St. Thomas President Serves as a Presenter on NAICU's Title IX Webinar

St. Thomas University President David A. Armstrong, J.D., served as a presenter on the May 13 NAICU webinar, “Final Title IX Regulations: A President’s Perspective.” On the webinar, Armstrong, along with Teresa L. Amott, Ph.D., President of Knox College in Illinois, expressed a variety of concerns about the new regulations.

The U.S. Department of Education released the new regulations on May 6. The 2,033-page rewrite of the regulations is expected to transform how colleges and universities handle sexual misconduct by imposing strict new procedural requirements that institutions must follow.

Armstrong described the new regulations as “the good, the bad, and the ugly” and said the new rules will force institutions to devote more time and resources to handling cases. “They are asking us to create a new quasi-judicial system,” he said.

Colleges and universities must implement the new regulations by August 14 – a timeline that has been roundly criticized by NAICU and other post-secondary organizations. “We are extremely disappointed that the Department is imposing such a short implementation timeline at a time when the global pandemic has created a crisis for institutions and students alike, and when officials are not able to be on campus to prepare to implement the new rules,” NAICU President Barbara K. Mistick said in a statement.

A recording of the webinar and related materials are posted at NAICU Title IX Regulations Update.

Barry Announces Strategic Campus Reopening Planning

With an eye toward reopening campuses for the fall semester, Barry University has announced that four task forces are developing a strategic plan for the safe and gradual return to all university locations. “It is our plan and intention to provide an in-person learning and living experience in the fall,” said Barry University President, Dr. Mike Allen. “Due to the unpredictable nature of this crisis though, our working groups are considering and planning for every eventuality, and our university community will be ready to display the same flexibility and innovation we have exhibited throughout this global crisis. No matter what the scenario, our commitment to quality academic instruction is unwavering.”

The task forces established last month focused on healthcare planning, implementing university-wide policies related to protecting health and safety, academic planning, and student life. They will develop parameters for all in-person interactions as well as testing and cleaning protocols, based on the most up-to-date guidance from public health authorities and in line with government orders.”
Florida Tech Among World Leaders in Climate Action, Ranking Finds

Florida Tech is among the global leaders in Climate Action, according to new rankings from Times Higher Education that recognize universities across the world for their social and economic impact based on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

Florida Tech was No. 36 out of 376 institutions from 70 countries in the Climate Action ranking in the 2020 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings released this week. The Melbourne university was the only Florida-based school in the ranking and one of just 14 U.S. universities total, with the others including MIT, Loyola and American University. Universities submitted data to London-based THE to participate in the Impact Rankings. With the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Climate Action, THE was seeking to highlight “how universities are acting to address climate issues through research, low carbon use and education,” the organization said.

The metrics examined in Climate Action included publication citations, research on climate action, low-carbon energy use, environmental education measures such as local programs on climate, and commitment to becoming a carbon-neutral university.

Flagler's Women of Vision Awards Twelve Scholarships

The Women of Vision Advisory Board of Flagler College recently awarded scholarships to twelve deserving female students for the 2020-2021 academic year. The value of this year’s awards is $32,000. “Because of COVID-19, many more families are experiencing severe economic hardships, and financial need among students is greater than ever,” said Kathi Keller, chair of the Women of Vision Advisory Board. “We were delighted to be able to help these exceptional young women who have maintained competitive GPAs, while actively participating in campus and volunteer work.”

Included in the awards was the special Robin Cooper Women of Vision Scholarship honoring the organization’s co-founder, who passed away in 2018. Chosen for the award was Autumn Parker, a senior who exemplifies Robin Cooper’s legacy of generosity and genuine concern for others through community service and campus engagement. Also receiving Women of Vision scholarships are: Kate Barker, Royal Palm Beach, Florida – a rising senior, majoring in fine art; Peyton Beasley, Jacksonville, Florida – a rising senior and second-time WOV scholarship recipient, majoring in graphic design; Caitlin Caulfield, Cape Coral, Florida – a rising junior, majoring in political science; Patricia Cheney, Deland, Florida – a rising senior, majoring in political science and international studies; Sabrina Gutierrez, Debary, Florida – a rising senior, majoring in psychology and English; Svetlana Kendrick, Winter Springs, Florida – a rising junior, majoring in secondary education and English; Jordan Neisler, Port Orange, Florida – a rising senior, majoring in strategic communication; Amber Palermo, Hauppauge, New York – a rising senior, majoring in hospitality and tourism management; Alanna White, Lusby, Maryland – a rising sophomore, majoring in business administration; Emma Wilkinson, Northbrook, Illinois – a rising junior, Emma is majoring in coastal environmental studies; and Savanna Williams, Sebastian, Florida – a senior, majoring in elementary education and exceptional student education.

Embry-Riddle Receives NASA Grant to Inspire Space Exploration

Established to inspire and educate the next generation of space explorers, NASA’s Artemis Student Challenge recently awarded a grant to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to help train astronauts to travel to the Moon and beyond. “NASA is committed to landing American astronauts, including the first woman and the next man, on the Moon by 2024,” according to NASA. “Through the Agency’s Artemis lunar exploration program, we will use innovative new technologies and systems to explore more of the Moon than ever before. We will collaborate with our commercial and international partners to establish sustainable missions by 2028. And then we will use what we learn on and around the Moon to take the next giant leap – sending astronauts to Mars.”
Ringling College Announces 2020-2021 Trustee Scholars

Every year, the Ringling College of Art and Design Board of Trustees proudly awards its highest honor—the Trustee Scholarship—to the students who best exemplify dedication, originality, brilliance, ambition, and talent in their field of study, as well as service to the College and to the community. In addition to this extraordinary recognition, Trustee Scholars also receive a $5,000 scholarship. The runners-up each receive a $1,000 scholarship. “Each of this year’s nominees was an amazing representative of the nominating department and of Ringling College,” confirmed Dr. Larry R. Thompson, president of Ringling College. “Though the Trustees were truly challenged in selecting this year’s recipients from the nominees, as they are every year, they did arrive at a recommendation. All of the students nominated should be commended for their work, which distinguished them as being among the best in their majors and Student Life.”

RCAD 2020-2021 Trustee Scholars: Business of Art and Design, Ellie Winslow; Computer Animation, Kristen Yuan; Creative Writing, Zora Squish Pruitt; Film, Erika Jessen; Fine Arts, Ale Salaman; Game Art, Zhengyu Ye; Graphic Design, Beatriz Patarata and Petar Pirizovic; Illustration, Brooke Brogan; Interior Design, Stefanie Voinea; Motion Design, Joseph Woods; Photography and Imaging, Gabrielle Scianna; Visual Studies, Leila DeMarchi; and Student Life, Arianna McAniff.

RCAD 2020-21 Trustee Scholar Nominees: Business of Art and Design, Juliana Reolon Pereira; Computer Animation, Sam Durkin; Creative Writing, Melanie Quezada; Film, Emily Dickinson; Fine Arts, Musa Kunene; Game Art, Blake Morris; Illustration; Emily Ehlen; Interior Design, Junyoung Park; Motion Design; Erin Johnson; Photography + Imaging, Alexandria DiGiacomo; Visual Studies, Benjamin Leggins; and Student Life, Emily Fromhage.

Palm Beach Atlantic Announces Plan for Fall Semester

Palm Beach Atlantic University intends to safely resume in-person teaching, learning and residential life for the fall 2020 semester. The University will continue following CDC guidelines, executive orders from the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis and local health directives. The plan is for students, faculty and staff to be back on campus in August for an on-time start to the academic year. “Our community thrives on face-to-face interactions and meaningful relationships,” said University President Dr. Debra A. Schwinn. “These connections are essential to our mission of Enlightening Minds, Enriching Souls and Extending Hands.”

With Florida officials systematically lifting restrictions, Schwinn said she is confident the University can continue in-person instruction in the fall while protecting health and safety. Schwinn is a Stanford University-educated and University of Pennsylvania-trained medical doctor. The health and safety of the PBA community are paramount, Schwinn said. In order to protect the campus community, the University will adjust its instruction, residential life and on-campus activities as needed while continuing to offer the exceptional experience for which PBA is known. The University is finalizing plans to provide students with campus accommodations for a variety of circumstances. Extra sanitation devices are being installed and protective health provisions made throughout campus.

Webber Eligible to Apply for BSOTA Accreditation

The first Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assisting Degree (BSOTA) with a Minor in Health Services Administration in the State of Florida is now offered at Webber International University. The BSOTA Program successfully obtained confirmation of eligibility to apply for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and is now pursuing the next step in the accreditation process.
**Warner Student Awarded AAUW Scholarship**

Warner student Michelle Miller is the recent recipient of a scholarship from the AAUW (American Association of University Women) Lake Wales branch.

Recipient Miller said, I am a forty-six-year-old married mother of three that has a full-time career in Crime Scene with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office. When I received the email about the scholarship opportunity I almost deleted it with the mindset that the odds would be stacked against me. I then recalled a recent conversation with my oldest daughter who is fifteen. I tell my kids to always do their best and try their hardest no matter the odds. My husband and I try to teach them to work hard for what they want. So who would I be if I did not do the same?

**New Healthcare Quality and Safety Programs at Jacksonville University**

For the past two decades, a shift towards greater patient safety and healthcare quality has become paramount in the healthcare system. As this momentum continues, an emerging field of healthcare quality and safety professionals seeks to improve health outcomes by expanding their knowledge. The University’s new HQS Programs will provide that innovative, interprofessional learning experience they seek. “To undertake a master’s degree level of understanding in healthcare quality and safety is a rare thing now,” Bob Brigham, Jacksonville University’s newest Healthcare Quality and Safety (HQS) Programs adjunct professors says. “I believe it will be an important contribution to our healthcare system.” The HQS Programs, which include a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality and Safety and Post-Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Quality and Safety, are among only 17 such programs in North America.

**Edward Waters Announces Transformative New Partnership**

Edward Waters College (EWC) and Follett Higher Education Group (Follett) have finalized an innovative and progressive new partnership aimed at reducing overall student costs while also significantly enhancing student access to relevant technology. The new collaboration called the EWC/Follet ACCESS Program will not only continue providing students access to course materials via an e-textbook platform but will now provide those materials at a reduced cost.

Some 43% of African-American households are without a desktop or laptop computer. This lack of technological access translates to a digital divide and competitive disadvantage among EWC students who are overwhelmingly African-American, (89%) low-income, (87%) and in many cases without financial resources to purchase much needed technology like personal computers and/or electronic tablets.

This new partnership seeks to bridge that gap. Beginning Fall every new first-time-in-college full-time Edward Waters College student will be issued their own, new, personal Chromebook computer equipped with the Microsoft 365 software suite and full e-book download capability. “We are beyond ecstatic to have the support and commitment of Follett Higher Education Group President Roe J. McFarlane and the entire Follett team as a collaborative partner in our institutions continuing effort to provide an affordable, relevant, and high quality educational experience for the students we are blessed to serve” said Edward Waters College President and CEO, Dr. A. Zachary Faison Jr.
Bethune-Cookman Announces National 24-Hour Day of Giving

Bethune-Cookman University is hosting a 24-hour online day of giving on Monday, June 15, 2020. The University announced the national campaign this past January as a compelling awareness and fundraising initiative created to provide ongoing support of Dr. Bethune’s lifelong mission of ensuring access to higher education for students at B-CU. “We are coming together to ensure that B-CU thrives past the obstacles we were facing early in the academic year,” said Clifford Porter Vice President of Institutional Advancement. “Our alumni donor rate has increased during this time and with the current environment due to COVID, our digital efforts have enhanced tremendously through creating innovative ways to capture the attention of new donors, recurring gifts, and partnerships with our board of trustees and national alumni association.”

The University has achieved $5,602,486.00 towards the $7 million goal for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and will continue through 2021. The campaign includes a digital element, asking advocates to make a financial contribution online at donate.cookman.edu and to share their support on social media using the hashtag #AdvancingBCU. Also, supporting fundraising teams will champion their groups in a friendly competition of fundraising. Special interviews and challenges will be streamed live via B-CU’s official Facebook platform on the day of giving. All funds will be allocated in support of students to reduce the cost of access and to strengthen retention and graduation rates.

Hodges’ PTA Program Earns Expanded CAPTE Accreditation

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Hodges University has earned accreditation approval to expand its current program. The expansion means a second class of PTA students will start this July in the new, state-of-the-art Health Sciences building on the Fort Myers Campus. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). “CAPTE is the gold standard when it comes to accreditation,” said Dr. Cindy Vaccarino, PT, DPT, the PTA program director. “It’s the only Physical Therapy accreditation agency that is recognized by both the US Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.”

Currently, there are only 371 PTA programs nationally that have earned this accreditation. Hodges PTA students can complete the program in less than two years thanks to its accelerated, daytime program. The employment rate after graduation is 100%.

Nova Southeastern Receives Grant to Boost Telehealth Training

The federal Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded $15 million in grants nationwide, including to Florida universities, to increase training in telehealth as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nova Southeastern University received $90,625 for its geriatrics workforce programs. Telehealth involves using the internet and other technology to provide care remotely. The Health Resources and Services Administration is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Funding for the telehealth grants was included in a federal-stimulus plan known as the CARES Act, signed into law in March. “Telehealth is a vital tool for our providers in delivering critical treatment to populations most seriously impacted by this pandemic,” HRSA Administrator Tom Engels said in a prepared statement this week. “As we look to build and prepare the future workforce, telehealth has opened up new possibilities to educate and clinically train health providers to connect with patients, when and where they need services.”
Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida is pleased to share Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's news:

Embry-Riddle is resuming face-to-face classes on June 30.

This makes the school one of the first universities or colleges in the country to fully reopen.

Embry-Riddle, as the world’s leading aviation and aerospace institution, is building on its rigorous safety culture to launch innovative learning solutions amid the global pandemic and fulfill its mission of education.

For more information, please visit Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach
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