ICUF and the Florida Independent College Fund Distribute $90,000 in UPS Scholarships to 30 Students

ICUF and the Florida Independent College Fund (FICF) recently distributed $90,000 in scholarships to assist 30 students at private colleges and universities in Florida. The scholarships were made possible by a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) in Washington, D.C., through the CIC/UPS Educational Endowment. One student at each of the 30 ICUF institutions received a scholarship award of $3,000 apiece. These students are all from minority populations, first generation in college, low income, and/or new U.S. citizens. In the announcement of the award, CIC President Richard Ekman said, “The Council of Independent Colleges is proud to support ICUF and the Florida Independent College Fund and its member colleges through the CIC/UPS Scholarships Grant Program. Designed to make private colleges more affordable and accessible, the scholarships will assist 531 low income, first-generation, minority, and new American students nationwide.”

Palm Beach Atlantic Gets New Student Residence Hall

Hedrick Brothers Construction has completed a new 163,000SF student residence hall on the campus of Palm Beach Atlantic University. The eight-story building consists of 154 one and two-bedroom units with full kitchens and double occupancy accommodations for 510 beds, a large meeting/conference space and community and private study spaces on each floor. “We are pleased to deliver this project under budget and ahead of schedule,” said Dale Hedrick, President & Founder, Hedrick Brothers Construction. “Collaboration and teamwork enabled us to work within an urban area on an occupied campus under tight site constraints. We know the students will enjoy this new option for residence life.”

President Debra A. Schwinn said, “We are grateful foremost to God for this beautiful addition to our campus and to Hedrick Brothers Construction and the project team for their outstanding work to complete this project on time to welcome students back to campus. They listened to our unique needs in order to create a state-of-the-art living and learning space.” The project team included: Developer: Pembrooke Student Housing LLC; Land Owner: Palm Beach Atlantic University; Building Owner: Provident Resources Group, Baton Rouge, LA; Architect: Stantec, Miami FL and Dallas, TX; Contractor: Hedrick Brothers Construction, West Palm Beach, FL; Land Planner: Urban Design Kilday Studios, West Palm Beach, FL; and Civil Engineer: Reikenis & Associates, West Palm Beach, FL.
ICUF HBCUs Receive Major Funding  Recently, Governor Ron DeSantis visited Bethune-Cookman University to highlight historic state investments in Florida’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Despite unprecedented circumstances prompting one of the largest veto amounts in state history, Governor DeSantis’ Fiscal Year 2020-2021 state budget provides more than $123 million to Florida’s HBCUs to advance the academics, research and education of students. Read more.

Governor DeSantis’ Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget highlights for Historically Black Colleges and Universities include historic funding of:

- $16.96 million for Bethune-Cookman, an increase of $13 million.
- $7 million for Florida Memorial University, an increase of $3.5 million.
- $6.4 million for Edward Waters College, an increase of $3.5 million.

Florida Tech Garners International Recognition for Diversity, Highest-Ranked Institution in Florida  Known for its rich global diversity, Florida Tech was ranked in the top-tier Diamond League in the 2020 RUR International Diversity Ranking, appearing at No. 63 out of 813 universities from around the world. It was the highest-ranked institution in Florida. When it comes to teaching natural sciences, Florida Tech again excelled. The university was ranked in the Golden League among more than 700 universities from 80 countries. In teaching, Florida Tech was again among the best in Florida, coming in at the No. 2 spot behind the University of Florida among more than 135 U.S.-based institutions. Read more.

Embry-Riddle Research Park Making Local Impact 3 Years After Launch  When Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University opened the first building at its research park 3½ years ago, it was hailed as the start of a “global engineering powerhouse.” And one capable of eventually creating thousands of high-paying jobs. A new economic impact study finds the research park well on its way towards fulfilling that promise. “Embry-Riddle’s Research Park is a significant generator of economic activity in Florida, creating over (direct and in-direct) 500 jobs, most of which are high-wage,” according to the report by Washington Economics Group.

The park has also boosted the local economy by more than $90 million, according to the report. "It has done quite well. Actually, I think that’s an understatement, to be quite honest with you, because it filled up (with tenants) right away,” said Dr. Barry Butler, the university’s president. Read more.

Historic Flagler College Announces Virtual Tour  From the safety and comfort of your own home, you can now explore the former Hotel Ponce de Leon virtually. The current home of Flagler College, the former luxury hotel famed for its Tiffany Windows, ornate murals and Spanish-Renaissance architecture, is closed to visitors in an abundance of caution during the pandemic. Take the tour here.

Warner University Partners with South Florida State College  Warner University and South Florida State College are teaming up to offer students a seamless learning opportunity through an articulation agreement. SFSC students who complete the Associate of Science in Landscape and Horticulture Technology will be automatically admitted to Warner University if they have earned a 2.5 GPA or better in their associate’s program.
**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 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.” 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%.

**Florida Memorial Taps Sports Marketing Pioneer**
Florida Memorial University (FMU) recently appointed sports marketing pioneer Dr. Marc Williams as the Global Scholar-Practitioner to lead the first comprehensive STEM esports program at a historically Black university. A leading esports and Sport Marketing educator and thought leader, Williams will be responsible for creating an innovative STEM program that focuses on coding, technology, production, communications, esports, marketing and entrepreneurship, among other areas. Dr. Williams brings more than 25 years of experience in the entertainment, education, and retail sectors, including tenures at three of the world’s largest sports brands: Champs Sports, Footaction, and Reebok. He led a team that helped Champs Sports become a billion-dollar brand and was one of the catalysts to create the sports retail industry’s first monumental partnership deal with hip hop icons Jay Z and 50 Cent. He also secured sports retail’s first product placement deal within the videogame industry in the 2003 iconic Streethoops Basketball Game by Activision/Blizzard.

**Barry Announces New Member of Alumni Board**
Barry University has announced Janet Cohen, Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing for J.G. Finneran Associates, is joining its Alumni Board of Directors. At J.G. Finneran Associates, a manufacturer of glass and plastic products for the life sciences community, Cohen plays a leading role in driving both domestic and international sales in a highly competitive product and sales environment. “Janet’s depth of experience and passion for Barry will be a huge asset on the Board,” said Jaime Lizotte, President of the Alumni Board of Directors. “She is already enthusiastically stepping up and showing her commitment, and we are grateful to her for sharing her time and talent.”

**Stetson to Help Young Sound Seekers Learn About Acoustic Ecology**
Thanks to a $300,000 grant from the National Park Service’s Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, Atlantic Center for the Arts is launching a Young Sound Seekers program later this month, designed for blind and low-sighted youth. Among the primary partners of the five-year initiative is Stetson, which is developing and delivering lessons to teach youth about environmental conservation and natural sounds.

As part of that curriculum, Stetson will lead monthly excursions to the Canaveral National Seashore. The Young Sound Seekers program encourages the appreciation of natural sounds and is intended to help overcome barriers to access by creating a safe, undistracted outdoor space for blind and low-sighted students.
Bethune-Cookman Partners with Department of Juvenile Justice to Provide Internships for Students

Bethune-Cookman University and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice have partnered to provide internship and employment opportunities to qualified undergraduate and graduate students majoring in criminal justice, sociology, psychology, education, political science and health science. Faculty and students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the DJJ Research and Data Integrity staff to identify and conduct juvenile justice research to aid in the effectiveness of juvenile services. “This is not only a first for a Florida HBCU, but any institution of higher learning in Florida,” said Dr. Randy Nelson, director of the B-CU Center for law and social justice. “We continue to lead the state and nation with creating innovative opportunities for our talented students.”

FL Southern to Receive Grant to Restore Frank Lloyd Wright Planetarium

The Polk Science Building Planetarium — the world’s only planetarium designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, on the campus of Florida Southern College — will receive a $250,000 restoration grant administered by the National Park Service (NPS) of the U.S Department of the Interior. Funding for the planetarium project is supported through a grant from the Save America’s Treasures program. Overall, a total of $12.8 million in matching grants will fund 42 projects to preserve nationally historic properties and collections in 26 states. Read more.

Keiser Announces Appointment of Fort Myers Campus President

Keiser University has announced the promotion of Dr. Amy Teprovich as the Fort Myers campus president. Dr. Teprovich has spent over 20 years in higher education leadership roles. She began her career in residential life and student activities positions before she relocated to Fort Myers in 2004 to serve as the Director of Campus Involvement at Florida Gulf Coast University. She then joined Edison State College as the Dean of Students prior to becoming Academic Dean at a local private college.

NSU Florida Announces New Leadership Appointments

Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D., will serve as provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs; Steven I. Kaltman, DMD, MD, FACS, has been named dean of the College of Dental Medicine; José Roberto (Beto) Juárez, Jr., J.D., will become the Dean of the Shepard Broad College of Law; Terry Mularkey will lead as vice president of Advancement and Community Relations. “We are entering a very exciting chapter in this institution’s history as we strategically realign ourselves for Vision 2025,” said Dr. George L. Hanbury, president and CEO of NSU. “These individuals’ leadership, academic and professional skills will be instrumental as NSU continues its upward trajectory in becoming a preeminent university.”

St. Thomas Hires Mayor to Lead Pandemic Research Center

St. Thomas University (STU) is bringing on Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert III to lead its newly-launched Center for Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine (PDQ) Research. The university, based in Miami Gardens, announced the new center shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in South Florida. “St. Thomas University’s PDQ is designed to be a global repository for information and research so everyone can make better decisions when dealing with pandemic and quarantine,” STU President David A. Armstrong said. “There needs to be a place that is not driven by politics but by facts and science so politicians, business leaders and others can make informed choices to protect society. From the beginning, I targeted Mayor Oliver Gilbert to lead the PDQ because he is an ethical leader who is known locally and nationally as being a unifier who gets things done!” Read more.
Southeastern University Collaborates with Lakeland Regional Health
Southeastern University announced a new collaboration with Lakeland Regional Health to provide medical care for students beginning now, in fall 2020. Lakeland Regional Health works hard to ensure the health and wellness of local college students, staffing clinics on several campuses in the area.

The collaboration includes a full-time Physician Assistant at Southeastern University’s Health Services Center. Students who visit the Health Services Center will be able to be treated by Lakeland Regional Health’s Physician Assistant for illnesses, injuries, prescription refills, vaccinations and sports physicals. “We are very excited and grateful to be able to partner with one of the leading hospitals in our state,” said Southeastern University President Kent Ingle. “Lakeland Regional Health has provided many opportunities for our students to gain experience off-campus, so we are looking forward to partnering with them on-campus. This opportunity will help us provide premier health services for our students and enhance our on-campus experience as we look to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community.”

Lynn Engages CVS Health for On-site Rapid Result COVID-19 Testing
Lynn University announced that CVS Health will provide on-site rapid result COVID-19 testing for students and employees. Lynn is the first Florida university to partner with CVS Health on its Return ReadySM solution. “We are committed to creating an environment where our students and faculty feel safe to live, learn and work,” said Christian G. Boniforti, chief strategy and technology officer. “Lynn is a leader in education technology, and partnering with CVS Health to implement state-of-the-art healthcare solutions aligns well with our innovative approach to the student experience. This combined with other safety precautions will help our campus community stay healthy.”

Return Ready offers the flexibility to choose from a number of COVID-19 testing options and includes clinician-informed protocols and guidance for symptom checks and temperature screenings, and digital tools for test scheduling and sharing of results. At Lynn, the program includes point-of-care testing with results in a few minutes in a safe on-site environment set up and staffed by CVS Health personnel. Return Ready also includes an analytics dashboard for ongoing oversight and trends, along with state and federal reporting of test results, as required.

Ringling College Motion Design Students Collaborate with SRQ
The Sarasota Bradenton International Airport (SRQ) partnered with the Motion Design Department at Ringling College of Art and Design to create an animated video to assist travelers at the TSA checkpoint. The Motion Design Department features a fall semester senior thesis course specifically designed to replicate the challenges and deadlines of a professional studio and the airport was among the potential client projects. SRQ was pleased to collaborate on the project.

The TSA Travel Tips animation highlights various best practices during the screening process with a clear, yet humorous creative flair. It was designed to be viewed, on the video wall, by travelers while in line at the security checkpoint. The video was produced by two Motion Design seniors, Doug Alberts and Kyle Snider. The audio was created by the department’s own sound designer, Kelly Warner, who works alongside students to develop soundtracks for their creative projects. The result is a two-minute animation that is both informative and entertaining.
FACTS OF THE WEEK

#ICUF institutions are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) and offer a wide range of educational programs.

#ICUF Students are able to learn in an intimate classroom setting in the field of their choice.
Hedrick Brothers Construction has been successfully building in Florida for over 40 years. Their team has extensive education market experience and has built more than two million square feet of educational projects including classrooms, campus buildings, laboratories, libraries, sports facilities and three student residency villages.

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