



# EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VOL. 3, ISSUE 5

A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2023

## Congratulations Graduates

FAU College of Education conferred 500 degrees in 2022 for the spring, summer and fall semesters during commencement ceremonies held on May 5, Aug. 9 and Dec. 16, 2022, respectively by Florida Atlantic University. Among the graduates were COE students receiving 25 doctoral, 26 specialist, 224 master's and 225 bachelor's degrees. Warm congratulations are extended to all.

Kudos to those listed below who earned doctoral degrees:

### Spring 2022

Bridget Glass  
Adriana Labarta  
Miriam Moreno-Duany  
Renee Rodney-Hillaire  
Linda S. Whitehead  
Keven Allen, Jr.  
Ronald Romances Johnson  
Georgette T. Perez  
Leila Hilal Shatara  
Nicole Michelle Walkinshaw  
Elena McLaughlin

Arielle Bendit  
Grisel Lopez-Escobar

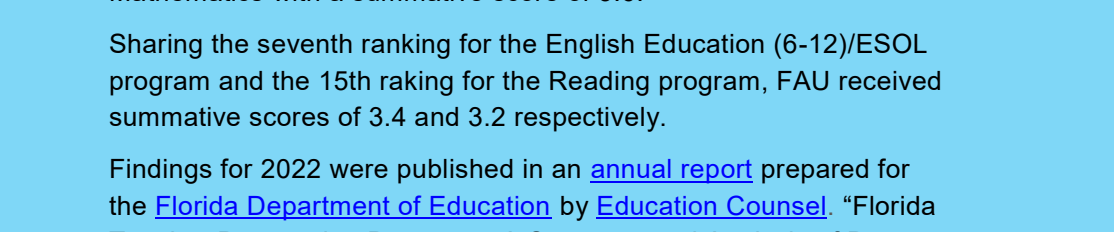
### Fall 2022

Ashley Nicole Keorick Sauer  
Kaitlin Salzman  
Meagan Eisberry  
Bonnie Keene  
Eleanor Su-Keene  
Patricia Temes  
Stacy Ann Volnick  
Susanna Launder  
Kerry A. Wittel

### Summer 2022

James Green  
Taylor Irvine  
Lilia Farmanara-Kneidel

[COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS AND MASTER'S THESIS LISTING](#)



## FAU's COE Ranked No. 1 in Elementary Education in the State for Third Year in a Row

[Florida Atlantic University](#) is the top ranked program in Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading in the state of Florida for the third year in a row with a summative score of 3.7. The University also ranked No. 1 in Mathematics with a summative score of 3.6.

Sharing the seventh ranking for the English Education (6-12)/ESOL program and the 15th ranking for the Reading program, FAU received summative scores of 3.4 and 3.2 respectively.

Findings for 2022 were published in an [annual report](#) prepared for the [Florida Department of Education](#) by [Education Counsel](#). "Florida Teacher Preparation Programs: A Summary and Analysis of Program Performance" reported the results of each approved teacher preparation program's annual progress on established performance measures, as well as each program's current approval status. ... [Read More](#)

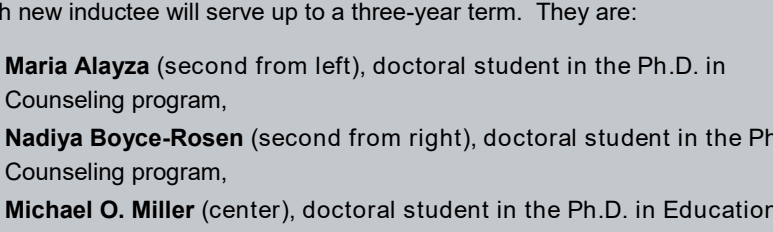
## FAU's COE Moves Up in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

[Florida Atlantic University's College of Education](#) rose 21 places ranking No. 117 in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2023-24 "Best Graduate Programs." This builds on a 25-place increase in the 2022-2023 rankings—for a two-year increase of 46 places. This year's new ranking earned the College of Education a "Best Graduate Schools" designation. The graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling also

was highly ranked at 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation and received a "Best Program" designation.

"Our rise in national rankings is a testament to the excellent work of our faculty and staff," stated Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., dean of the College of Education. "Our reputation has drastically improved and we look forward to continuing to influence scholarship and practice in Florida and nationwide." ... [Read More](#)

## Doctoral Students Inducted into AACTE Holmes Scholars® Program



Four doctoral students in Florida Atlantic University's College of Education were inducted into the [American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education \(AACTE\) Holmes Scholars® Program](#) on March 21, 2023. Stephen Silverman (left), Ed.D., Dean, College of Education, and Rangasamy Raminathan (right), Ph.D., Interim Chair and Professor, Special Education, and Coordinator of the [Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU](#), congratulated the students during the ceremony held in the Dean's Conference Room in the Education building on the Boca Raton campus.

Each new inductee will serve up to a three-year term. They are:

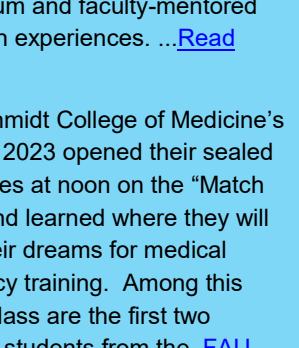
- **Maria Alayza** (second from left), doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Counseling program,
- **Nadiya Boyce-Rosen** (second from right), doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Counseling program,
- **Michael O. Miller** (center), doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leadership program, and
- **Catherine Restrepo-Widney** (not pictured), doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction program.

Florida Atlantic University was awarded the [2023 Outstanding Holmes Institution Award](#) by the ACCTE on Feb. 25, 2023. The Holmes Scholars® program, which began at FAU in 2016, provides COE doctoral students from historically underrepresented backgrounds with mentorship, peer support and professional development. In addition, Holmes Scholars will have the opportunity to present their research at the ACCTE Annual Meeting and hone their leadership skills during Washington Week. The inductees will be joining the current COE Holmes Scholars at FAU in the spring 2023 semester. ...[Read more](#)

## COE Students Recognized at 3MT® and Participate in COE SAC Research Symposium

FAU College of Education students competed in the 7th Annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition and participated in the 22nd Annual COE Student Achievement Council (SAC) Research Symposium:

[The 7th Annual Three Minute Thesis \(3MT®\) Competition](#)—preliminary round was held in-person on the Boca Raton Campus Feb. 20-22, 2023 and championship Feb. 24, 2023. The 3MT® Heat 3 Winner & People's Choice Award went to COE student:

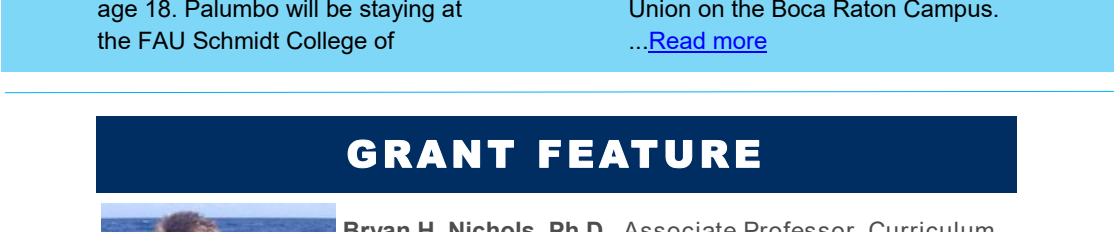


◇ Diana Fedderman (above), who is pursuing a doctoral

degree in Curriculum and Instruction for her presentation, A Critical Content Analysis of Fountas and Pinnell's LLI System. Faculty Advisor: Michelle Vaughan, Ed.D., (CI).

[Student Achievement Council \(SAC\) 22nd Annual College of Education Research Symposium](#)—

showcased student poster presentations and oral presentations from the College of Education and other Colleges in the University during the hybrid event on Monday, March 27, 2023. Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean, gave the welcoming remarks. Dilya Schoorman, Ph.D., introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Basiyr Rodney, a College of Education alumnus and Associate Professor at Webster University in St. Louis. This year participation exceeded last year with more than 85 attendees.

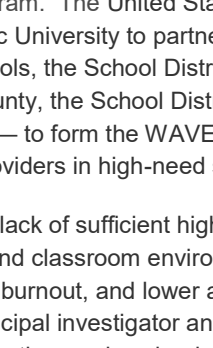


## FAU Lab Schools Awarded Grant; FAU High School Participates in 'Match Day' and GPSA

FAU Lab Schools Research has been awarded a \$25,829 technology grant to acquire a hyperspectral imaging system for developing remote sensing curriculum and faculty-mentored research experiences. ...[Read more](#)

The Schmidt College of Medicine's class of 2023 opened their sealed envelopes at noon on the "Match Day," and learned where they will fulfill their dreams for medical residency training. Among this year's class are the first two medical students from the [FAU High School Med Direct Program](#): Sarah Palumbo and Nadia Sial, both age 24, who received their M.D. degrees in April during the medical school's commencement. They both completed a B.S. degree in neuroscience and behavior at age 18. Palumbo will be staying at the FAU Schmidt College of

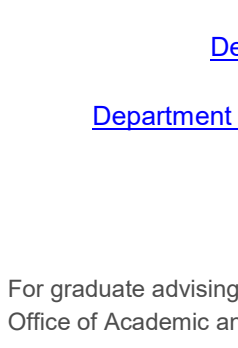
Medicine for a residency in internal medicine and Sial will be heading to Yale - New Haven Hospital in Connecticut for a residency in neurology. ... [Read more](#)



Doctoral student, Aubrey Clark (left), presented her research on shark nose anatomy,

conducted under the mentorship of Tricia Meredith, Ph.D., Director of Research, FAU Lab Schools and Marianne Porter, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, at the [14th Annual Associate & Professional Student Association \(GPSA\) Graduate Research Day](#) held in-person on March 29, 2023 in the Student Union on the Boca Raton Campus. ...[Read more](#)

## GRANT FEATURE



**Bryan H. Nichols, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, continues to work with Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, this time as Co-Principal Investigator on a successful United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant that will support a new Indian River Lagoon field trip program aboard FAU Harbor Branch's state-of-the-art tour boat. Over the course of three years, the project will host 125 field trips, which will educate as many as 3,125 socially disadvantaged middle and high school students about Florida's natural resources and the importance of conserving them. ...[Read more](#)

## COE's Counselor Education Awarded \$6 Million to Increase Mental Health Counselors in Schools

The [Department of Counselor Education](#) within FAU's [College of Education](#) has received a five-year, \$6 million grant for a project titled, the "Wellness Advocates Valuing Educators and Students" (WAVES) program. The United States Department of Education awarded the grant to Florida Atlantic University to partner with five school districts in Florida — Brevard Public Schools, the School District of Indian River County, the School District of Manatee County, the School District of Palm Beach County, and Polk County Public Schools — to form the WAVES Network to increase the number of mental health service providers in high-need schools.

"High student-to-school counselor ratios and the lack of sufficient highly-trained staff translates into stressful and challenging school and classroom environments, higher rates of discipline, chronic absenteeism, teacher burnout, and lower academic achievement," said Elizabeth Villares, Ph.D., principal investigator and professor, Counselor Education. "WAVES will help to reduce the gap in school counselors in high-need schools and bring the student-to-counselor ratio closer to the recommended level of 250:1 over the five-year grant period." ...[Read more](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Graduate College is holding virtual [information sessions](#) on May 18 and June 15, 2023 from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. See important dates below. This hour long session will include information regarding Financial Aid, Testing and Test Preparation and Graduate Admissions. Students seeking information on specific master's, specialist or doctoral degree programs in the College of Education, may contact:

[Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders](#)  
Jeremy Bayne, [jbayne1@health.fau.edu](mailto:jbayne1@health.fau.edu)

[Department of Counselor Education](#)  
Mikaela von Kursell, [mkursell@fau.edu](mailto:mkursell@fau.edu)

[Department of Curriculum and Instruction](#)  
Jodi Cantor, [jcantor2@fau.edu](mailto:jcantor2@fau.edu)

[Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology](#)  
Kathy DuBois, [kdubois4@fau.edu](mailto:kdubois4@fau.edu)

[Department of Special Education](#)  
Ellen Ismalon, [eismalon@fau.edu](mailto:eismalon@fau.edu)

For graduate advising and admissions, contact Jessica Stupec, Assistant Director, Office of Academic and Student Services, [jstupec@fau.edu](mailto:jstupec@fau.edu).

## Important Dates

### Students

- May 15—[Graduate College Information Session](#)
- June 1—Summer [applications and security clearance for field experiences and practicum placements](#) due to the Office for School Engagement
- June 2—Last day to submit [Application for Degree](#) (use the online form)
- June 15—[Graduate College Information Session](#)
- June 19—Dissertation Defense Deadline
- June 26—Summer Dissertation due in the Dean's Office

## Awards

**FAU High School—Jupiter Campus in partnership with Max Planck Academy**

Krill, J. (2023, April 11). Exceptional Faculty Award for the Northern Campuses 2023 COE. ... [Read more](#)

## Publications

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**  
**Department of Counselor Education**  
Peluso, P.R., & Freund, R. R. (2023). Paradoxical interventions: A Meta-Analysis. *Psychotherapy*, <https://doi.org/10.1037/pst0000481>

Torres, A., Kaya, C., & Akinola, O. (2023). Investigating measurement invariance, validity, and reliability of the 8-item vocational rehabilitation engagement scale with a sample of multilingual clients. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355221147217>

**Department of Curriculum and Instruction**  
Pavek, C., & Vaughan, M. (2023). Digital Reading Check-ins: Supporting Independent Digital Reading. *The Reading Teacher*.

**Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology**  
Hursh, B. D. & Salinas, C. (2023). One in the group but not of the group: A Brazilian international student's story about mental well-being while navigating a Hispanic-Serving Institution. In G. Nyunt, K. Koo, P. Witkowsky, & M. Andino (Eds.), *International student Identities and Mental Well-Being*, pp. 202-209. Start Scholars.

**FAU Lab Schools Research Newsletters:**  
[January 2023](#) [February 2023](#) [March 2023](#)  
[April 2023](#) [May 2023](#)

## Prestigious Lectures

**Department of Counselor Education**  
Glass, Bridget. (2023). *Traumatized Teachers: Identifying & Mitigating the Risk of Secondary Traumatic Stress in the Classroom*. Presentation for the Orlando Innovative Schools Summer.

**Keynote**  
**Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology**  
Bloom, J. L. (2022, March 15). Keynote Address. Western New York Academic Advising Conference, Virtual.

Bloom, J. L. (2023, March 16). Keynote Address. University of South Carolina Academic Advising Conference, Columbia, SC.

Bloom, J. L. (2023, March 23). Keynote Address. York University (Toronto, Canada) Academic Advising Conference, Virtual.

Salinas, C. (2023, March). What is Latin\*?. American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers. Aurora, CO. [Keynote Speaker]

Propst Cuevas, A. E. (2022, Mar 2). It's all about the soil!: Cultivating the appreciative advising framework in a post-pandemic world to help students and one another thrive. [Keynote Speaker]. Tennessee Board of Regents System Office of Student Success Advising Academy Spring 2023, Murfreesboro, TN. <https://www.tbr.edu/student-success/advising-academy-spring-2023>

## Grants

**Department of Counselor Education**  
Villares, E., Bowers, H., Mariani, M., & Peluso, P. (2023). *Wellness Advocates for Educators and Students*. \$5,989,554.10. U.S. Department of Education Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant.

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