Students Flock to Tallahassee to Celebrate Win on EASE Grant


Bob Boyd, president of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida Association said they got the EASE scholarships fixed and the funding maintained at $2,841 per student. The association previously estimate -ed that the bill would have caused about 27,000 students to lose their subsi- dy, more than 60% of the 43,000 recipients. “We accomplished what we set out to do,” he said. Boyd says this was the first ICUF rally at the Capitol, but they plan to hold annual rallies moving forward. He says they will push for the per-student funding to go back up to $3,500 next Session.

Senator Aaron Bean, who is a former student body president at independent Jacksonville University, thanked the students for showing up. “Thank goodness we have choices for every student. This program has a tremendous return for the state of Florida,” Bean said. “What we need is for you to continue to fight. Let everybody know how much EASE helps.”

More than 300 students in attendance came from as far away as Miami for the rally, including Barry University, Everglades University, Flagler College, Florida College, Florida Southern College, Keiser University, Saint Leo University, Saint Thomas University, Southeastern University, Stetson University, the University of Tampa, Warner University and Webber International University. “I am proud to support the thousands of students across Florida who have been able to choose the right opportunity for their future by attending one of our state’s independent colleges and universities,” said Rep. Amber Mariano. “We need to make sure we are investing in our students. This program is a win-win.” Currently, more than 113,000 undergraduates are enrolled in Florida’s independent colleges and universities, and 45,000 are able to choose these schools because of the EASE voucher.

Rep. Elizabeth Fetterhoff said she knew how important EASE was because she represents four independent colleges in her district. “It is really exciting to see all of you here today. Young people come up here to fight for what they believe in,” she said. “EASE is very important. We are going to have to continue this fight in future years, and I will be one of your advocates. You need an education, and we are here to make sure that you get that.”
Women Soar to the Top at the University of Miami

From the Board of Trustees to the Faculty Senate and Student Government, women hold many top leadership positions at the University. They’ve flipped the script, occupying positions traditionally held by men. Women, at a time when their numbers in top management positions across the nation have continued to stall, now simultaneously hold the most powerful leadership roles at the University of Miami, bucking a trend seldom seen in corporate America, let alone academia. “We have women leading at every level,” said President Julio Frenk.

Indeed, from the chair of the Board of Trustees to the chair and two vice chairs of the Faculty Senate to the president and president-elect of Student Government, women have taken the reins of leadership positions at the highest levels of the University. Even among students, the leadership role of women is evident, with Emily Gossett and Abigail Adeleke serving, respectively, as president and president-elect of Student Government, and Leah Colucci serving as both the student representative on the Board of Trustees and as president of the Miller School of Medicine Student Government. Read more.

Saint Leo Invites Conference on Small Campuses and Sustainability

The Saint Leo University College of Arts and Sciences is planning a June conference for faculty, administrators, graduate students, physical plant directors and others who would like to share ideas about enhancing environmental sustainability efforts at small campuses. That can mean teaching about sustainability, planning or budgeting for infrastructure repairs, involving students in activities outside the classroom, and other activities. The formal title of the conference is “Sustainability in Higher Education: A 2020 Vision for Teaching, Research, and Best Practices.”

The idea for the conference grew out of the university’s own ambitions to preserve the beauty of the 130-year-old lakeside campus where the university was founded, and contend with the ecological pressures of the 21st century, including those that its students will face, said Heather Parker, PhD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We are hosting this conference to bring together educators who wish to incorporate ideas related to sustainability in the classroom as well as people from all walks of life who are committed to exploring this topic,” she said. Organizers are ready to read conference proposals now. “In addition to traditional conference activities, we will offer tours designed to introduce participants to sustainable practices in place at the university as well as to the many academic and community projects in which Saint Leo University students, faculty, and staff are engaged.”
AdventHealth University Hires Two New MHA Faculty

AdventHealth University (AHU) is excited to welcome two new faculty members to their master of healthcare administration (MHA) program. Adrianna Davis, EdD, and Atalie Ashley-West, PhD, have both taught at AHU as adjunct faculty members since 2016 and will now join the department as full-time professors.

Dr. Davis earned her B.A. at the University of South Florida where she studied both psychology and public health. It was during this time that her interest in health care began. She later went on to pursue a M.S. in Leadership and an EdD in organizational leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. West holds a PhD in health services management and research from the University of Central Florida. Additionally, she earned an MPH degree in community and family health as well as a B.S. in psychology from the University of South Florida.

Bethune-Cookman Partners with National Council of Negro Women

The National Council of Negro Women Inc. (NCNW) and Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) have launched “Advancing the Legacy,” a celebration of the accomplishments of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of both the NCNW and B-CU.

NCNW National Chair and President Dr. Johnnetta Cole, joined by B-CU President Dr. LaBrent Chrite, announced the initiative as an effort to protect the vision and mission of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, an influencer who was ahead of her time. “Advancing the Legacy,” is a compelling awareness and fundraising initiative created to provide ongoing support of Dr. Bethune’s lifelong mission of ensuring access to higher education for African American students.

Dr. Bethune will be formally recognized later this year when her statue will become part of the National Statuary Hall Collection in the Capitol Rotunda. Her inclusion marks the first African American to have a state-commissioned statue in Statuary Hall. “It’s only appropriate that during Black History Month we recognize and honor all of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune’s accomplishments because they are many and they are as relevant and important today as when she began in 1904,” said President Chrite.

Florida Tech Student Featured in Super Bowl Ad

The Super Bowl LIV offered up inspiration for the Mars generation with an otherworldly advertisement airing during the Super Bowl halftime show, featuring a Florida Institute of Technology student training to be among the first generation to go to the red planet. Alyssa Carson, an 18-year-old astrobiology major at Florida Tech, has known since she was a child that she wanted to go to space and she hasn’t been shy about sharing that goal. With more than 220,000 followers on Instagram and her own foundation aimed at helping other young people fulfill their space dreams, Carson is spreading the message of the Mars generation.

Carson was approached by SodaStream, the carbonated drink machine maker, to be part of its 30-second halftime spot that features well-known scientist Bill Nye and takes place during a fictional Mars mission. Read more.
**Underwater Drone to Enhance Work of FL Southern Student Researchers**

Faculty members from Florida Southern’s marine biology and computer science programs recently teamed up with Florida’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) to acquire an underwater drone through the pioneering Science Exploration Education Initiative. Launched jointly by *National Geographic* and Sofar Ocean Technology, this initiative supports ocean exploration with the use of the Trident Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). Reaching depths of 300 feet while streaming live, high-definition video to researchers on the surface, the ROV will allow students and faculty to study a variety of organisms in underwater settings that might otherwise be inaccessible or dangerous for divers. FSC’s first research project involving the ROV, a long-term study of sharks and the ecosystem of Tampa Bay, is set to begin this summer.

**Hodges Names Director of Nursing**

Hodges University announced that Dr. Barbara Ward has joined as the School of Health Sciences Nursing Program Director. Her responsibilities include overseeing and continuing to grow the university’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, which is accredited by ACEN. Dr. Ward brings over 30 years of professional nursing experience. In her career, she has served in many academic roles, including faculty, clinical coordinator, associate degree nursing program director and nurse administrator of an associate and baccalaureate degree program. Dr. Ward earned a Master of Science in Nursing (emphasis in nursing education) from Grand Canyon University and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Grand Canyon University College of Nursing and Health Care. Dr. Ward is board certified as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the states of Florida and Washington, and formerly certified as an Adult Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN). She also holds a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) certification from the National League for Nursing. Dr. Ward is active in several professional nursing organizations at national, state, and local levels.

**Barry Sophomore Accepted as Associate Editor for National Journal**

Barry University is pleased to share that sophomore Honors Program student, Brianna Lopez, was recently named an associate editor of The NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity for the 2020-2021 publication cycle. The official journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council, the online peer-reviewed publication provides a platform for undergraduates to publish on topics ranging from microbiology to musical composition. Lopez, an English major with experience copy editing Honors Program Newsletter, will be providing feedback and revision suggestions for selected pieces and working with the journal’s production team. This year, the journal reported it received more applications than ever before and that Lopez was among the most accomplished candidates.
Stetson University Named a Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars

Stetson University has been named one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars, according to rankings published this week in the Chronicle of Higher Education and on the Fulbright website. Stetson University is among the top five master’s-level institutions for the number of faculty who earned prestigious Fulbright scholarships in 2019-20. The rankings were compiled by the Institute of International Education, which administers the Fulbright Scholar Program, the United States government’s flagship international education exchange program. Fulbright Scholars receive funding to take their research and teaching overseas for up to a year.

Stetson University’s Fulbright Scholars are: Jennifer Foo, PhD, a professor of finance, traveling in Uzbekistan during her sabbatical; Luz Estella Nagle, JD, professor of law, teaching international law topics and conducting research on trade-based money laundering while at the Faculty of Law of the Universidad de La Laguna in Tenerife, Canary Islands; Mayhill Fowler, PhD, associate professor of history and former director of the Stetson Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (S.P.R.E.E.S.), researching and teaching at the Ivan Franko National University and the Center for Urban History in Lviv, Ukraine.

Flagler and TCC Announce New Articulation Agreement

For 20 years, Flagler College and Tallahassee Community College (TCC) have partnered to provide a pathway for students seeking high-quality and affordable post-secondary education. Building upon their traditions of cooperation and excellence, the two institutions are preparing to embark on the next phase of their remarkable partnership. Recently, the presidents of TCC and Flagler College Tallahassee publicly signed an agreement aimed at addressing the teacher shortage in Florida. The “2+2 for Education” articulation agreement will be the only public-private partnership in Florida providing a path for a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. “I am extremely proud of the work that has been done to make this 2+2 articulation agreement a reality,” stated Flagler College President Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D. Before beginning his career with Flagler College in 2017, Joyner was Superintendent of Schools for the St. Johns County School District in St. Augustine, Fla., a position he held for over 14 years. Joyner said, “As a former Superintendent, I am keenly aware of the demand for high-quality elementary teachers in our state and look forward to a long partnership with TCC as we prepare Florida’s next generation of educators.” With the “2+2 for Education” articulation agreement, students can earn their Associates of Arts from TCC and walk across the lawn to enroll at Flagler College Tallahassee. Together, the two colleges provide the perfect pathway for students who are serious about teaching and searching for an exceptional, cost-effective college experience.

Palm Beach Atlantic Appoints Dean of Nursing

Provost and Chief Academic Officer E. Randolph Richards has appointed Dr. Phyllis King, professor of nursing, as dean of the School of Nursing. King is known to her peers as a professional whose passion is preparing nurses for servant-leadership roles from a Christ-centered perspective. She works through team-building and a collaborative leadership style to maximize the potential of her nursing colleagues and her students. Her long career in faith-based academia as well as her experiences in acute and community nursing practice benefit her students, Richards said.
Nova Southeastern Earns 2020-2021 Military Friendly School Designation

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is pleased to announce that it has earned the 2020-2021 Military Friendly® School designation. “Over the years we’ve worked to make NSU a welcoming place for our Veterans, and this designation recognizes those efforts,” said Dr. George Hanbury, NSU President. “NSU is home to more than 1,000 student veterans, with many more being NSU faculty or staff members. We will continue to make these valued members of our community feel at home.”

Edward Waters Fundraising Effort Raises $3.1M

The close of last month marked an 18-month milestone for the new leadership at Edward Waters College (EWC). Relatedly, during that same period, the historic Jacksonville college has raised just over $3.1 million dollars in private gifts, pledges and in kind-support from a variety of stakeholder sources including its own academic community of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and board of trustee leaders. In addition, local and national business and philanthropic supporters, partners, and friends of the college have also made an impact. “We believe the increased level of philanthropic support for EWC is indicative of an ever growing sentiment, awareness, and appreciation for the high value proposition offered by an Edward Waters education” said Edward Waters College President & CEO, Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr.

NASA, Capitol Hill Headline Recent Internship Destinations for ERAU Spaceflight Operations Students

For Spaceflight Operations undergraduates Nicholas Lopac and Kirsten Bauernschmidt, classroom learning is only one part of their college experience at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The other part is hands-on and in the field, taking place through internships that offer widely different perspectives on the industry they both hope to join after graduation.

Although both students share an ultimate goal — careers in aerospace — the differing paths they are taking toward that goal offer a glimpse of the many diverse opportunities provided by Embry-Riddle’s Department of Applied Aviation Sciences. While Lopac recently returned from an internship where he worked to refine the design of astronaut suits at the world’s leading space agency, Bauernschmidt is currently working in the United States’ capital, learning how regulations surrounding rocket launches, aircraft design and other industry issues are developed. Read more.
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