Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida Announces New Officers

Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida is proud to announce its new officers and new members of the Executive Committee: Chairperson T. Dwayne McCay, Florida Institute of Technology; Vice Chairperson, David A. Hoag, Warner University; Secretary, Joseph G. Joyner, Flagler College; Treasurer, John D. Meyer, Hodges University; and Member at Large, Art Keiser, Keiser University. ICUF would like to thank each member for their service and wish them success.

New President Takes the Helm at Palm Beach Atlantic

Dr. Debra A. Schwinn has crisscrossed the country for her education and career. A native Midwesterner, she headed to Stanford University in California for medical school, moved to the East Coast to train in her clinical specialty of anesthesiology at the University of Pennsylvania. Next, came 20 years at Duke University in North Carolina before moving to Seattle and then Iowa City where she ultimately served as associate vice president for medical affairs, dean of the Carver College of Medicine, and professor of anesthesiology, pharmacology, and biochemistry at the University of Iowa. On May 4th, she began her first day as Palm Beach Atlantic University’s 9th president. With opportunities before her from coast to coast, Schwinn was attracted to Palm Beach Atlantic by its location in a growing part of the country that offered diversity in its population and global connections. Schwinn succeeds William M. B. Fleming, Jr. who served as Palm Beach Atlantic’s president for eight years prior to his retirement.
Eckerd, The University of Tampa School Tours Go Virtual

All across the country, colleges and universities are trying to welcome prospective students without those students setting foot on campus by way of virtual tours. Eckerd College is one of those schools and is offering Q&A panels along with opportunities for prospective students to chat with current students. It’s not the ideal scenario, but given the times, they’re doing the best they can to help all prospective students. “We’re in this position, and we’re in this profession to help you discover what’s the best fit for you,” said Jacob Browne, who works in the Eckerd College Office of Admissions. He encourages students to reach out to any school with questions or concerns, and to go with their gut in the decision making process.

University of Tampa is offering something similar. “We’re offering virtual information sessions Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week. We also have a virtual tour online so students are able to go on and see our beautiful campus,” said Samantha Speziale, who works in the University of Tampa Admissions Office.

Both schools say as of now, they are planning to reopen campus in the fall and do not expect enrollment to be impacted by the virus.

Jacksonville Jaguars, Florida Tech Award Inaugural STEM Scholarship

Hailey Swanson is the inaugural recipient of the Florida Tech/Jacksonville Jaguars STEM Scholarship. Hailey will start at Florida Tech in the fall and plans to study planetary science as she pursues her dream of working in the space industry. She is an accomplished musician with a passion for French horn.

The $5,000 award is funded by the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation. “The Jaguars Foundation is thrilled to provide Hailey with this scholarship to support her STEM education goals at Florida Tech,” said Peter Racine, senior vice president, Jaguars Foundation, Community Impact. “Jaguars owner Shad Khan graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in industrial engineering and knows firsthand the role STEM academics can play in driving innovation. We look forward to seeing what Hailey will accomplish during her college career and beyond.”

Bethune-Cookman Receives Large Donation from Families

The families of Billye and Hank Aaron along with Thomas and Joyce Moorehead have donated more than $604,000 to Bethune-Cookman University as part of the university’s Advancing the Legacy effort to protect B-CU’s future.

The families’ combined donations total $604,000 with the Aarons contributing $250,000 personally and an additional $104,000 through their Chasing the Dream Foundation and the Mooreheads donating $250,000 to B-CU. Both families share in long-time commitments to Historical Black Colleges and Universities, including Howard and Grambling State universities in addition to B-CU.

Read more.
Barry Announces Test-Optional Admissions

In recognition of difficulties prospective students face in sitting for standardized admissions tests during the global COVID-19 pandemic, Barry University announced a test-optional admissions policy. "We are pleased to be removing a potential barrier to access to quality higher education for qualified prospective students during a very difficult time," said Roxanna Cruz, Associate Vice President of Enrollment. "Grade point average has always been the strongest indicator of how well students will perform during their academic studies at Barry," Cruz added. "We have confidence students admitted while this policy is in effect will be well-prepared to succeed.”

The University had been piloting a test-optional program this admissions cycle and made the decision to extend the option to forgo submitting SAT/ACT scores to all applicants after swiftly convening a task force to evaluate the best course of action during the crisis.

RCAD Students Mentored by Flight School Studio

Dirty Dogs Get Clean: Wet Dog Corp. Out On Steam VR May 4th

Ringling College of Art and Design with Flight School Studio has announced that the first student game from their virtual reality educational partnership, Wet Dog Corp., will come to Steam on May 4. Mentored by the award-winning team at Flight School, students from Ringling’s newly-founded Virtual Reality (VR) Development BFA degree program created the game while learning the essentials of pre-production, asset creation, and game design. The game will be a free-to-download release. Students involved on the project include AJ Mize, Cain Hopkins, and Makayla Hensley.

Wet Dog Corp. is a simulator-style game set within a megacorporation that pays you to wash dogs. Players race against the clock and clean up mucky pups. Dirty dogs roll in and it’s your job to wash them down, get them dry, and send them back out into the world. It’s a simple task… until it’s not. With 13 types of dogs, eight levels, and three washing tools, the game was designed entirely by students who paired up with Flight School to gain insights on the game development process and understand the complexities of developing games for VR.

“This is an exciting partnership for our team at Flight School because we can shape the VR and game industry’s future talent," explained Brandon Oldenburg, Flight School Studio CCO. “Even better, our team is endlessly inspired by the students’ ambitions and that makes any crew stronger and more innovative. It’s a true win-win for both Ringling and our team, many of whom are Ringling alumni.”

“There is no better way to learn than to actually have some skin in the game,” said Morgan Woolverton, interim department head of Ringling College’s Game Art and Virtual Reality Development programs. “When the students originally committed to the idea of making a product that would ship, they understood that this was an education on steroids. It is a unique educational experience to say the least.”
Rollins College recognized 35 students for their academic achievements and positive contributions to campus and the community at the 2020 virtual Student Achievement Awards. Fiat Lux Awards honor outstanding Rollins seniors for their positive contributions to our campus and community in the areas of academics, leadership, inclusion, and service. The award recognizes the most established and honorable leaders on campus. Joshua Adlam; Annie Baumm; Hallie Brody; Carla Daza; Isaac James; Muniba M. Khan; Grace Marshall; Silvana Montañola; Arianna Montrose; Italia Rico; Caitlin Robison; Tianna-Marie Rosser; Brock Simmons-Barfield; Bet Tauscher; Sunny Toreihi; Evelyn Villarreal; Matthew Weiner. For a full list of winners Read more.

Stetson Management Teams Rank in Global Top 10 Percentile in Capstone Simulation Competition

Businesses face many challenges, including creating a product or service that appeals to customers, finances, hiring and retaining qualified employees, and achieving company goals. Four Stetson University School of Business Administration student teams used their entrepreneurial and management skills to successfully run a fictional sensor company, and scored in the 90th percentile during the international online competition. The students placed on the global top 10 percentile list based on their balanced scorecard, which is a strategic management performance metric used to identify and improve internal business functions and external outcomes. Scoring was based and measured on the four pillars of the balanced scorecard: customer, finance, internal business processes, and learning and growth. “This is a rigorous activity that requires student teams to coordinate their decisions across multiple functional areas,” said Ram Subramanian, PhD, professor of leadership at Stetson. “The students had to switch to online courses because of the coronavirus pandemic and use technology to meet with team members. They were able to overcome those challenges, earn an A on the assignment and place in the 90th percentile.”

The four teams are - Team Chester: Amelia Condon, Kyle Godlewski, Bilal Hashmi and Wyatt Peck; Team Digby - Eric Feliu, Elizabeth Jackson, Mikhail Kashkin, Donovan Quijada and Lauren St. Denny; Team Erie - Antonio Andrews, Jayce Jimenez, John Lamon and Vincent Van De L’Isle and Team Ferris - Steven Burdette, Sarah Helton, Javian Henderson, Jared Lynn and Joxaynn Mercado.
Saint Leo Offers Complimentary Courses for the Homebound

Saint Leo University launched a micro-credentialing enterprise this spring to bring short-term, skills-based instruction to the marketplace, and then in response to the COVID-19 crisis, quickly expanded its offerings with 10 free, online enrichment courses to help housebound individuals and families. Saint Leo began its Center for Alternative Pathway Programs primarily to deliver courses that will provide learners new skills and knowledge. Most are expected to turn to the center for courses that will earn them digital badges upon completion.

That is still the business purpose of the center, but the university also decided to use the center’s digital infrastructure to house and deliver additional, new course material once social distancing and safer-at-home guidelines were issued. Faculty stepped up to create courses that are sources of relaxation and coping skills. President Jeffrey D. Senese said: “Community is one of Saint Leo’s core values, and we thoroughly embrace the idea of serving others. Our hope is that these free courses will enrich people’s lives and help them during this trying time.”

The self-paced classes cover topics including budget baking, spiritual enhancement, stress management for youth, strategies for working from home, and art activities.

Florida College Announces Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Bachelor of Science (BSN) program is a four-year program (two years of prerequisite courses) designed for students with no previous preparation in nursing. Current students, fall 2019 enrollment, and incoming freshmen, fall 2020 enrollment, will be ideally situated to join the program, in addition to students with their associate degrees.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Employment Projections 2016-2026, registered nursing (RN) is listed among the top occupations in terms of job growth through 2026. The registered nurse workforce is expected to grow from 2.9 million in 2016 to 3.4 million in 2026. According the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 12 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.”

Flagler ACE Program Offers Online Courses Risk Free

Flagler College Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) program courses are designed to be interesting and stimulating while fostering knowledge sharing and relationship building in the community. On-campus classes are on hiatus for now, but learning, personal growth and professional development can continue online.

To help individuals venture into online learning, the Flagler ACE program recently launched three free online, self-paced courses available to the public. These courses are offered in cooperation with ACE program partner, MindEdge Learning. “People staying safe at home are eager to continue growing and exploring,” said Jorge Herrera, ACE program director. “These three courses provide an opportunity to try out online learning risk free, and to share their experiences and shared interests with our learning community.”

Hodges Associate Dean Leads the Way In Technology

Professor Tracey Lanham is involved with the NCWIT where she works tirelessly to bring their mission to young women. She is at the forefront, inviting women to the join the technology field by bringing programs to girls in middle and high school. Hodges University offers online computer programming degrees, certification programs, and cybersecurity and networking degrees that are designed to prepare students for work beginning day one.
A bachelor's degree graduate from a Florida independent college or university earns nearly double what a high school graduate makes.

And there's an even higher payoff for an ICUF master's.

Salary of Recent Graduates With Full-Time Jobs

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<th>Degree Type</th>
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<td>ICUF Master's</td>
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