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Beacon College multimedia instructor Sandy Novak, right, explains artwork created by a student to a potential bidder during the school's 20th anniversary celebration at the Florida Carriage House in Weirsdale on Saturday, May 30, 2009. The event included an auction to benefit the college, which teaches students with learning disabilities.

Save the Date

BEACON COLLEGE

AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR OUR
1ST ANNUAL SHIMMER GALA

saturday evening • may 30, 2009

Honorary Chairperson State Senator Carey Baker

Colleges in Schools as one of its achievements over the 20 years.

The college hopes to increase its student body from 123 to 250 students by expanding its facilities.

Zielinski said the marking of the 20th anniversary milestone is part of an effort to get the word out about Beacon.

"We have been too quiet about getting our message to the community," Zielinski said.

The live auction was one highlight of Saturday's gala, where a stay at a sea vacation home, a diamond and pearl brooch and dinner for eight were among the items.

An antique carriage drawn by horses was also part of the festivities.

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Beacon College Marks 20 Years

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Staff Writer

LEESBURG - Beacon College marked its 20th Anniversary on Saturday at the Florida Carriage Museum.

The institution is nationally recognized as the only four-year college exclusively for students with language based learning disabilities and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Deborah Brodbeck, college president, commended the college's effort to give the students a home where their dreams are achieved and their potential realized.

"They are bright intelligent students who just learn differently," Brodbeck said in an interview before the Gala.

State legislators Carey Baker, Marlene O'Toole and Scott Plakon were expected to attend the 20th Anniversary Shimmer Gala.

"The State of Florida is fortunate to be the home for a nationally recognized college program for students with learning disabilities," said Sen. Carey Baker, R-Eustis, in a prepared statement provided by the college.

According to a gala program, Beacon College was founded in 1989 by a group of parents concerned with higher educational opportunities for students with learning disabilities. Walter Zielinski, the college's vice president for Institutional Advancement, cites the school's accreditation by the Southern Association of