



STATE SENATOR DARREN SOTO

Proudly Serving District 14 ~ Portions of Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties

2015 Legislative Session Newsletter

January 2015

Soto Files Senate Bill 280 to Raise Teacher Salaries



We had a busy month of filing bills and attending delegation meetings in January. I was proud to file the Florida Teacher Fair Pay Act which would require all teachers to make a minimum salary of \$50,000 per year. Teachers are being asked to do more work than ever with high stakes testing, teacher assessments and technology requirements. We are also having difficulty keeping high quality teachers with experience, and attracting new candidates to the profession. This bill is intended to assure a competitive salary to keep good teachers in the

classroom to teach our future leaders of Florida! Here I am with bright students of Jackson Middle School in East Orlando.

Soto Attends Polk County Delegation Meeting



I was also honored to attend the Polk County Delegation Meeting this month. We heard from our constituents on important issues including increasing school construction funding, rolling back high stakes testing, expanding Medicaid, and assuring the over \$700M in Amendment 1 funding is specifically spent on conservation projects. We also continued the rigorous debate on allowing the citizens of Poinciana to vote on whether to become a city.

Soto Attends Three Kings Day event in Orlando and The 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Kissimmee



We had some wonderful events in the district. In East Orlando, I attended the Three Kings Day hosted by Dr. Esther Pichardo and the Puerto Ricans Viviendo en Florida group. The event featured a Three Kings gift-giving and raffle, live music and entertainment, and great food! We also had our 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Kissimmee. We were honored to have Nelson W. Winbush, a retired Osceola County Educator who marched with Dr. King to serve as a Grand Marshall. This year's parade was much larger, very well-attended, and featured a Festival afterwards at the newly renovated Kissimmee Lakefront.

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