



# FAC&U

Florida Association of  
Colleges & Universities

ASSOCIATION NEWS - LXXXIII, WINTER 2018

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## Unconquerable and Enduring FAC&U Celebrates 85 Years (1933-2018)

This new year marks the 85th anniversary of the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities. According to some sources, the symbolic representation of 85 years is a combination of the sapphire and diamond - meaning unconquerable and enduring.

With such a long history behind us, FAC&U is Florida's oldest organization historically created by and for ALL public and non-profit college and university presidents. Collectively, we stand together as the leaders of our state's higher education system.

And, although we have nuanced missions and stakeholders –we are stronger together; we must stand united for the future of higher education and the promise we provide our students and communities for a brighter future.

Sincerely yours,

**Sincerely, Ed Meadows**  
President, Pensacola State College  
2017-18 FAC&U Vice President



# FAC&U 2017-2018 Board Members

## 2017-18 Executive Committee

### PRESIDENT



**Donal O'Shea**  
President, New College of Florida

### VICE PRESIDENT



**Ed Meadows**  
President, Pensacola State College

### PAST PRESIDENT



**Nathaniel Glover**  
President, Edward Waters College

## BOARD MEMBERS

### Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida

- George L. Hanbury II, Nova Southeastern University
- Nathaniel Glover, Edward Waters College
- T. Dwayne McCay, Florida Institute of Technology

### The Florida College System

- Devin Stephenson, Northwest Florida State College
- Ed Meadows, Pensacola State College
- John Holdnak, Gulf Coast State College

### Member at Large

- Andrew Corty, Florida Trend Magazine

### State University System of Florida - Board of Governors

- Donal O'Shea, New College of Florida & FAC&U President
- John Delaney, University of North Florida

### Ex-Officio Members

- Ed Moore, President, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
- Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor, Florida College System
- Marshall Criser III, Chancellor, State University System
- Pam Stewart, Florida Commissioner of Education



# A Special Welcome to New Presidents



## Angela M. Garcia Falconetti - Polk State College

The Polk State College District Board of Trustees named Angela M. Garcia Falconetti as the College's fifth president. Prior to being named the President of Polk State, Dr. Falconetti served as Vice President of Institutional Advancement of Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Virginia. Dr. Falconetti has 18 years of experience in higher education at the state and national levels. She has been the Vice President of Institutional Advancement of Virginia Western Community College since 2012.



## Tonjua Williams - St. Petersburg College

Tonjua Williams, Ph.D., became St. Petersburg College's seventh president on July 3, 2017. A St. Petersburg native, Dr. Williams began her tenure with the college in 1986, rising through the ranks in a variety of academic and administrative roles. Prior to becoming President, Dr. Williams was Senior Vice President for Student Services from 2013 to 2017. She has served in nearly every area of the college: Provost, Associate Provost, Director of Special Programs, Program Coordinator, Academic Advisor, Recruiter, Senior Accounting Clerk and Adjunct Faculty.



## Edwin Hernández - Adventist University Health Sciences

Dr. Edwin Hernández, the current provost of ADU succeeded Dr. David Greenlaw, the founding president of the institution. Hernández has been an educator for 30 years. Hernández has written multiple books and articles and served as vice president of academic affairs at Puerto Rico-based Antillean Adventist University. He also has experience in the world of philanthropy having led an urban education philanthropic initiative worth millions on behalf of the Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation.



## John Meyer - Hodges University

Hodges University Board appointed John Meyer as the institution's new president. The appointment was made in conjunction with its ongoing strategic directives to ensure academic quality for a diverse student population and drive innovation to meet the needs of the larger Southwest Florida community. Meyer brings over 20 years of education experience to his new role as Hodges President. Most recently, he served as Hodges Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, with past engagements that include Dean of Business and Technology at Florida SouthWestern State College and Program Chair of the management program at Hodges University.



## News from Across the State



### Indian River State College - New Irsc Program Readies Student for their Next 'Stage' of Education

Indian River State College is launching a new program, Project STAGE, designed with the goal of supporting students with intellectual disabilities (ID) and their families while students pursue education and gainful employment in their chosen occupation. Project STAGE, short for students transitioning to academics and gainful employment, is now accepting applications for students.

Project STAGE prepares and supports students with intellectual disabilities, or ID, along with their families, while students pursue postsecondary education and prepare for gainful employment. Students with ID often have many resources available to them while enrolled in the K-12 system but few resources when they enter into the postsecondary environment.

Students will have inclusive college experiences through classes, participation in student clubs, organizations, and campus events, and relationships with IRSC student mentors. In addition to academic training, students will have opportunities for job shadowing activities to assist in career exploration, and for internships to gain employment.

### Eckerd Ranks Fourth in the Nation for Number of Students Participating in Short-Term Study Abroad

In a ranking of baccalaureate colleges, the Institute for International Education (IIE) 2017 Open Doors Report for the 2015–2016 academic year showed Eckerd College as No. 4 in the U.S. for students participating in short-term study abroad and No. 10 in the U.S. for total participation in study abroad.

“We appreciate IIE’s recognition of our efforts to give all students at Eckerd College an opportunity to study abroad, which provides experience and perspective we feel are essential to their education,” said Diane Ferris ‘86, director of international education. “With more than 70 percent of our students participating at some point during their four years already, we feel confident we will meet our goal of 100 percent participation by 2021.”



### Gulf Coast State College - Surgical Technologist Program Receives National Recognition

Gulf Coast State College’s Surgical Technologist program received the Annual Merit Award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). They achieved this recognition by earning a 100% pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination for the cycle of August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017.

“Our students must be dedicated and prepared each day for their assignments at local hospitals. We teach them the intricate details to ensure they understand surgical procedures and are ready for the certification exam,” said Libby McNaron, Surgical Services Coordinator.



The CST is widely recognized in the health care community as the foremost credential for surgical technologists in the nation. The CST is required for employment within most local, state and national health care organizations.



## News from Across the State

### Florida State University - President Thrasher Says Top 25 Goals are Within Reach

After a year of unprecedented success, President John Thrasher urged the Florida State University community to continue moving forward as it looks toward the future.

Thrasher delivered his annual State of the University address to the Faculty Senate on Wednesday, Dec. 6, just hours after introducing Willie Taggart as the Seminoles' new football coach. Taggart made a guest appearance at the event, stressing his commitment to student success.

The university climbed five places for the second consecutive year in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, brought in a record amount of funding from the National Institutes of Health and won national awards for its campus diversity and internationalization. Thrasher expressed confidence that Florida State will continue its rise in national prominence.



### Miami Dade College offers Hurricane Assistance for Puerto Rican Students

Miami Dade College stands ready to assist the victims of Hurricane Maria. Our primary concern is to provide quality education in a safe and caring environment where students can learn, mature and grow into responsible global citizens. Visit MDC's Hurricane Information page for further details and helpful resources.

It is already a very stressful situation for many. We are taking measures to alleviate some of that worry by ensuring that all those who want to attend MDC can do so, even when transcripts or other essential records are not currently available. The admissions and registration team are working to facilitate entry or continued education for students from Puerto Rico. MDC is helping displaced college

students from Puerto Rico by offering them in-state tuition. After the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, access to in-state tuition will ease the burden for Puerto Rican families during their recovery.

### Lynn University - Jerry Hildebrand Joins Lynn to Lead New Social Impact Lab

Lynn University today announced plans for its new Social Impact Lab, an experiential learning space where students and professionals can leverage the power of business to generate positive impact both locally and around the world. Jerry Hildebrand, a pioneer in social entrepreneurship, has been appointed the center's director. Set to be located in the future Christine E. Lynn University Center, the Social Impact Lab's mission is to be a world-class career launch pad for purpose-fueled young professionals. It will offer real-world experience, professional connections and mentorships, and industry preparedness and upskill training. It will also serve as a go-to talent pipeline for mission-focused startups, impact investment firms and social enterprises.



## News from Across the State



### Palm Beach State College - New \$10K Bachelor's Degree Rules to Help More Students

Earning a bachelor's degree at Palm Beach State College is now easier on the wallets of more in-state students. Starting spring term 2018, the new bachelor's degree incentive program eases the eligibility requirements for earning one of PBSC's three bachelor's degrees for \$10,000. The changes will give every in-state student a shot at reducing their tuition.

PBSC and other Florida colleges began offering the \$10K bachelor's degrees in 2014, in response to a challenge from Gov. Rick Scott to provide bachelor's degrees in high-demand fields at a great value. Students first earn an associate degree and then a bachelor's degree. The average combined tuition cost for the associate and bachelor's degrees at PBSC averages under \$14,000.

"The new eligibility requirements allow a broader range of students to participate in the \$10K degree," said Dr. Anita Kaplan, dean of PBSC bachelor's degree programs. "We kept in mind that many students are juggling work and school, and therefore, we felt students should be given the flexibility to complete, not just in four years, but in six years, from the time of their initial enrollment."

### UCF Downtown Orlando Campus: 'A Big Dream' Becomes a Reality

"Today we're making a big dream become a reality," UCF trustee chair Marcos Marchena said in front of several hundred people at the event held at the campus' soon-to-be-construction site between Livingston and Amelia streets. On Thursday, UCF released new renderings of the \$60 million, 148,000-square-foot building that depict large windows and gathering spaces outside.

Inside, the main academic building won't look like typical college lecture halls or classrooms but instead will have about 35 classrooms featuring high-tech computer screens and furniture that's easily movable to encourage group discussions. UCF students will be able to study digital media, communication, health-care information technology, legal studies, social work and health-care administration.



### Palm Beach Atlantic University - MacArthur School to Host International Leadership Conference

Palm Beach Atlantic University's MacArthur School of Leadership is the educational partner for the International Leadership Association conference Oct. 24 – 27, 2018 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach.

The International Leadership Association (ILA) is the global network for all those who practice, study, and teach leadership. The ILA promotes a deeper understanding of leadership knowledge and practices for the greater good of individuals and communities worldwide.



## News from Across the State

### Valencia College Celebrates New Campus in Poinciana at Official Dedication Ceremony

Valencia College officials and students, along with an array of Osceola County officials and community members, celebrated the opening of the college's Poinciana Campus today. The campus, which opened for classes on Aug. 28, was slated to hold a formal dedication ceremony in September, but the event was postponed because of Hurricane Irma.

The campus, which college officials fast-tracked to meet the need in Poinciana, now has 1,119 students enrolled in classes – 55 percent of whom are Hispanic and 19 percent who are African-American. One third of those students are the first members of their families to attend college. Valencia College's president, Dr. Sandy Shugart, describes the campus in Poinciana as "a game-changer" for the community.



### University of Tampa - President Recognized for Bolstering Experiential Education

Ronald L. Vaughn, president of The University of Tampa, has been awarded the 2017 William M. Burke Presidential Award for Excellence in Experiential Education. This award is presented by the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE) and funded by The Washington Center for Academic Internships and Seminars (TWC) in memory of TWC's founder William M. Burke. It recognizes a sitting college president who has made significant contributions to experiential education and exemplifies Burke's commitment to college students through support of experiential education on campus and in the community.

The nomination stated that Vaughn embraces, demonstrates and nurtures experiential education at UT "through extensive modeling, support, and leadership to ensure continued success and impactful learning."

Vaughn most demonstrably supported experiential education at UT through the implementation of UT's current Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which focuses on student inquiry with faculty-student collaborations, undergraduate research and internships.

### Hillsborough Community College Announces New Campus Presidents

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) has appointed two new campus presidents for the Dale Mabry and SouthShore Campuses: Dr. Allen Witt will serve as the new Dale Mabry Campus president, and Dr. Jennifer China will serve as the new SouthShore Campus president. Both will assume their responsibilities on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

"I am incredibly pleased to make this announcement regarding the selection of our new campus presidents for the Dale Mabry and SouthShore Campuses," stated Dr. Ken Atwater, HCC president. "Dr. Witt and Dr. China will bring a wealth of experience and records of exceptional leadership to their respective campuses."

