

Master the Possibilities Update

On Top of the World[®]
Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Master the Possibilities Overview

OCALA, FLA. – Quality education has become the most sought-after community amenity for 21st century active adults – overshadowing tennis, arts-and-crafts and even golf – reports Daniel F. Dowd, director of education for On Top of the World Communities.

In fact, this 12,972-acre active adult community in central Florida has made education a centerpiece of its lifestyle and has generated 17,000 class registrations this year in its wildly successful Master the Possibilities educational program at the community.

Part of the reason, Dowd adds, is Master the Possibilities' sophisticated curriculum designed to stimulate and challenge On Top of the World residents and others from the greater Ocala area.

The effort starts at the Master the Possibilities Education Center in the new Circle Square Commons, which is the focal point of this learning program featuring about 600 classes, presentations, lectures and film series each year.

And it continues with the program's cornerstone: its professional, credentialed

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MASTER THE POSSIBILITIES OVERVIEW – KT – ADD 1

faculty offering topics that appeal to a diverse, well-educated population. About 80 percent of Master the Possibilities' instructors have graduate degrees, and about half have taught on the college and university levels. Others bring vast experience to the classroom, boasting careers ranging from the diplomatic corps to corporate boardrooms to research facilities and art galleries.

Some faculty members are full-time or seasonal community residents, while others live in the nearby central Florida area. Still others are guest lecturers who travel to On Top of the World just to speak to Master the Possibilities students.

Retired and practicing professionals, in addition to doctoral candidates from the University of Florida in Gainesville and authorities from the university's Florida Extension Services, share their expertise in civics, political science, economics, health and wellness, culture, culinary arts, fine arts, computer technology, medicine, law, ecology, archaeology, genealogy and a raft of other specialties.

For instance, this fall, a retired foreign-service officer, who spent much of his career with the U.S. State Department in China, will provide context, background and analysis for three espionage films during one course, while later this winter, the director of the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies at City College of New York will present a series of lectures on international affairs. Also look for an acclaimed chef to teach the ins and outs of pasta-making, while another class features lectures by the new conductor of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra.

The Master the Possibilities Education Center was designed to accommodate small classes – such as computer labs for 10 students – and large lectures in the Circle Square Commons Cultural Center that seats 500.

Enrollment has grown steadily ... and rapidly ... since Master the Possibilities was introduced in 2006, when class enrollment stood at 3,200. By the end of 2008, that number had hit 15,000 ... 85 percent drawn from the On Top of the World community.

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MASTER THE POSSIBILITIES OVERVIEW – KT – ADD 2

“The value and diversity of our programs have become apparent to thousands of people in this part of Florida,” Dowd observes, “and we look at this curriculum as a living thing designed to grow and improve while providing people who live here with an excellent quality of life ... physically and intellectually.”

Registration is available online 24-hour-a-day at *MasterthePossibilities.com* or by calling (352) 854-3699.