



EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VOL. 4, ISSUE 6

A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2024

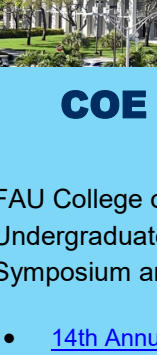
COE Faculty, Staff, Students and FAU High School Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

FAU Interim President Stacy Ann Volnick and Interim Provost Russ Ivy recognized two faculty members in the College of Education and two students in the College of Education or conducting research under the College of Education and two FAU High School students during the 55th annual Honors Convocation, held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 4 p.m. in the University Theatre on the Boca Raton campus. Among the award recipients are:

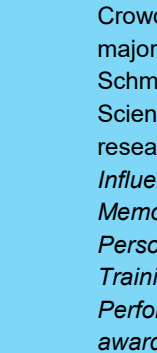


Daylenis Mendez, an Exceptional Student Education major, who was one of eight undergraduate recipients of the University Scholars Award. ...[Read more](#)

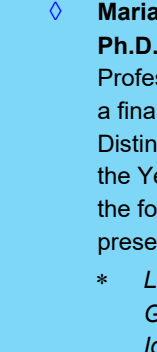
Alexis Crowder, a Biochemistry major in the Charles F. Schmidt College of Science, who was one of nine recipients of the Undergraduate Researchers of the Year Award. Her research was conducted under the College of Education since her mentor is Michael DeDonno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, ELRM. ...[Read more](#)



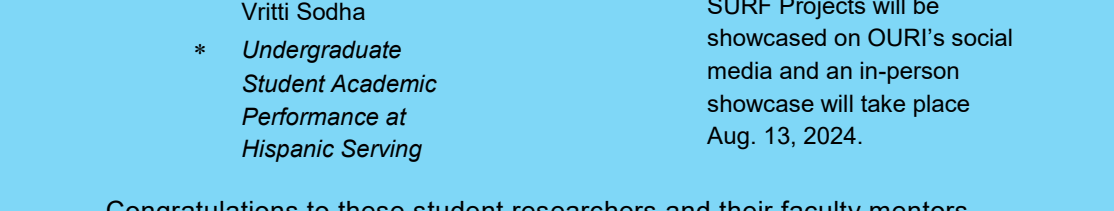
Natasha Mayorga (far left) and **Cristian Pena**, dual-enrolled FAU High School students, who were two of three Florida Atlantic students named 2023 Goldwater Scholars. Mayorga is also a biochemistry and data analytics major at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College and Pena is a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The Goldwater Scholarship is the preeminent undergraduate award of its type in the fields of the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics. ...[Read more](#)



Maria Vasquez-Colina, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, who was one of seven Finalists for the Distinguished Mentor of the Year in Undergraduate Research given by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry. ...[Read more](#)



Kelly Emelianchik-Key, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Counselor Education, who was one of eight Finalists for the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. The award winner is determined by students; each college's Student Advisory Committee selects the finalist from its college. ...[Read more](#)



COE Faculty and Students Participate in OURI Symposium and SURF

FAU College of Education faculty and students took part in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)'s 2024 Undergraduate Research Symposium and 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).

- [14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)—hosted by OURI was held on Friday, April 5, 2024 on the Boca Raton campus.
 - ◊ **Michael DeDonno, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, ELRM, mentored **Alexis Crowder**, Undergraduate Researcher of the Year (UROY) for the COE. Crowder, a biochemistry major in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, presented a research poster titled, *The Influence of Working Memory, Grit, and Personality on Resident In-Training Exam Performance*. **OURI** awards one UROY per college each year.
 - ◊ **Maria Vasquez-Colina, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, ELRM, who was a finalist for the 2023-2024 Distinguished Mentor of the Year award, mentored the following students to present at the symposium:
 - * *Learning About Gujarati: Cultural Identity and Family Language*, poster by Vriti Sodha
 - * *Undergraduate Student Academic Performance at Hispanic Serving*

Institutions (HSI): A Systematic Review, poster by Sofia Blanco and Abigail Sinu

- ◊ **Sharon Darling, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, SE, mentored Mariana Guzman, who presented a research poster titled, *The Impact Disability Has on a Child and Their Family*. Additional information about the oral and poster presentations can be found in the [2024 Symposium Program Booklet](#).

- [2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#)—SURF projects are ten-week, intensive summer immersion research experiences for an FAU undergraduate student and faculty mentor.

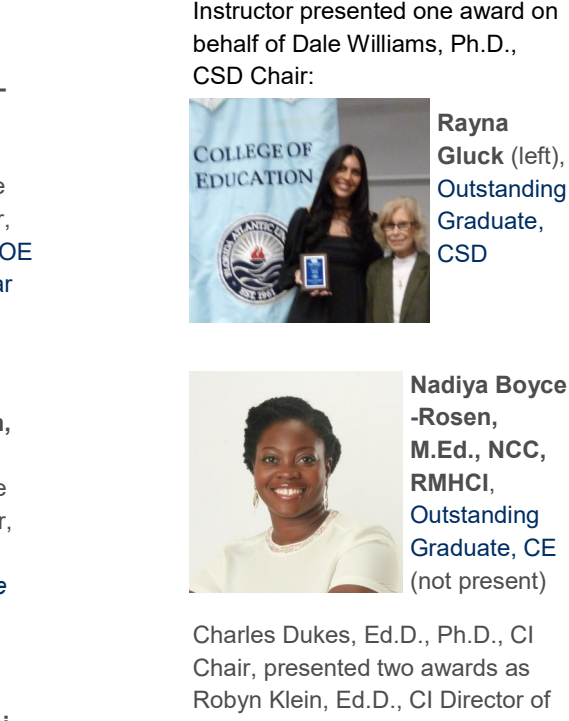
- ◊ Jayla Corbin, an Elementary Education major, was awarded a SURF Fellowship based on her intended research, *Culture-Centered Community-Engaged Work In South Florida*. Corbin will work under the mentorship of Melanie Acosta, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CI.

SURF Projects will be showcased on OURI's social media and an in-person showcase will take place Aug. 13, 2024.

Congratulations to these student researchers and their faculty mentors.

COE Dean Shares Vision for the College

Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., Dean, College of Education was featured in the Faculty Spotlight column on pages 18 and 19 of the Spring 2024 issue of the *Florida Atlantic University Magazine*. The article, "Teaching Teachers," recounts his continued dedication to preparing effective instructors and reveals his vision for the College. ...[Read more](#)

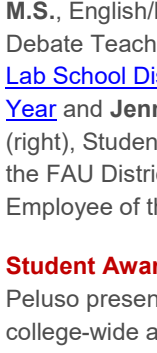


COE Holds Honors and Awards Ceremony

FAU College of Education recognized its faculty and students during the COE Honors and Awards Ceremony held on Friday, May 3, 2024 in ED-119 in the Education building on the Boca Raton Campus.

Faculty Awards

Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean, presented College awards to faculty member:



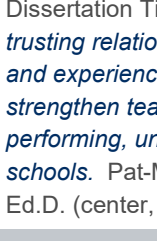
Kelly Emelianchik-Key, Ph.D., LMHC-QS, LMFT, NCC, ACS, Associate Professor, CE, COE Distinguished Teacher of the Year



Maria D. Vasquez-Colina, Ph.D., Associate Professor, ELRM, COE Distinguished Mentor of the Year



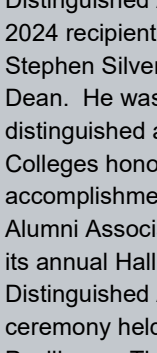
Michelle Vaughan, Ed.D., Associate Professor, CI, at the Associate



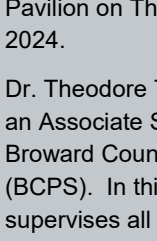
Melissa Mariani, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CE, at the Associate Professor level (not present)

ADHUS/FAU High School

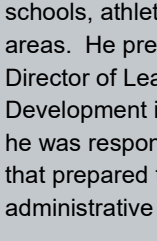
Silverman honored a faculty and a staff member of A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School:



Kristin Potter-Oliveri (above, left), M.S., English/Language Arts and Debate Teacher, as the [2025 FAU Lab School District Teacher of the Year](#) and **Jennifer Fries, B.A.** (right), Student Data Specialist, as the FAU District School Related Employee of the Year



Sara Kosches, Ph.D. (center left), Educational Leadership and Research Methodology



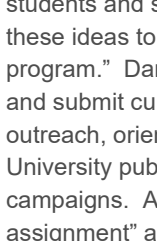
Robert Shockley, Ph.D., ELRM Chair, presented one award:



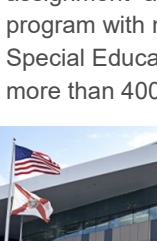
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Jaeannineda Saint Hubert, Outstanding Graduate, SE



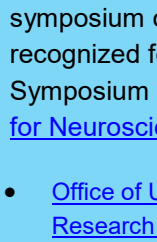
Daniel Cornely, M.A.E. (left), Outstanding Graduate, ELRM



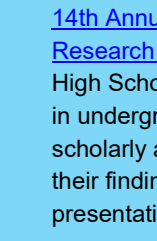
Rayna Gluck (left), Outstanding Graduate, CSD



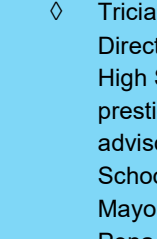
Charles Dukes, Ed.D., Ph.D., CI Chair, presented two awards as Robyn Klein, Ed.D., CI Director of Elementary Education Programs and Senior Instructor, and Dilys Schoorman, Ph.D., CI Professor and SAC faculty advisor, looked on respectively:



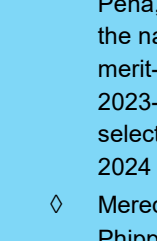
Kristin Miller (center), Outstanding Undergrad, CI



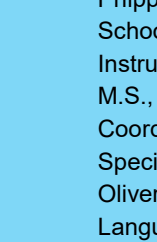
Catherine Restrepo-Whitney, M.Ed. (center), Outstanding Graduate, CI



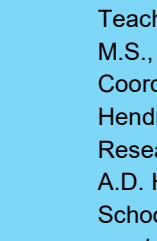
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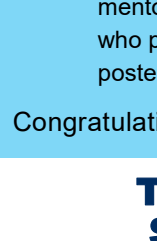
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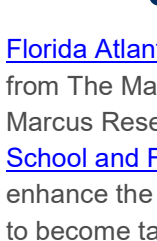
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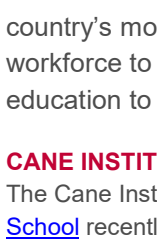
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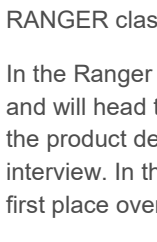
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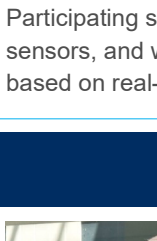
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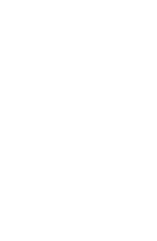
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