working hard to expand their allure to those wishing to get into IT fields, entrepreneurship in tech, etc,” after hosting the 2011 Venture Capital Conference.

Aside from regular funding the school receives, it has procured external funding in excess of 4 million dollars from the Department of Energy, and National Science Foundation to name a few in an effort to develop cutting edge systems for the public and private sector to use. The Department has also developed a partnership with Citrix Systems, a leading developer in cloud based technologies, to bring world renowned Computer Scientists as part of their Distinguished Lecture Series, of which some are from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

When asked why the University is focusing its resources on information technology, Iyengar responded, “Computer Science and Information Sciences is like a heart, we sit in the center of the information world and connect every discipline to each other.” When asked how CIS accomplishes this he gave a few examples.

“We’re in collaboration with the Architecture school and their students in Urban Planning, we facilitate software that will allow for the efficient flow of traffic and the ability to develop a system where if a student needs to find parking they will be able to look on a screen and be given the information with the highest probability of parking.”

Shaynne Mantilla, a junior studying business administration felt it was interesting, to see how small businesses could capitalize on the efficiency the IT field could provide in expanding their growth, and if the benefit would out value the initial cost of implementation and the sustained cost of maintaining an IT department. “Computer”

Emily Silva, Senior

Martin Luther King parade receives extra funds

LAUREN ROVIRA
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In honor of doctor Martin Luther King Jr., FIU hosts a myriad of events to commemorate his work every year, and has been doing so for the past 21 years.

“This year’s is expected to be one of the largest yet, having combined the efforts of Multicultural Programs and Services, the Black Student Union, the Student Government Association, Parking and Transportation and other groups around campus.”

Last year, MPAS was able to ascertain donors for the purposes of providing buses for students to attend the event. This year, such was not the case.

Unable to get a hold of the donations necessary to fund the transportation, MPAS ultimately sought help from the SGA.

“We dipped into our discretionary fund,” said Sanjeev Udhnani, SGC-MMC vice president, “this is the third time this year; the discretionary fund is meant to fund services to students. This was something important, as was sending Body and Soul to London, and giving money to Hope for Children of the World this summer.”

SGA put forward $1,400 from the discretionary account that will go towards providing two buses and three drivers for the MLK event next week.

“We want 1-2 buses more for students. MPAS would like to see more buses. We’re playing to what we have right now,” Udhnani said. “The event is only a week away, we funded what he had originally expected.”

According to Udhnani, 250-300 students went last year to participate in the parade and more are expected to come this year.

Buses will arrive on campus at 7:30 a.m., and leave at 9 a.m.

“A lot of students are going and wearing their organization and club t-shirts,” Udhnani said, “unlike last year where we had a caravan of convertibles, this year we have a float to represent the FIU community.”

The event will be broadcast on television, and will be located along 54th street and 17th avenue. It is projected that between 5,000-8,000 people will attend the event next week.

has been an active contributor every year to the events that commemorate the legacy of MLK.

Jerron Jackson-Johnson, president of BSU, explained the contributions that the organization has made this year to the events sponsored by MPAS.

“BSU has produced volunteers for the various events as well as financial contributions,” he said, “There are ushers and volunteers that will be helping out with the breakfast, day of service, parade, youth forum and peace walk and MLK dinner. BSU has planned the MLK Dinner for students to attend the event.”

See CLASSES, PAGE 2

GETTING CRAFTY

Students gathered in the GC Pit to customize their own corkboard, an event hosted by SPC for the Week of Welcome in an effort to promote academic organization.

COMING UP | Life!

Check out the Jan. 16 issue for the Spring Arts Preview on the University’s upcoming theatre, art and music season.

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CORRECTIONS TO THE LATEST ISSUE

The University in the news for good fortune this year.

We want 1 to 2 buses more for students... We’re playing to what we have right now.

Sanjeev Udhnani, Vice President SGC-MMC

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Getting Crafty

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Celebration continues to recognize King

MLK, PAGE 1

that will be co-sponsored by Campus Life and Resi-
dential Life.

This year there are a few new events for the MLK
events.

These include a movie night on January 17th,

We know that our contributions ... are

another way for us to
do so, but it does not
stop there.

Jazier Jackson-Johnson, President
Black Student Union

MLK Law Night about the murder of Emmett Till on
January 23rd and a Forum on January 25th.

“The MLK Breakfast will hold about 570 people,
the Day of Service will have about 25 students
from FIU, Parade will have about 2400 students,
and the MLK Dinner will have about 170 in attendance.”

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 50 of The Beacon in the News section,
the article titled “Poll Grants avoid government cuts” states that
Carlos Becerra is attributed to the quote “The changes
are geared to tackle students who have been here too long.”

He continued, “The decisions from students towards
what has been discussed with regards to Pelt over the past few
months are overall positive. The cuts have to come from
somewhere.” The quote was made by SGA President
Patrick O’Keeffe.

Professor develops department

science didn’t really seem
to concern herself with
possible outcomes she
took an opportunistic
approach.

“I’m glad to hear the IT
field is making headway
in the job market, having
the ability to be involved
in various industries allows
for personal growth.
The IT field is one of the
pioneering industries when
it comes to connecting
people, and businesses
globally with each other.”

For Iyengar, no amount
of faculty could ever replace quality students.
He attributes all of his
success to his students,
having graduated 42 Ph.D.
students and author of
over 400 research papers he
believes in “exploring
and nurturing every student’s
creative talent and point
in the right direction.”

One program Iyengar
hopes to inaugurate before
the end of the semester is
what he calls a “Discovery
Lab.”

The sole concentration
of this lab is to behave as
an arbiter for the students
at FIU to apply for Patents
and Intellectual Property
information for the events can
be found on the website,
msps.fiu.edu. Donations are
accepted for the MLK
Scholarships that the Office of
Multicultural Programs and
Services gives.”

Additional copies are 25 cents.

To Gingerich and others in the conservative
family of 12 children. He even sees putting an
buggy as a violation of the simple and pious life
his Amish faith requires.

He and other Amish men in rural Graves
County have become scofflaws for not using the
reflective signs, ignoring state law, disobeying
orders from a judge and even going to jail for
not paying fines.

To Gingerich and others in the conservative
Amish community known as Swartzentruber,
using the bright reflective symbol amounts to
blasphemy. They consider it garish and believe
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Allen packs a scoring punch in Panthers backcourt

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer
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Allen’s next step was an Olympic gold medal. "I want to try out for the Olympics," said Allen. "I'm sorry, but I can't say for sure if I'm going to make the team." Allen has proven to be a versatile player, capable of playing in the backcourt or at the wing. "I've played both positions," Allen said. "I'm comfortable playing either one." Allen has been a key player for the Panthers, contributing to their success in the Sun Belt Conference. "I'm proud of the way we've played," Allen said. "We've had some ups and downs, but we've been consistent." Allen's next step is to focus on improving his game and helping the Panthers win games. "We have a lot of work to do," Allen said. "We have a lot of improvement to make." Allen is a leader on the court, setting an example for his teammates. "I try to be a positive influence," Allen said. "I try to help my teammates improve." Allen is a key player for the Panthers, and his continued growth will be a key factor in their success. "I'm excited to see what the future holds," Allen said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish."
to the college ranks and to nearby Central Michigan University. In his two seasons as a Chippewas, Allen struggled as his scoring average was less than 10 points per game in both seasons. Compounded with less playing time in his second season, Allen was granted to transfer from Central Michigan.

The transfer process was made easier for Allen when his former assistant coach at Central Michigan, William Eddie, was named an assistant at FIU. The man who hired Eddie was none other than Detroit Pistons legend and current FIU head coach Isiah Thomas.

“They came to a camp that I was playing in a scrimmage and coach Thomas came down and [was] sitting there watching me. I think that was the hardest that I have ever played in my life,” a chuckling Allen said. “I just wanted to show how many skills I had.”

Allen’s skills also included his knack for stealing the basketball.

“He is very active. He is one of the leaders in steals in the country,” coach Thomas said of Allen’s defensive abilities. Not only does Allen’s 42 steals lead the Panthers, but he is ranked third in Division I basketball in individual steals this season.

His hard work paid off as Allen was given a scholarship to begin play at FIU in the 2010-2011 season. During his transfer year in 2009, Allen put in the work to learn coach Thomas’ offensive and defensive philosophy.

In this, his final season at FIU, Allen is posting some of his best numbers in his college career. His points per game, rebounds and assists are all up from previous seasons. This season has also included a dramatic game-winner against Coastal Carolina and being voted team captain.

“It’s a great honor. I just try to lead by example and try helping the younger [players],” Allen said of his captainship. As Allen comes down the stretch of his college career, he wants to leave his mark on FIU basketball. “I leave it all on the floor and I play every game like it is my last.”

Allen ranks second in the Sun Belt in free throw shooting percentage (92.5), only missing four foul shots all season.
Develop awareness by studying religion

KENNETH DYCRES
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Some professors can teach a student more about themselves than they can about their field. Erin Weston, professor of religious studies, is one of those people. “We live in a diverse world, and students will come in contact with people who have vastly different world views than they have,” said Weston. “We have many world-class scholars in our department who can help you explore these various perspectives.”

Weston, a former student and current adjunct professor in the Department of Religious Studies, feels passionate and excited about what she does here at the University. Last semester she taught a course titled Sects and Cults online, and is now teaching Magic and Religions during the Spring semester. “I have been doing some research on the Santo Daime religion, as well as Neo-Shamanism,” Weston said. “Occasionally I have seminars during the Spring semester.”

“I have been doing some research, and I don’t think you can understand a group of people without understanding their basic religious and cultural assumptions,” Weston added. “Usually, I am interested in people and culture, and I don’t think that important “extra edge” in a well-rounded education.”

As students begin to develop their understanding of the world, many naturally develop religious and spiritual questions. Weston has many students who can help you explore this in a religious studies course. “We have many world views than they have,” said Weston. “We have many professors who can help you explore religion in their classes.”

Inner city kid turned violinist

Alumnus Kev Marcus credits his musical beginnings to the desk job he had at the Green Library while he was an undergrad. “As Black Violin was being created, I was just starting to mess around with the production of music. There was a music lab on the fifth floor of the library. I was working at the info desk on the second floor, so I would spend hours on the fifth floor producing music. FIU gave me that outlet,” said Marcus.

Since graduating in 2003 with a bachelor’s in music, Marcus has become an accomplished musician and producer. “I have been doing some research on the Santo Daime religion, as well as Neo-Shamanism during the Spring semester.”

“The violinist’s lengthy resume with his partner Wil B. in their group Black Violin includes performing with Alicia Keys, touring with Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park and a contract to perform at the Super Bowl halftime show later this year. Black Violin fuses hip-hop and classical music to create a totally unique sound. The South Florida natives will be performing at the Miramar Cultural Center on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 8 p.m.”

“Where did the inspiration for Black Violin come from?” A: “My partner Wil and I grew up in tougher neighborhoods in Ft. Lauderdale, and we weren’t afforded a lot of opportunities. But one of our opportunities was playing music and interpreting music in [a] public magnet school. Coming from a hard background, we listened to Biggie, Busta Rhymes or Jay-Z and then headed to second period orchestra class. It was almost fate. We were hip-hop enough and classical enough to make this work. We were young inner city black kids who studied the violin and took it seriously. Q: How did you find me? A: We met as band partners at Dillard High School in Ft. Lauderdale, and we were in the same orchestra class. Q: How do you describe your style? A: I would say we’re hip-hop meets classical. That alone sounds crazy. Imagine going to iTunes and seeing hip-hop and classical. That’s our sound—and it works. Because people like hip-hop, you’ll like us, and if you like classical, you’ll like us, but you don’t need to like both to have to like us. That’s the cool thing. We have a little funk in there, and we play a lot of jazz. And we play classical instruments in a classical way. A little bit of jazz, funk, reggae—there’s something for everybody.”

A: You have worked with a number of very talented musicians. Who did you have the most honor to work with? A: First was Alicia Keys. We did the Billboard Awards with her in 2003, and we were playing a hard rock-oogie band with her live in front of millions of viewers. Now, she’s a full of fame—she was really hot at the time. I’ve just had that to be her part of her career in any way, shape or form. I gained invaluable experience from playing with Alicia. The second person was Mike Shinoda of Linkin Park.”

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy

Unlike the action-packed James Bond films you might know, Tom Cumberbatch (Benedict Cumberbatch), who plays “Tinker” not enough substance for spy film fans

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, is the sort of movie that will capture the interest of any espionage fans. Based on John le Carre’s 1974 novel of the same name, the film stars Gary Oldman as George Smiley, a recently retired intelligence officer. Smiley is enlisted to investigate who is responsible for the death of the Circus, the highest rank of the Secret Intelligence Service. Along with the help of Peter Guillain (Benelict Cumberbatch), Smiley must look into the lives of all four members of the Circus, each nicknamed by the previous chief control (John Hurt) before his passing. These code names, used in order to relay information about the identity of the spy, are Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Poorman, and Beggarman.

Having previously directed the stunning film “Let the Right One in,” Alfredson reminds audiences that he still knows how to make something absolutely gorgeous. Working with Hoyte van Hoytema, director of photography, he creates an entrancing image of England in the 1970s that fits perfectly with the film’s dark mystery.

Art direction, especially set design, is particularly notable, especially when contained in smaller locations such as the brilliant orange, smoke-filled room where the Circus congregates for many discussions. The music for the film, composed by Alberto Iglesias, is used ever so subtly throughout. It is never distracting and adds to the mood that has been set, filling those moments where silence just does not feel right. With a large cast like the one featured in this film, it is often hard to recognize the best players. Practically everyone—including Colin Firth, John Hurt, Tom Hardy, Tom Jones and Mark Strong—did a fine job playing their characters, each giving believable performances and fitting right into the events taking place around them. However, the two most notable performances are those of Oldman and Cumberbatch. Oldman, who never ceases to amaze regardless of the role, dives into the character of Smiley without hesitation. His clever and soft-spoken performance as Smiley manages to be commanding without taking away from anyone else. Cumberbatch, who is best known for his work in “Sher- lock,” stands out due to his ability to take on any role he is given. He portrays the character’s naivete without compromising his intelligence and ability to hold his own against his superiors. Unfortunately, looks and performances—while extremely beneficial—do not make a great film on their own. One of this production’s biggest problems is pacing, which is quite uneven within the film’s span of two hours. “Tinker, Tailor” is a slow burner, lingering on silent glances or stares fairly often and taking
What to wear when the weather is down to 70 degrees without going overboard

I love the brief winters we have in South Florida because I get to break out the boots and blazers that have been lurking in the back of my closet for months. For most of the time in shorts and tank tops, but for a few weeks (or months, if we are lucky) I can wear layers and pretend like I live in the northeast.

I see two types of sartorial reactions by students when cooler temperatures hit: half throw on peacoats and scarves leftover from a vacation to New York City, and the other half are still wearing shorts and flip-flops. The solution to this confusion about weather-appropriate attire is to layer... the cooler months is transitional dressing.

A few months ago, I noticed a neutral color would look great in the winter with bright skinny jeans and boots, but is also appropriate in the spring with a miniskirt and sandals. A leather jacket could be thrown over a summery maxidress or a tee and shorts. As far as shoes go, a pair of leather knee-high boots and a flowy mid-length dress looks effortless. A lot of these combinations depend on mixing and matching textures. Do not be afraid to clash: a masculine black leather jacket looks great with a floral top or lace dress. Structured and unstructured works very well, too, like a long flowing dress and a blazer with sharp, architectural lines.

Making sure you know your proportions well is important. Short boots do not work with every length bottom; try to avoid them with short dresses or skirts. Unless your legs are unbelievably long, you will most likely end up shortening yourself. Instead, wear long boots with shorter bottoms to elongate your legs.

Another easy way to winterize your wardrobe is investing in a few pair of cozy tights and scarves. Match them with dresses and shorts, tights can easily make any dress ready for a night out in January. Scarves — not knitted fabric — can be worn with a cardigan to keep you a little warmer in the subzero temperatures in classrooms.

Lastly, do not get overzealous about the opportunity to break out your winter threads. This is hardly the type of weather that calls for hats, gloves or fur-lined boots. Experiment with your closet and inject a few cooler-weather-friendly pieces slowly but surely. The more you wear them, the more you will realize how double-duty a blazer or jacket could be.

Tips

- A neutral color would look great in the winter with bright skinny jeans and boots, but is also appropriate in the spring with a miniskirt and sandals. A leather jacket could be thrown over a summery maxidress or a tee and shorts. As far as shoes go, a pair of leather knee-high boots and a flowy mid-length dress looks effortless.
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Readers may gain more from ‘Tinker’

IT's its time to build up to anything substantial. The chronology of the film bounces around plenty, and with an immense set of characters, it is hard to keep track of what is going on at times without previously knowing the material.

On a first viewing, one might find that it gets a little too much in the way of point, but this does not mean that it is not worth watching. In fact, the complex plot is well-deserving of multiple viewings, slowly piecing together the film with each consecutive watch.

However, it is more than likely that the lucky individuals who have read the novel or watched the BBC miniseries based on it will have a better chance of enjoying this film the first time around. With any luck, anyone who found ‘Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy’ interesting but felt they needed more information (like myself) will choose to heed my suggestions and explore the film further, allowing themselves a broader perspective on what is quite the well-made espionage that just needed to offer a little more substance for its audience.

Reel to Reel is a weekly book review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival. Email: life@fiusm.com
Apathy, miscalculation shuts down party system plan

The fact that it was tabled and not pursued out of an eagerness to compete with larger schools is a surprising and mature move.

In the past, a typical entry-level position job would require only a college degree.

Today, the same position requires years of experience upon graduation, and additional skills such as multiculturalism or advanced computer knowledge that the average student may not have known were necessary.

These posted positions are intimidating for most students because they have been disillu- tioned that their degree was the only thing necessary for them to land a job upon graduation, and upon being rejected after the unprecedented time, realize the mistakes of being unaware too late.

Being a public relations major, I have done research in positions regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com. The Beacon welcomes any letters on opinion@fiusm.com.

Letter to the Editor

Kaplan prep courses an inadequate test resource

While reading the article about requiring students to take a Kaplan course, published in The Beacon on January 9, 2011, I was shocked and rather appalled by the article and wrote down the following thoughts:

While I readily agree that the average student is woefully uninformed when it comes to all of the possible services that are offered by FIU, being a student here has tremendous advantages and resources that most are content to simply let that opportunity pass them by. However, it would repre- sent a very slippery slope if the administra- tion were to require us to use, much less take advantage of any of them.

Kaplan is foremost a “for profit” company, while partnered with FIU it is not subject to the same standards of education or accreditation as the univer- sity. Secondly, have you ever taken a Kaplan course? It might as well be called (sic) socially awkward smart kids who can’t teach imparting knowledge to students who really studying alone is a better use of their time. Personally I do not want to put my graduate school chances in the hands of others who are both competing against me and have little oversight.

Granted, Kaplan would not still be in business if their programs did not work; however it is a business out to make money. They turn out the largest students who pay, the lawsuits show.

In (sic) one thing if you approach a situation and make a decision based on the options in front of you, it’s a travesty if you did not even know that another option existed.

To the second I say forget requiring students to take a prep course for a gradu- ate exam. That should be on you.

Responsibility is one of those things that goes along with that nice fancy diploma. If you cannot pass the test you probably should not be going.

Finally lets (sic) be serious: do you want stupid people running around flouting the FIU name in advanced degree programs who are not neces- sarily qualified to be there? When I go out and apply I want schools and employers to know that FIU turns out a quality product not people who know just tricks and shortcuts to problems.

-Kyle Schmidt
-Senior, Undeclared

College education no longer enough for stable employment

This is an example of how imperative it is to be prepared and qualified once you enter the job market. Students should take advantage of the freedom and assistance available to them while in college.

The University offers career services that introduces students to important aspects of the profes- sional world, offers networking opportunities and provides consultations with those already employed in various industries.

Many departments and organi- zations within the school also have internship programs that students should take advantage of to get a head start in their careers. It is imperative that students plan ahead for their futures. The college experience simply cannot consist of merely going to class if the end goal is to make oneself employable.

The chances of finding a job right away after college are slim, and unemployment does not show any signs of decreasing anytime soon. It is up to students to be more proactive in their education, take advantage of the opportuni- ties offered to them by the University and use the freedom that they currently have to groom themselves professionally before it is gone.

SGC-MMC Commentary is a feature that evaluates the student council’s perfor- mance. Look for it each Friday.

The value of a college education has diminished, ceasing to be the advantage it once was and becoming a prerequisite for even the slightest chance of success.

In the past, a typical entry-level position job would require only a college degree.

Today, the same position requires years of experience upon graduation, and additional skills such as multiculturalism or advanced computer knowledge that the average student may not have known were necessary.

These posted positions are intimidating for most students because they have been disillu- tioned that their degree was the only thing necessary for them to land a job upon graduation, and upon being rejected after the unprecedented time, realize the mistakes of being unaware too late.

Being a public relations major, I have done research in positions that would be available to me upon graduation.

Such an example of an entry- level position in that field would be a communications editor. Several job listings posted for that position on Monster.com asked for one to two years of professional experience.

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New law to give citizens the right to be heard at meetings

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

Florida’s citizens would get the right to be heard on public issues, not just be seen, at meetings of local government and state executive branch bodies under a bill that cleared a Senate subcommittee Wednesday.

The measure (SB 206) was filed in response to a pair of appellate court rulings that noted Florida’s open government “sunshine law” requires officials to meet in public but does not give citizens a right to speak at those meetings.

The legislation filed by Sen. Joe Negron would give the public the right that right with certain limitations. “We’re a country founded by revolutionaries,” said the Stuart Republican. “Guess what, if you’re serving on a board or you’re representing the voters you’re going to have to hear from the voters and sometimes it won’t be pleasant. And if you can’t handle it then do something else with your time.”

The bill would still let governmental bodies set time limits on public comment. They also could limit comment to representatives of large groups or factions rather than give everyone a chance to be heard. They also would set procedures citizens must follow to give notice of their intent to speak.

Purely ministerial and quasi-judicial actions that affect an individual’s rights would be exempt. So would emergency situations affecting public health, welfare or safety.

The bill was heard by the Rules Committee’s subcommittee on ethics and elections. Negron promised he would ask the full Rules Committee, which gets the bill next, to remove a provision that would nullify any actions taken in violation of the public comment requirement.

League of Cities legislative counsel Kraig Conn said that would alleviate much of the angst that local officials have over the bill because they were worried about unintentional violations. Officials could still face up to 60 days in jail and a $500 fine for knowingly violating the measure.

Conn also urged lawmakers to make it clear governmental bodies could set other reasonable restrictions besides those cited in the bill, but Negron rejected that proposal.

Local officials are afraid that courts would rule against local policies, such as those restricting placards and allowing for the removal of unruly citizens, Conn said.

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According to Senior Secretary of Multicultural Programs and Services, Sonya Anderson, five schools have confirmed the attendance of their students at the Youth Forum and Peace Walk. Madison Middle School and John F. Kennedy Middle School along with Card City, senior high, Main Central Senior High and William Turner Tech are the schools that have confirmed. Each participating school’s principal and College Assistance Program advisors will select the students that are able to attend the day’s events.

“We want to educate them on different struggles and encourage them to fight for what they want,” Anderson said.

The Youth Forum will begin with

MLK’s memory to be honored by Youth Forum & Peace Walk

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