ICUF Schools Helping in the Fight Against Coronavirus

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Florida’s independent colleges and universities are pitching in to fight the new coronavirus.

The Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida this week highlighted the actions being undertaken at its 30 SACS-accredited, nonprofit member institutions.

They include Barry University, which will graduate seniors in its Cardiovascular Perfusion Program a few weeks early so they can get to work at Florida hospitals. And the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine, where a team of researchers is hard at work developing a rapid test for COVID-19.

Florida Southern College, meanwhile, has donated protective equipment it had on hand for biology lab classes to the Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center. The University of Tampa’s College of Natural and Health Sciences has done the same, with unused supplies it had set aside for clinical and scientific teaching labs heading to Tampa General Hospital.

Other ICUF schools are providing online classes to the general public, not just students. Those holed up with nothing to do can navigate to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s website to study a variety of subjects, including aeronautics, meteorology, and history.

Also, Southeastern University has produced some material relevant to parents in the coronavirus era — its “Going Remote” curriculum is aimed at informing parents on how to help their children keep their studies up as they transition to online classes.

“Florida’s independent, nonprofit colleges and universities are known for their ability to adapt quickly to the needs of our state and the demands of Florida businesses,” ICUF President and CEO Bob Boyd said in a news release.

“This quality rings true even during the COVID-19 outbreak as many of these institutions step up to meet the needs of their students, support their communities and find innovative solutions to fight the global pandemic.”
Florida Southern College is proud to be included on the list of U.S. colleges and universities that produced the most Fulbright U.S. students in 2019-2020. This marks the second consecutive year that FSC has been recognized as one of the top producing institutions for the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program.

Three Florida Southern students were awarded Fulbright grants, exemplifying the College’s tradition of academic excellence. As recipients of English Teaching Assistant Awards, all three students – Abby Eskridge ’18, Olivia Panda ’19, and Kate Vita ’19 – were provided with opportunities to teach in host communities in Europe during the 2019-2020 academic year. Through their connection with the Fulbright Program, grantees also serve as citizen ambassadors for the United States.

UT Programs Ranked Highly by PLEXUSS: The Student Opportunity Network

The University of Tampa’s programs in marine science, criminology and criminal justice, and political science were all recognized in the inaugural 2020 PLEXUSS Global Rankings. Specifically, UT was ranked: 3 in Florida for Best Marine Science Program; 4 in Florida for Best Criminology Program; and 4 in Florida for Most Prestigious Private College or University Offering a Political Science Program. The PLEXUSS Global Rankings are based on a proprietary ranking engine that employs artificial intelligence and unprecedented analysis of millions of data points to provide students with the most objective rankings of post-secondary institutions available.

ERAU: Representation the Key to Expanding Diversity in Aviation

With a projected global need for 790,000 new civil aviation pilots and 754,000 maintenance technicians over the next 20 years, there has never been a better time in the history of aviation to embrace diversity, said panelists in a recent “Supporting Diversity in the Aviation Industry” forum, hosted as part of a National Training Aircraft Symposium on Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s Daytona Beach Campus. With women representing only 6 percent of all commercial pilots and only 2.4 percent of all technicians worldwide, there is a clear imbalance throughout the industry, and one that is representative of all minorities. Creating awareness in the industry for girls, under-represented minorities and those in lower income brackets, as well as providing opportunities for business, and engineering, was a sentiment echoed by panelists.
Barry Sophomore Accepted as Associate Editor for National Research 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. The journal reported it received more applications than ever before and that Lopez was among the most accomplished.

Students experience the urgency of managing crises in a newly conceived Miami Herbert Business School graduate course. Graduate students who registered for the course, “Contingency Planning: The Coronavirus Challenge” will be challenged to invent, discover, and strategize with the launch of this one-credit, short-term elective. “These students will one day be in senior management positions possibly dealing with these scenarios,” said Robert Plant, department chair and associate professor of business technology in the University of Miami Patti and Alan Herbert Business School. “It’s one thing to watch—and it’s another to be responsible for addressing a crisis.”

Plant, who championed the idea for the new class with Patricia Abril, vice dean of graduate business programs, said, “Hopefully students will gain insights and maybe not be caught flat-footed when they’re in a position to manage a crisis.” Faced with the cancellation of planned student trips to China, Brazil, London, and California, faculty members and administrators exercised their own creativity and developed the new elective as an alternative experiential continuum to already completed coursework.

Everglades University Sarasota Earns Prestigious “Storm Ready” Designation

Everglades University Sarasota announced that the National Weather Service-Tampa Bay is designating the Everglades University Sarasota campus as a “Storm Ready Supporter” University in recognition of the procedures established by Campus Administration to protect individuals and the campus infrastructure during weather emergencies. Everglades University Sarasota will join many Florida-based colleges and universities in earning this distinction.

Everglades University Sarasota students in the Crisis and Disaster Management degree program have utilized the knowledge they have learned from their course work to put forth a coordinated effort to assist the campus in achieving this recognition. The EU Sarasota students wanted to give back to Everglades University by accomplishing this as their “Legacy Project.”
Beacon Remodels The Chopping Block

Beacon College is remodeling its venerable dining facility, The Chopping Block — once a country-and-western themed local haunt. The existing Chopping Block ... is closing out its useful life as a dining option,” said Beacon President George J. Hagerty. “The facility itself is outdated and increasingly compromised with poor patron service flow.”

To serve the college’s growing student body and provide a modernized, appealing dining venue, the college greenlit a $2.3 million total reconstruction of the Chopping Block. The renovation will feature an open and modern interior design and serve 225 students at a time, with both indoor and outdoor seating options. One vestige of the Chopping Block will remain: the historic brick wall that Leesburg citizens consider an important feature. The renovated structure will feature 5,800 square feet of space indoor, plus approximately 1,200 square feet in outdoor dining. That includes a portico and outdoor grilling area.

The facility currently is unnamed. The college hopes to interest a donor hungry for a naming opportunity. Meanwhile, the coronavirus pandemic put the Chopping Block demolition on pause. School officials expect razing now to begin sometime between April 15 and May 1. The new dining commons is expected to be ready to serve up eats by November 15.

Hodges University awarded over $1M in student scholarships and tuition waivers for 2019. “For the year 2019, these scholarships and waivers helped 400 of our students continue with their educational goals,” said Dr. John Meyer, president of Hodges University. “Over 40 percent of our students identify as Hispanic, and 62 percent of our students are women. Many of our students work full-time jobs, and are raising families. This is why these scholarships and waivers are critical so they can realize their career goals.” Scholarships came from the Earl & Thelma Hodges Veterans Scholarship, the Hawks Scholarship Fund and the Meftah Foundation Scholarship for Single Mothers. Discounts and waivers were awarded from the university’s active duty military, corporate/employer partners, the Hodges Graduate Discount, and the Veterans Discount.
Flagler College and Code Institute have announced a partnership that will see the two institutions serve career-changers and up-skillers in the greater Jacksonville area. This is an effort on behalf of the two entities to meet local demand for people with software development skills, as software development is one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in the United States. “Developing strong partnerships in territories we don’t directly serve is a key part of our growth strategy,” said Jim Cassidy, chief executive at the Code Institute. “We have traditionally served career-changers as well as those seeking code as a second skill. Adult & Continuing Education at Flagler College is committed to serving these learner types. That makes it a very attractive partnership for us.”

Jacksonville has one of the fastest-growing digital communities in the U.S. For Flagler College, the partnership with Code Institute represents an opportunity to increase the number of software developers available in the workforce and to afford lane-changers the opportunity to move into a highly employable career.

Palm Beach Atlantic Students Receive Full Scholarships

Two outstanding high school seniors will receive full, four-year scholarships to attend Palm Beach Atlantic University in the fall. The Farish Scholarship recipients are Tyler Humphreys, a senior at Circle Christian School in Winter Park, Florida, and Samantha Rodriguez, a senior at Calvary Christian Academy in Fort Lauderdale.

Rodriguez earned a 4.49 GPA. She leads a mentorship program for young girls at a low-income elementary school, where she connects with the students through her compassion and love. She has established a quarterly fellowship event called Girls Gather, where female students in grades 9 through 12 have a time of discussion, share advice and give back. Rodriguez also co-chaired her school’s annual shoe and athletic equipment drive, which collected more than 1,000 items for distribution in the Bahamas, Mexico, Haiti and a low-income elementary school.

Tyler Humphreys has volunteered to feed the homeless and serve at a church camp that ministers to underprivileged children. Humphreys earned a 4.3 GPA. When he was just 4 years old, he joined his mother serving spaghetti dinners at his grandfather’s church in Bithlo, Florida, a disadvantaged small town. When he was 7, he and his mother prepared bags of food for the homeless on a monthly basis and distributed them.

The Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience at Stetson University has received a $185,000, two-year Florida Sea Grant. Florida Sea Grant is a university-based program that supports research, education and extension to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunities for Floridians. Grant funds will be used to employ a post-doctoral resilience modeling specialist who will implement geospatial modeling approaches for examining the landscape with mapping techniques through a partnership with Stetson University’s Brown Visiting Teacher-Scholar Fellows Program.
Warner is Ranked #1 in Professional Education

Warner University’s education department was recently recognized for its efforts in the classroom. Once a month, Education Department Chair Dr. Lori Hutto participates in the “Community of Practice” check-in call with the Florida Department of Education and other department chairs from across the state to report on Warner’s program and testing. A report is gathered annually from the data collected in these calls and for the first time ever, Warner University ranked as the #1 Top Performer for the Professional Education exam. Dr. Hutto believes a big part in students’ success is because of the free preparation classes offered through Warner as opposed to other colleges and universities. “Our 100% pass rate on the Professional Education exam underscores both the strength of our teacher-education faculty and the quality of our teacher-education students. Warner has been preparing future educators exceptionally well for years, and this achievement is just further validation of our program’s quality,” said Chief Academic Officer Dr. Gentry Sutton.

Lynn University’s Division of Student Affairs Earns National Recognition

Under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Altieri, Lynn University’s Division of Student Affairs oversees campus safety, housing, recreation, student involvement, spiritual and religious life, multicultural affairs and wellness services. This year, two national organizations recognized Altieri and his team for outstanding work in student engagement and safety: the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and The National Campus Safety Summit.

ACPA Innovative Practice Award: ACPA awarded Altieri the Innovative Practice Award, which is one of the industry’s highest professional honors. Campus practitioners who continue to innovate their approach to reaching students while impacting their communities earn this recognition; National Campus Safety Summit’s Top 25: The Division of Student Affairs, including the Department of Campus Safety, earned a spot on The National Campus Safety Summit’s Top 25 University Departments list. Lynn placed No. 23 for its comprehensive approach to increase safety and security within the campus community.

Two Eckerd Students Receive Barry Goldwater Scholarships

Mdana Lore, a biology student, and Celina Ceballos, a marine science student, both received the Goldwater Scholarship, a $7,500 award, given to sophomores and juniors who obtain a 3.0 grade point average and plan to have careers in the natural sciences. Both women submitted rigorous essays and abstracts detailing research from internships or student research assistant positions. Founded in 1989, the Goldwater Foundation selected 396 scholars from across the nation for the 2020–2021 academic year. Nineteen Eckerd College students have received the honor since it was established.
ICUF schools attract Florida residents as well as out-of-state and international students.

Those 46% of students coming into the state

- Receive no state financial aid,
- Are like year round tourists, adding to Florida’s economy,
- And in many cases remain in the state after graduation and add to Florida’s educated workforce!
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