Flagler Inaugurates President Joseph G. Joyner

Flagler College inaugurated its fourth president, Dr. Joseph G. Joyner in a formal ceremony that drew presidents from some of the state’s largest universities, local politicians and other dignitaries. Joyner officially began his presidency in July 2017. Dignitaries who spoke at the inauguration included St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver; John Thrasher, president of Florida State University; and Dr. John C. Hitt, president of the University of Central Florida. Joyner holds degrees from both Florida State and Central Florida.

Flagler College

Florida State University President Thrasher talked about serving in the Florida Senate and working with Joyner when he was Superintendent of Schools for St. Johns County. “He has a leader’s courage, a scholar’s curiosity and a servant’s heart,” he said. “There was nothing I enjoyed more than getting on the floor of the Senate and saying I represented the best school district in the state of Florida. I can’t wait to see where he takes Flagler College.”

Joyner said his father, who was his high school principal and passed away about five years ago, was his inspiration for pursuing educational leadership. “I absolutely fell in love with the ringing of the bells for what he did. I just so much wanted to be like my dad,” he said. “Today I know he is very, very proud of me. I know he is.” Joyner said he was grateful for the opportunity he had been given and the kindness shown to him since he was selected as president and took office. “I have no intention of letting you down and I kept the stewardship of Flagler College my highest priority,” he said. “While I may be an unworthy servant, I possess a great deal of passion and determination. It is my firm intention to bring continued greatness to this wonderful college.”
Rollins President Elected to NAICU Board

Rollins College President Grant H. Cornwell has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). Since 1976, NAICU has represented private, non-profit higher education on public policy issues in Washington, D.C. NAICU’s priorities have focused on strengthening the current structure and funding of federal financial aid programs, reducing the regulatory burden on independent colleges and universities and amending the tax code to assist students in paying for college and repaying loans.

Grant H. Cornwell, PhD, became 15th president of Rollins College in July, 2015. He is nationally recognized for his work in defining liberal learning in a global environment. He is co-author of “An Education for the Twenty-First Century: Stewardship of the Global Commons” and has written about multiculturalism, freedom, diversity, and global citizenship. Cornwell holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and biology from St. Lawrence University, and master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Chicago.

Cornwell’s election to the NAICU Board of Directors was ratified during the 2018 NAICU Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. He and 23 other college and university presidents were confirmed at the meeting. "It's an honor to serve on the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Board of Directors and to actively engage our leaders in Washington in higher education policy," said Cornwell.

Florida House Approves Mary McLeod Bethune Statue

By a vote of 111-1, the Florida House approved HB 139 to place a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in the U.S. Capitol’s Statuary Hall. Governor Rick Scott signed the bill. "More than 14,000 graduates and countless others have benefited from the measure and manifestation of 'the answered prayer of a dream' of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, to provide an education for African Americans and others which has and continues to transform the fabric of this country from hatred and division to cooperation and brotherhood. This honor is a pivotal moment for Bethune-Cookman University, our nation and our world," said B-CU Interim President Hubert Grimes.

Among her accomplishments, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, civil rights leader and stateswoman, advised U.S. Presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt and Truman. She was an active participant in the writing of the United Nations Charter that was developed at Dumbarton Oaks, San Francisco in 1945. Dr. Bethune founded the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in 1904 with $1.50 and faith in God. Bethune’s school eventually became Bethune-Cookman University located in Daytona Beach.
Stetson University Holds VITA Celebration

Stetson University School of Business Administration hosted a celebratory event to commemorate the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program securing $1.5 million in tax refunds for local families over the past eight years. Co-sponsored by the United Way of Volusia-Flagler counties, Stetson’s M.E. Rinker, Sr. Institute of Tax and Accountancy and Stetson’s Center for Community Engagement, the VITA program’s volunteers helped file more than 1,500 tax returns, at no charge, for low-income families in the community. “This program is vital to low-income families in our community because it helps them receive their refund quickly and allows them to keep every hard-earned dollar, some of which would otherwise be spent on tax preparation and filing,” said Valrie Chambers, Ph.D., CPA, associate professor of taxation and accounting at Stetson.

Carnegie Corporation Donates $150K to St. Thomas for Displaced Students

Months after a series of three catastrophic hurricanes hit Houston, Miami, and Puerto Rico, the regions are still coping with the destruction that closed schools and universities, and displaced students and their families. In response to the ongoing recovery efforts, Carnegie Corporation of New York is joining other U.S. foundations in providing relief funding and will donate $1.5 million to help communities affected by the disasters.

In partnership with the Miami-based John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Corporation has allocated $150,000 to support displaced Caribbean students continuing their studies at St. Thomas University. In October, St. Thomas opened its doors to Caribbean students affected by the hurricanes and offered free room and board for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. Currently the University has 90 students taking advantage of the opportunity. “We are very grateful to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for its support of displaced students,” said Msgr. Franklyn Casale, president of St. Thomas University. “It’s important that these students continue their higher education uninterrupted, and we are committed to helping them as much as possible.”

“Carnegie Corporation of New York has a history of responding to disasters at home and abroad, including the September 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti,” said Vartan Gregorian, President of the Corporation. “We are now proud to partner with the Knight Foundation and its President, Alberto Ibargüen, and to join many of our sister foundations in responding to the aftermath of the hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico last fall. Given the Corporation’s focus on the advancement of education, much of our support aims to assist schools and universities in responding to and recovering from the damage wrought by these disasters.”
Florida Institute of Technology has agreed to serve as a Presidential Sponsor of the America Council on Education’s (ACE) Women’s Network of Florida. The network is instrumental in promoting leadership development of women in public and independent colleges, universities and other higher education institutions across Florida. As a Presidential Sponsor, Florida Tech will rotate with the other sponsoring universities in holding a state conference on campus.

As part of the sponsorship, Annie Becker, senior vice president for research, has been named to the ACE Executive Board, and Lisa Steelman, senior associate dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, is now the institutional representative from Florida Tech. “Women play critical roles in the success and innovation in higher education, and we are pleased to support the ACE Women’s Network of Florida and the important work this group is carrying out,” Becker said. “The better we understand the challenges in higher education, the more readily we will be able to address them.”

Though there have been improvements, the most recent ACE study found troubling gaps remain between men and women in higher education. During the 2015-16 academic year, for example, ACE found that men and women at the same faculty rank faced a nearly 17 percent pay gap, with male faculty earning an average of $89,190 and female faculty earning $73,782. ACE launched the Women’s Network nationally in 1977 as the National Identification Program. Through that program, ACE sought to gain a better understanding of and address the career needs of women in higher education, in addition to supporting their professional development and advancement.

Palm Beach Atlantic Employee Receives ESGR Award

The Florida Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) has awarded Jason Thomas, director of Campus Information Systems at Palm Beach Atlantic University, the Patriot Award for his support of an employee in his department. Thomas was nominated by Brandon Waymire, financial aid technology specialist, who is set to serve a one-year deployment in Saudi Arabia for the U.S. Army. Waymire has served in the Army Reserve for about 12 years.

An employee serving in the National Guard or Reserve may nominate individual supervisors on the basis of the support provided directly to the nominating service member and their family. Waymire nominated Thomas, writing that “JT constantly goes above and beyond his role as a supervisor to help him achieve his highest level of performance in his profession and in his military service. Brandon is a well-respected and valued member of the Campus Information Services team. We are praying for him as he embarks on his new mission overseas,” said Thomas. “Brandon is well positioned to employ his unique talents in service to our country.”
Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is one step closer to fulfilling its vision to be the South Florida destination for health care education thanks to two new gifts. One will support NSU’s College of Allopathic Medicine, the other will support NSU’s College of Nursing. Combined, these gifts help the university achieve the $250 million goal for its Realizing Potential campaign. The first gift – $25 million from the Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel Family Foundation, Inc. – will rename the NSU College of Allopathic Medicine to the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine (M.D.). Their latest gift comes on the heels of their previous financial commitment of $200 million, comprised of a $50 million gift to rename NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and its College of Health Care Sciences, plus an additional $150 million in real estate investment to develop a new site for NSU’s Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, Florida, which will provide an additional location for NSU’s osteopathic medicine program for that area.

“The cumulative generosity of the Patels’ contributions and all the other philanthropic gifts we have received since 2016 brought us very close to our $250 million goal,” said NSU President Dr. George Hanbury. “Then the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, Ronald Assaf, and his wife, Kathy, stepped up with their own gift and that put our Realizing Potential campaign over the top three years ahead of our 2020 target date.” The Assafs’ gift will rename the NSU College of Nursing to the Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing. The Realizing Potential campaign goal of $250 million is the first philanthropic campaign in the university’s 54-year history.
According to new figures from the Florida Department of Education, the School of Education at Florida Southern College is the best among private schools in Florida for preparing teachers to pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination. The Florida Department of Education released data showing the pass rate of colleges’ and universities’ education students taking the certification exam for the first time between 2015 and 2017. The data indicate how well colleges prepare their students to pass the state’s certification exam. In the General Knowledge section of the exam, which contains four subtests, only two schools ranked in the top-five pass rates for all four subtests – FSC and the University of Florida.

Over the two-year span, FSC education students had the highest pass rates of any college in Florida – public or private – on two of the subtests: essay (94.1%) and mathematics (94.1%). They were in the top five for pass rates on the English Language Skills and Reading subtests. FSC students’ pass rates were approximately 20 percentage points above the state-wide averages on all of those subtests.

The General Knowledge test is a rigorous exam, and students must pass all four subtests in order to receive a Florida professional teaching certificate.

Arbor Day Foundation Honors Jacksonville University

Jacksonville University has gained official 2017 Tree Campus USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation, the third year in a row it has been singled out for its commitment to effective urban forest management. “Students are eager to volunteer in their communities and become better stewards of the environment,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Participating in Tree Campus USA sets a fine example for other colleges and universities, while helping to create a healthier planet for us all.”

Tree Campus USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The Tree Campus USA program honors colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. JU, with its majestic oak canopy and an inviting natural setting, achieved the title by meeting Tree Campus USA’s five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and student service-learning project.

On campus, JU annually celebrates National Arbor Day and its Tree Advisory Committee continues to work to maintain the campus’ cloak of trees. It has launched a tree inventory to better track changes over time and ensure necessary species diversity. The Tree Campus USA initiative is part of Jacksonville University’s overall Healthy Campus program, which cultivates an environment at JU of health and wellness for students, faculty, staff and alumni, organizing all that the University offers under one umbrella to make it easier for healthy habits to become second nature, as a mindset and as a culture. The University recently became the first private higher education institution in Florida to commit to the goals of the American College Health Association’s “Healthy Campus Pledge” and is now part of an exclusive network of official Healthy Campus 2020 Partners.

FL Southern Best for Teacher Certification Prep

According to new figures from the Florida Department of Education, the School of Education at Florida Southern College is the best among private schools in Florida for preparing teachers to pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination. The Florida Department of Education released data showing the pass rate of colleges’ and universities’ education students taking the certification exam for the first time between 2015 and 2017. The data indicate how well colleges prepare their students to pass the state’s certification exam. In the General Knowledge section of the exam, which contains four subtests, only two schools ranked in the top-five pass rates for all four subtests – FSC and the University of Florida.

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University of Tampa Leaders Travel to Cuba to Build Partnerships

The University of Tampa was selected as one of 10 schools in the U.S. by the Institute of International Education (IIE) to participate in the binannual Congreso Universidad Cuban International Education Conference. As part of the program, David Stern, UT’s provost; Marca Bear, associate dean of international programs; Frank Ghannadian, dean of the Sykes College of Business; David Gudelunas, dean of the College of Arts and Letters; Jack Geller, dean of the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education; and Paul Greenwood, dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences traveled to Havana in February. “Engaging in academic and cultural exchange with institutions of higher education in Cuba deepens Tampa’s international heritage that is a unique part of our community’s history,” said Stern.

At the Congreso Universidad, U.S. representatives met with their Cuban counterparts, opening opportunities for future academic partnerships and student exchanges between the two nations. IIE’s International Academic Partnership Program (IAPP) led the delegation.

Since current restrictions limit options for individual travel to Cuba from the United States, this trip represented a unique opportunity to foster educational exchanges and partnerships between the two countries. Moreover, Congreso Universidad allowed representatives of U.S. universities to connect with their counterparts in remote or difficult to access regions of Cuba.

UT previously attended Congreso Universidad in 2015, which led to the University being named the first U.S. affiliate of the Center for Martí Studies in April 2016. In May 2016, UT offered two travel courses to Cuba: Government and World Affairs 353: Cuba and the U.S., and Communication 224: Mass Media and Society. In October 2016, seven UT faculty presented research papers during the UNICA Conference, organized by the University of Ciego de Avila in Cuba.

**An ICUF bachelor’s degree graduate makes nearly double what a high school graduate makes.**

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**ICUF FACT OF THE WEEK**

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<tr>
<th>Degree Level</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tr>
<td>ICUF Doctorate</td>
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<td>ICUF Master's</td>
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Source: Florida Department of Education (FY19)
First American Education Finance is a financial services company dedicated to the needs of the education community. We provide customized solutions to help schools deliver the best education possible to their students. Our customized financing solutions help solve challenges from complex campus projects to equipment management. We provide a simple, transparent experience to more than 550 schools nationwide.

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EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY
EVERGLADES UNIVERSITY
FLAGLER COLLEGE
FLORIDA COLLEGE
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE
HODGES UNIVERSITY
JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY
KEISER UNIVERSITY
LYNN UNIVERSITY
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
ROLLINS COLLEGE
SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY
SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
WARNER UNIVERSITY
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