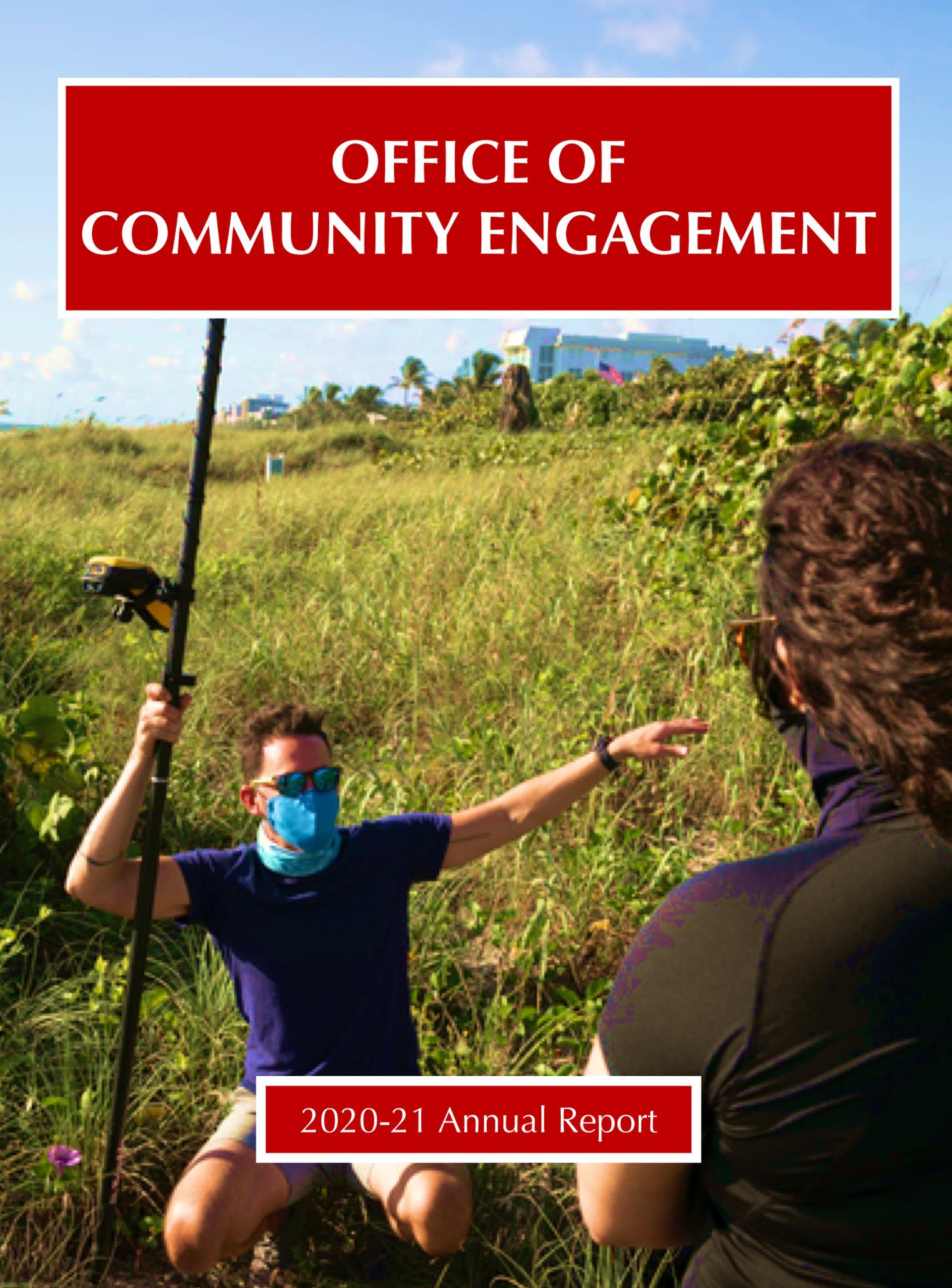


OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A man wearing a blue t-shirt, sunglasses, and a blue face mask is kneeling in a field of tall grass. He is holding a surveying instrument mounted on a black tripod. He is gesturing with his right hand towards the right side of the frame. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders is visible, wearing a dark blue shirt and sunglasses. The background shows a line of trees and a building under a clear blue sky.

2020-21 Annual Report

Introduction

The challenges we faced during Academic Year 2020-2021 (AY20-21) were unexpected and affected all of our stakeholders. Nonetheless, the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) continued to provide the necessary support and incentives to our faculty, staff and students engaged with the community. In this annual report, our fifth, we provide an update of our progress toward meeting the goals we had set. And even though our progress was slowed down by the pandemic, we were able to advance our initiative and further increase awareness of our commitment to the surrounding communities.

As a Carnegie Community Engagement Classified institution, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is dedicated to enhancing its engagement practices and strengthening its partnerships. As such, and despite the circumstances, we were able to increase the number of Academic Service Learning (ASL) designated courses as well as the number of reported ASL hours during the Fall and Spring semesters. We continue to use the classification as a framework for institutional assessment and as a benchmark for our own engagement activities.

Additional achievements include establishment of annual community engaged projects and advancement of our Anchor Mission initiatives at the university level.

We look forward to continue to increase our collaborative work with the different university divisions in order to create new engagement opportunities that are both reciprocal and mutually beneficial.



Background

FAU has a long history of engaged learning, research, and service across our local and regional communities. Engagement is embedded and highlighted in the University's mission, vision, and strategic goals and is a strong and fundamental component of FAU's strategic platforms upon which the institution's pillars of excellence are built.

Community engagement at FAU is based on a distributed network of students, faculty, and staff from many divisions, departments, and units working with community partners to achieve mutual goals. As envisioned at FAU, this network model combines several aspects of distributed leadership and faculty governance. It recognizes the existing commitment and accomplishments of each of the University's divisions and the benefits of continued shared leadership and responsibility toward sustaining and strengthening the University's community engagement culture.

In 2018, President Kelly established the OCE and charged it with defining, identifying, and documenting the breadth and depth of FAU's engagement activities at the university-wide level. As part of Academic Affairs, and in true engagement fashion, we work collaboratively with multiple representatives from the divisions of Student Affairs, Administrative Affairs, Research, and Public Affairs to support faculty, staff, students and community partners in their engaged work.



Florida Atlantic University

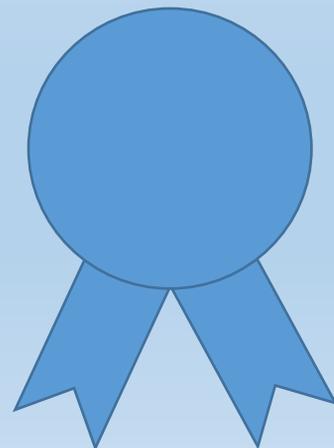
Key Accomplishments

Integration of the different community engagement practices within our various units continues to be the focus of our office. To that end, the OCE established new working relationships with departments not traditionally involved in engagement activities. One example is our work with the Procurement Office and the settlement team to implement new processes and procedures to improve the overall supplier management experience. This new processes aim at reinforcing our position as an Anchor Institution in Southeast Florida, an initiative we have been working at for the past three years as part of the Anchor Learning Network through the Democracy Collaborative. The Democracy Collaborative is an independent, nonprofit research and development lab for the democratic economy. Additionally, and although put on pause because of the lockdown, we worked with the FAU Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to create a new series of workshops to assist small businesses in the area obtain minority credentials and build capacity to become sustainable enterprises.

Other accomplishments include the establishment of new and reoccurring community projects and continuous increase in designated Academic Service Learning course.

Particular accomplishments in these areas are presented as follows:

- Community Engagement Projects
- Awards and Incentives
- Academic Service Learning Data
- Anchor Mission Initiative



Community Engagement Projects

Our office funded and supported three community engaged projects developed by faculty and staff during AY20-21. These projects were supported by internal grants and were all guided by the community engagement principles of “mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.” Below, please find a few examples of community engaged projects developed and implemented during this academic year.

- Urban Stories Festival

This is a reoccurring CE project developed by the Assistant Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the College of Science, Mrs. Serena Hoermann, MBA. Even though the festival offered a single event this year, due to the need to observe social distancing and an outdoor setting, the Safe Streets Bike Tour continued a tradition of annual bike tours started in 2018. This allows for sharing stories on location in communities and provides place-based contextualization for learning and engagement. Some of the highlighted story themes this year included: equitable access to transportation and sidewalk infrastructure and human-scale street design that promotes community engagement.



Safe Street Bikes participants and guide.

- Queen Conch Community-Engagement Interactive Exhibit

Faculty and staff from the FAU Harbor Branch's Queen Conch Lab partnered with the Ocean Discovery Visitors Center team to bring awareness to important research being conducted and to educate both internal personnel and members of the community for years to come. With a grant from the OCE, they were able to create a permanent exhibit that will educate the general public and school groups about queen conch biology, conservation, and aquaculture as well as FAU Harbor Branch's queen conch research and other community-based projects throughout the Caribbean. The exhibit is expected to be viewed by over 5,000 visitors each year and introduce them to this important species as well as critical research and conservation efforts underway.



Queen Conch Display. FAU Harbor Branch Visitors Center

- African Descent Peoples' Community-Based Organizing For Education In The South

This timely culture-centered project, developed by College of Education faculty member Dr. Melanie Acosta, seeks to identify and describe Black community-based responses to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the schooling and educational experiences of Black students. The project is situated within the context of Black community serving entities focused on achieving educational justice for Black students through (1) parent empowerment, (2) relationships with schools and school districts, (3) supplemental educational activities for students, and (4) professional development for Black educators. All of which are threatened by enduring racial inequities in education only further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awards and Incentives

The OCE recognizes engaged faculty and students for their dedication to work collaboratively with community partners to address unmet needs. Through awards and incentives, we incentivize the development of projects that impact, not only our communities but also our students, faculty, and institution as a whole. During AY20-21, our office distributed more than \$10k in awards to distinguished faculty and students.

- **Presidential Awards for Outstanding Faculty-Led Community Engagement**

Each year, the FAU President selects one outstanding faculty for engaged Teaching, Research, and Service during the Annual Honors Convocation in the Spring. This year 27 applications were reviewed by the Community Engagement Liaison Committee and the UFS Honors and Awards Committee. These two committees had the difficult task of selecting the awardees from a list of exceptional faculty who continuously engage with our communities in mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships. The awardees received a crystal award, a \$2,000 cash incentive, and a \$1,500 grant designed to support their continued professional development.

Dr. Precious Skinner-Osei - Presidential Award for Outstanding Engaged Teaching for incorporating community engagement to all of the macro-level courses she teaches making sure to enhance social work's core values of service, social justice, integrity, the importance of relationships, dignity and worth, and competence.

Dr. David Kumar - Presidential Award for Outstanding Engaged Research/Scholarship for his commitment to improving science teaching and learning with technology, science literacy, and evaluation and policy in an engaged manner. In partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery and Science, he promotes civic science engagement for his students and the museum's general public.

Ms. Patricia Gustafsson - Presidential Award for Outstanding Engaged Service for her service as liaison between social work students and more than 200 organizations in our local community and her collaborative work with international communities in Brazil and Ireland, where she has been participating in global efforts and promoting diversity while advocating for peace, justice, and human rights.



- Wave Community Engagement Award

The OCE collaborates with the Division of Research (DOR) each year to support their Wave program which challenges undergraduate and graduate students to apply research and entrepreneurial skills to submit and develop innovative ideas targeting societal problems. Our office provides mentorship to engaged teams and a \$1,000 cash prize to a team working with the community in a project that seeks to solve a shared issue. The winning team is selected by representatives from the OCE and DOR who evaluate how the team worked with members of the community to achieve mutual goals.

The selected team this year was **FAU Keep Moving**. Their community engaged project has now become a student registered organization. What started as a way to keep students moving during the pandemic lockdown evolved into a project that aims at offering virtual volunteer opportunities to students to stay engaged with their local communities, and providing access to future planning, wellness and fitness education, and mental health awareness through life. Students Alexia Betances, Sandy Abdelmalak, Diane Garcia, and Christopher Cardenas encouraged others to use creative voices and empowered healthy mindsets to overcome adversity and take action in unison.

Academic Service Learning Data

The Division of Student Affairs, through the Office of Leadership Education And Development (LEAD), continues to support our office by providing assistance to faculty and students engaging with the community via Academic Service Learning (ASL) experiences. They are in charge of collecting ASL hours, which represent the largest and broadest community engaged activity at FAU. Even while facing restrictions during COVID19, faculty from five of our colleges worked collaboratively with their CE College Liaisons, the Weppner Center and our office to get their courses designated as ASL adding 9 new courses to our growing list of 222 ASL courses. These courses allow our students to put into practice the skills they are learning in class while helping our communities. And even though our students were not able to do ASL during the 2020 Summer semester due to lockdown, **reported ASL hours increased by 5% during the Fall semester and 33% in the Spring compared to the same semesters the previous academic year.** This contrasts with reported increases of 8% and 11% respectively last year. Another related accomplishment was the significant increase of engaged faculty teaching ASL courses at 22% compared to last year.

Total ASL reported hours by College for each semester during AY20-21 are shown in the table below.

COLLEGES	Summer 20	Fall 20	Spring 21	Total
COLLEGE OF NURSING	-	2,038	4,327	6,365
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE	-	1,441	-	1,441
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE	-	1,563	113	1,676
COLLEGE OF SW & CCJ	-	66,601	74,035	140,636
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & CS	-	19,555	19,188	38,743
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS	-	23,928	49,402	73,330
COLLEGE OF ED	-	53,762	45,833	99,595
COLLEGE OF A & L	-	-	986	986
HONORS COLLEGE	-	3,200	-	3,200
TOTAL ALL COLLEGES	-	172,088	193,884	365,971

Anchor Mission Initiative

FAU joined the Anchor Learning Network (ALN) when it was launched in July 2019 as part of its commitment to strengthen its presence as an anchor institution in the region. The ALN was designed to facilitate a more rapid and effective advancement of the anchor mission initiatives within member institutions, in home communities, and across the higher education sector. It was created as a joint project of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU), which FAU is a member of, and The Democracy Collaborative (TDC), and it was supported by a three-year funding commitment from The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Over the last two years, our office has worked with the ALN and its member institutions (currently over 30) to develop strategies and systems in support of our Anchor Mission. The ALN has hosted multiple virtual learning engagements and convenings, as well as launched working groups that are producing leadership and guidance in key areas of the work. Through this network, which meets once a month, we have been able to establish a community of practitioners, administrators, and scholars who share a commitment to transforming our institutions and communities through alignment of university practices to needs in the community.

Our work here at FAU has been specific to the areas of Local Purchasing and Inclusive and Local Hiring. To that end, our office has worked with Procurement to establish a base supplier data to better identify local minority and women owned businesses and aiming at implementing processes/procedures to improve the overall supplier management experience for these businesses. Additionally, we have had multiple meetings with the FAU SBDC to support capacity building for these businesses and to assist them with the minority designation process. We have also worked with HR to develop policies and/or strategies that support the anchor mission. Thus far, we have been able to establish initial benchmarks for data collection in both areas and continue to work on the development of appropriate policies that have the potential to facilitate buying and sourcing locally as well as hiring and developing local talent.

Goals for 2021-2022

Goal 1. Increase Community-Based Activities

The number one priority of our office is to increase the breadth and depth of FAU's engagement activities. As such, we will continue to support and encourage faculty, staff, and students to engage in community-based activities.

Targets:

- Attend faculty orientations and assemblies to educate members about opportunities and incentives
- Increase number of awards and incentives for staff and students
- Work to establish interdisciplinary engaged research groups
- Audit active core courses to identify ASL designation possibilities
- Create community engagement module for undergraduate research students

Goal 2. Enhance Evaluation Methods and Mechanisms

Measuring the impact of our engaged activities is an essential component of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification framework. In order to align with the framework we are working on improving our current evaluation mechanisms for increased response rates and accessibility.

Targets:

- Revise and relocate the ASL end of course student survey
- Redesign and implement our community partner survey
- Add student learning outcomes (SLO) related to ASL into our university wide assessment database
- Create evaluation criteria for faculty awards

Goals for 2021-2022 (cont.)

Goal 3. Create and Implement Communication Plan

Disseminating the impact of the engaged work of our faculty, staff and students to all of our stakeholders and communities is key to sharing our story and emphasizing our commitment to our society. All of the community engagement data we are collecting will be used to highlight that commitment.

Targets:

- Work with Public Affairs to finalize CE videos
- Update and maintain content of the CE Website, dashboards, and partnership mapping
- Expand resources for faculty, staff, students, and community partners
- Collaborate with other divisions to create PR materials

Goal 4. Develop Measurable Anchor Mission Policies and Procedures

Our office will continue to work with the Anchor Learning Network and other internal departments to develop and implement policies and procedures that support the economic development of local areas of high need.

Targets:

- Finalize the creation of a vendor database that identifies women, minority, and LGBTQ+ locally owned businesses
- Develop a definition of local with a designated geographic focus
- Work with Human Resources to explore pipeline opportunities
- Provide additional support and resources for supplier inclusion policy development

Acknowledgements

The Office of Community Engagement works collaboratively with numerous members of our FAU family. It is because of their invaluable contributions and support that we are able to accomplish many of our goals every year. We appreciate them all, and are particularly thankful for the following individuals:

- James Capp - Assistant Provost, Academic Operations & Planning
- Nori Carter - Director, Students Services & Campus Life, Davie
- Donna Chamely-Wiik - Associate Dean, Undergraduate Research and Prestigious Fellowships
- Michael Davis - Assistant Director, Compensation & Benefits
- Maria Dopico - Director of Spend Management, Procurement
- Margaret Goodlin - Computer Applications Coordinator, IEA
- Melody Thelwell - Director of Procurement
- Regina Thompson - Strategic and Economic Initiatives Manager
- Jennie Soberon - Associate Director, OURI

The Community Engagement College Liaison Committee

- Charlotte Barry - Professor, College of Nursing
- Christopher Beetle - Associate Professor, College of Science
- Susannah Brown - Professor, College of Education
- Jacqueline Fewkes - Professor, Honors College
- Danielle Groton, Assistant Professor, College of Social Work & Criminal Justice
- Aaron Hackman - Associate Director, Academic Service Learning
- Nancy Harris, Visiting Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
- Wendy Hinshaw - Associate Professor, College of Arts & Letters
- Dan Meeroff - Professor, College of Engineering & Computer Science
- Peter Ricci, Director & Senior Instructor, College of Business
- Alicia Rootes - Interim Director for Diversity & Inclusion, College of Medicine
- Lincoln Sloas, Assistant Professor, College of Social Work & Criminal Justice