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## **NEWS RELEASE – “ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE STUDENTS SERVED”**

The School District of Collier County continues to investigate the current situation with the Southwest Florida Electrical Apprenticeship Association and the instructors the association has hired and employed. The district has requested a full financial accounting of the association’s program.

The following is a statement from Superintendent Dennis L. Thompson:

Contrary to the editorial published in the May 26, 2010, edition of the *Naples Daily News* regarding the electrical apprenticeship program, the Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology (LWIT) students in this program are not “struggling.” The program continues and instruction is still being delivered as it has been since August to the students enrolled in the program. The district is grateful to the dedicated instructors, employed by the association, who are continuing to work without being paid. They are putting students first, and those students are not “getting short-changed” as the editorial states. The headline “Vo-Tech financially struggling” in the May 25, 2010, *Naples Daily News* article, and repeated in the May 26 editorial, has it wrong. LWIT is stronger than ever. The teachers it employs and the students they serve benefit from outstanding programs delivered by a fiscally strong and thriving post-secondary institution. The future is bright, but more importantly, LWIT’s current employees are being paid as they should be, and all programs continue. The district has not defaulted on its obligation to provide full payment for materials and instructional salaries for the electrical apprenticeship program. In the end, the district remains committed to providing a strong electrical apprenticeship program at LWIT.