



# EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

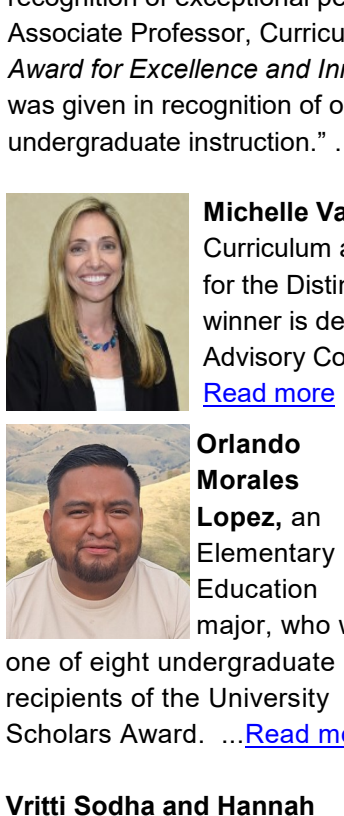
VOL. 5, ISSUE 6

A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2025

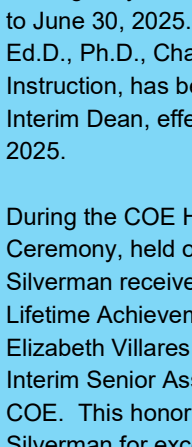
## COE Faculty, Student and FAU High Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

FAU President Adam Hasner and Interim Provost Russ Ivy recognized four College of Education (COE) faculty members, one COE student and two FAU High School students during the 56th annual Honors Convocation, held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 4 p.m. in the University Theatre on the Boca Raton campus. Among the award recipients are:



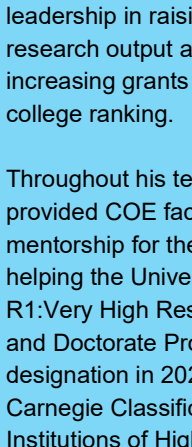
From right, **Cristobal Salinas, Jr., Ph.D.**, Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, who received the *2025 Scholar of the Year Award* at the Professor level for scholarly and creative activities in recognition of

exceptional performance; **Ayşe Torres, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Counselor Education, who received the *2025 Researcher of the Year Award* at the Associate Professor level for sponsored project oriented activities in recognition of exceptional performance; and **Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, who received the *2025 Award for Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching*. This award was given in recognition of outstanding performance in “enhancing undergraduate instruction.” ... [Read more](#)



**Michelle Vaughan-McGovern, Ed.D.**, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, 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](#)



**Orlando Morales Lopez**, an Elementary Education major, who was

one of eight undergraduate recipients of the University Scholars Award. ... [Read more](#)

**Vritti Sodha and Hannah Epstein**, dual-enrolled FAU High School students, who were

two of nine recipients of the Undergraduate Researchers of the Year Award. Sodha is also a junior in the College of Business and Epstein, an undergraduate student in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. Sodha's research was conducted under the College of Education since her mentor is Maria Vásquez-Colina, Ph.D., Associate Professor, ELMR. ... [Read more](#)

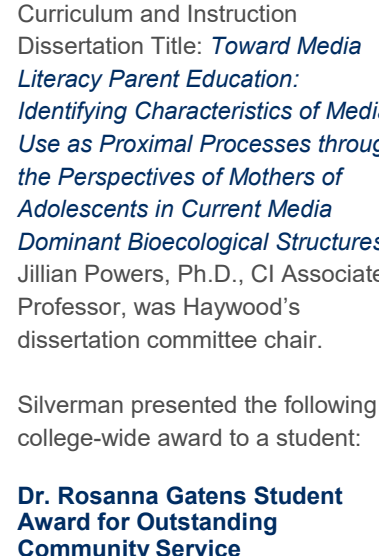


## COE Dean Retires; Interim Dean Named

**Stephen Silverman, Ed.D.**, Dean, College of Education at Florida Atlantic, retired June 30, 2025 after serving six years from Aug. 1, 2019 to June 30, 2025. Charles Dukes, Ed.D., Ph.D., Chair, Curriculum and Instruction, has been named Interim Dean, effective July 1, 2025.

During the COE Honors & Awards Ceremony, held on May 3, 2025, Silverman received the College's Lifetime Achievement Award from Elizabeth Villares Sachs, Ph.D., Interim Senior Associate Dean, COE. This honor was bestowed on Silverman for exceptional leadership in raising faculty research output and significantly increasing grants awarded and college ranking.

Throughout his tenure, Silverman provided COE faculty with mentorship for their research, helping the University to receive its R1:Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production designation in 2025 by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, and led the College's effort to rank No. 90 in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2025 ranking among graduate schools of education, moving 73 places in four years from 163. He was also recognized along with the other retirees for his six years of service.



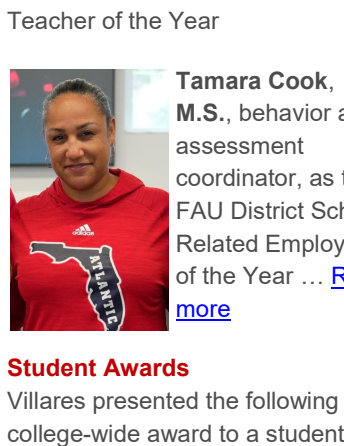
A world-renowned scholar in his field, Silverman has been cited more than 23,000 times, according to Google Scholar; co-authored 19 books related to teaching and research methods, presented at more than 325 international, national and regional events; published more than 170 chapters and papers, including more than 110 refereed research articles; served as editor of two research journals, including as editor-in-chief of *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*; delivered numerous prestigious lectures, including the 2018 Society of Health and Physical Educators Curriculum and Instruction Scholar lecture; and served in various leadership capacities, including serving as President of the National Academy of Kinesiology.

## COE Holds Honors and Awards Ceremony

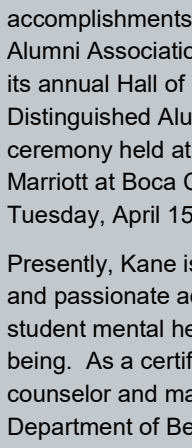
FAU College of Education recognized its faculty and students during the COE Honors and Awards Ceremony held on Friday, May 3, 2025 in ED-119 in the Education building on the Boca Raton Campus.

### Faculty Awards

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



**Michelle Vaughan-McGovern, Ed.D.**, Associate Professor, CI, COE Distinguished Teacher of the Year



**Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, CI, Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching

Elizabeth Villares Sachs, Ph.D., COE Interim Senior Associate Dean, presented College awards to faculty members:

### COE Scholars of the Year

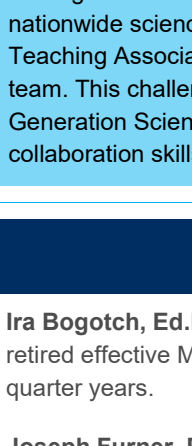


**Cristobal Salinas, Jr., Ph.D.**, Professor, ELMR, *at the Professor level*



**Hannah Bowers Parker, Ph.D.**, LMFT, Associate Professor, CE, *at the Associate Professor level*

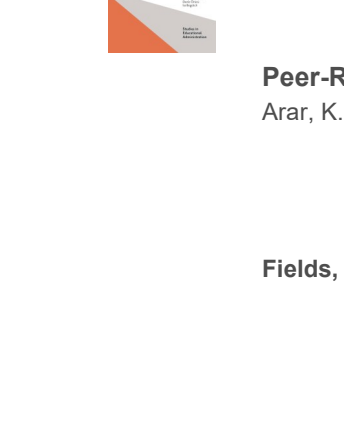
### COE Researcher of the Year



**Ayşe Torres, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, CE, *at the Associate Professor level*

### ADHUS/FAU High School

Joel D. Herbst, Ed.D., Assistant Dean, PK-12 Schools & Educational Programs and Superintendent of FAU Lab Schools (Florida School District 72) honored a faculty and a staff member of A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School:



**Lindsey Wuest** (left), M.S.Ed., K-5 science through art teacher, as the 2026 FAU Lab School District Teacher of the Year

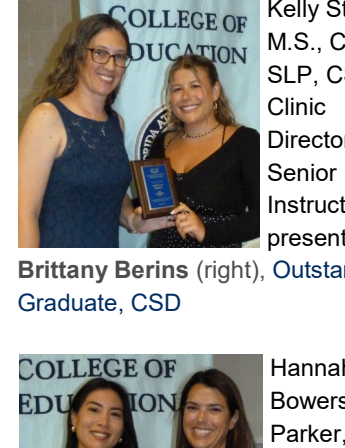


**Tamara Cook, M.S.**, behavior and assessment coordinator, as the FAU District School Related Employee of the Year ... [Read more](#)

### Student Awards

Villares presented the following college-wide award to a student:

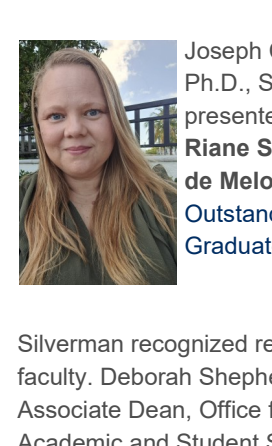
### Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award



**Alicia Haywood, Ph.D.** (right), Curriculum and Instruction Dissertation Title: *Toward Media Literacy Parent Education: Identifying Characteristics of Media Use as Proximal Processes through the Perspectives of Mothers of Adolescents in Current Media Dominant Biocological Structures*. Jillian Powers, Ph.D., CI Associate Professor, was Haywood's dissertation committee chair.

Silverman presented the following college-wide award to a student:

### Dr. Rosanna Gatens Student Award for Outstanding Community Service

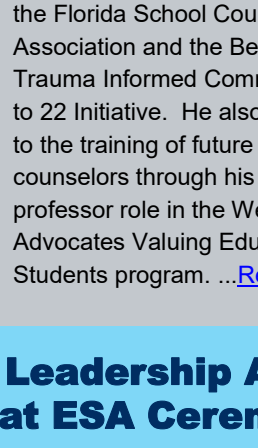


**Sara Pierce, M.A.**, at the Graduate level

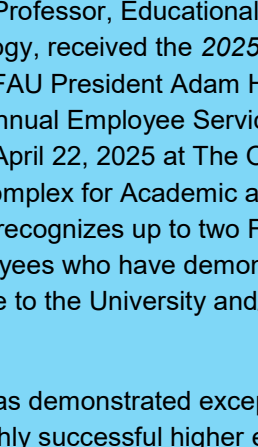
Among the students honored by Chairs or their representatives for academic excellence in their departments were:

### Academic Excellence

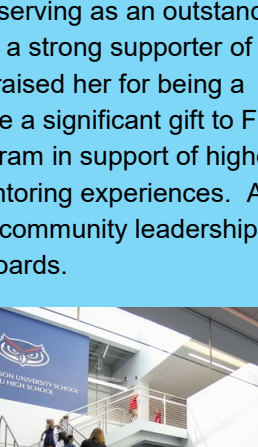
**Kelly Steele, M.S.**, CCC-SLP, CSD Clinic Director and Senior Instructor, presented:



**Brittany Berins** (right), Outstanding Graduate, CSD



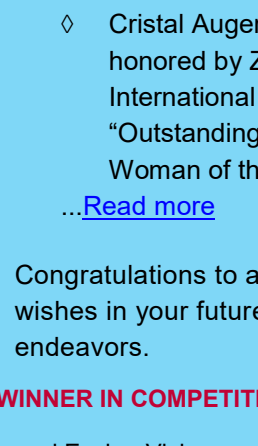
**Hannah Bowers Parker, Ph.D.**, LMFT, CE Associate Professor, presented:



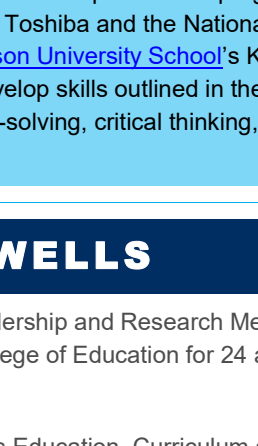
**Maria Alayza** (left), M.S., LMHC, LMFT, NCC, BC-TMH, Outstanding Graduate, CE



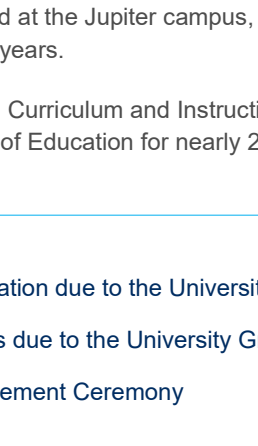
**Michelle Vaughan-McGovern, Ed.D.**, Associate Professor, CI, presented



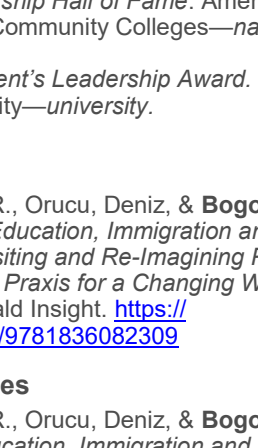
two awards: **Abby Woods** (right), Outstanding Undergraduate, CI



**M.Éd. Soto**, (right), Outstanding Graduate, CI



**Robert Shockley, Ph.D.**, ELMR Chair, presented: **Gary Santos Mendoza**, M.S. (right), Outstanding Graduate, ELMR



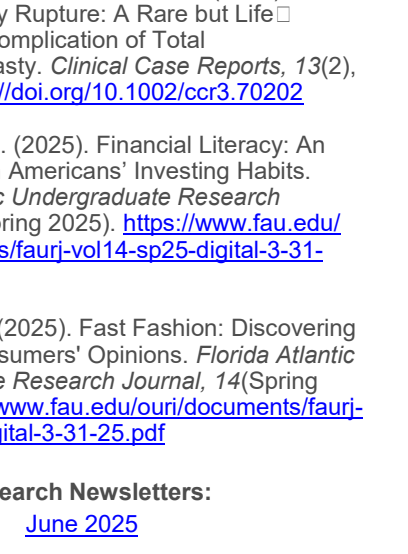
**Joseph C. Gagnon, Ph.D.**, SE Chair, presented: **Riane Santa Cruz de Melo**, Outstanding Graduate, SE

Silverman recognized retiring faculty, Deborah Shepherd, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Office for Academic and Student Services, acknowledged donors and scholarship recipients during the ceremony.

## COE Owl Among FAU Distinguished Alumni

**Michael Kane, Ph.D.**, (left in photo at right), who earned a doctoral degree in Counseling in 2015 from the Department of Counselor Education in Florida Atlantic University's College of Education, receives the Distinguished Alumni award as the 2025 recipient for the COE from Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean. He was one of nine distinguished alumni from FAU Colleges honored for their career accomplishments by the FAU Alumni Association (FAUAA) during its annual Hall of Fame & Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony held at the Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Presently, Kane is an experienced and passionate advocate for student mental health and well-being. As a certified school counselor and manager in the Department of Behavioral and Mental Health for the School District of Palm Beach County, he leads initiatives focused on expanding student access to critical mental health resources. He brings more than 30 years of experience to his role, including service as a school counselor, district administrator and adjunct professor.



Kane's work is driven by a deep commitment to aligning systems and creating new programs that support student mental health in accordance with state statute, the District's mental health framework and the strategic plan for 2022-2027. A recognized leader in his field, Kane founded the Annual Student Mental Health and Wellness Conference, has presented at local, state and national conferences and is actively involved in organizations such as the Florida School Counselor Association and the Becoming a Trauma Informed Community/Birth to 22 Initiative. He also contributes to the training of future school counselors through his adjunct professor role in the Wellness Advocates Valuing Educators and Students program. ... [Read more](#)

## FAU Bestows President's Leadership Award to COE Faculty Member at ESA Ceremony



**Deborah Floyd, Ed.D.**, Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, received the *2025 President's Leadership Award* from FAU President Adam Hasner during the University's Annual Employee Service Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at The Owls Perch in the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence. This award recognizes up to two Florida Atlantic University employees who have demonstrated leadership service of an extraordinary nature to the University and/or the greater community.

According to the award nomination, Floyd has demonstrated exceptional leadership by establishing and leading a highly successful higher education leadership program for 24 years, while also serving as an outstanding academic leader and professor. She is also a strong supporter of university activities and students. President Hasner stretched her for being a philanthropist and especially noted she made a significant gift to Florida Atlantic to establish the Floyd Scholars program in support of higher education Ph.D. students' research and mentoring experiences. Additionally, she has held a number of professional and community leadership positions, including serving on local theatre and arts boards.



## FAU High School Students Honored at MPFI Senior Research Symposium

[Florida Atlantic University High School—Jupiter Campus](#) students were recognized for their achievements at the Senior Research Symposium on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the [Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience](#).

During the symposium, seniors shared posters and oral presentations of their research. This year's graduating class achievements include:

- ◇ **Hannah Epstein**, who was named Undergraduate

Researcher of the Year by FAU's College of Science.

- ◇ **Victoria White**, who received the prestigious Dr. John Samuel Falkner Awards for excellence in physics.
- ◇ **Cristal Auger**, who was honored by Zonta International as their “Outstanding Young Woman of the Year.” ... [Read more](#)

Congratulations to all and best wishes in your future academic endeavors.

## A.D. HENDERSON TEAM NAMED NATIONAL WINNER IN COMPETITION

Among the 2025 first-place winners of the 33rd annual ExploraVision program, a nationwide science competition co-sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA), was [A.D. Henderson University School's](#) K-3 division team. This challenge encourages students to develop skills outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. ... [Read more](#)

## FOND FAREWELLS

**Ira Bogotch, Ed.D.**, Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, retired effective May 2, 2025. He served the College of Education for 24 and three quarter years.

**Joseph Furner, Ph.D.**, Professor of Mathematics Education, Curriculum and Instruction, retired effective Dec. 20, 2024. Based at the Jupiter campus, he served the College of Education for nearly 28 and a half years.

**Hanizah Zainuddin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, retired effective Dec. 20, 2024. She served the College of Education for nearly 26 and a half years.

### Important Dates

#### Students

- July 7—Summer Dissertation due to the University Graduate Dean
- July 14—Summer Thesis due to the University Graduate Dean
- Aug. 5—COE Commencement Ceremony

### Awards

- Floyd, D. (2025). *Leadership Hall of Fame*. American Association of Community Colleges—national.
- Floyd, D. (2025). *President's Leadership Award*. Florida Atlantic University—university.

### Publications



#### Book

Arar, K.H., Crawford, E.R., Orucu, Deniz, & **Bogotch, I.** (2025 May 5). *Education, Immigration and Migration: Revisiting and Re-Imagining Policy, Leadership and Praxis for a Changing World* (2nd ed.) Emerald Insight. <https://doi.org/10.1108/9781836082309>

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Arar, K.H., Crawford, E.R., Orucu, Deniz, & **Bogotch, I.** (5 May 2025). *Education, Immigration and Migration: Revisiting and Re-Imagining Policy, Leadership and Praxis for a Changing World*. Emerald Insight.

**Fields, A. M., Smith Hill, R. B., Lewis, O. J., Castle, M., & Perez, L. M.** (2025). Initial evidence for personal development support for college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Results from a satisfaction survey. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*, 6(2), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.13021/jipe.2024.4105>

**Fields, A. M., Waddington, A. F., Gilreath, R., Castle, M., Schneider, K. M., & Perez, L. M.** (2025). Development and implementation of a counseling professional identity preparation exercise. *Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision*, 19(2). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jcps.12103>

**Fields, A. M., Lewis, O. J., Smith Hill, R. B., Reynolds, M., Gilreath, R. & Castle, M.** (2025). Suicide prevention and intervention for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Considerations for caregivers and helping professionals. *Current Psychology*. Available Online <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-025-07900-1>.

**Floyd, D. L., Salinas, C., & Listerman, K. L.** (2005). Catalyzing equity-centered change: Research, challenge, and issues in community colleges. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 49(4-5), 207-209. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2025.2460422>

Law, R., **Floyd, D. L.**, & Listerman, K. (2025). Resilient stretching: How community college leaders navigate fiscal decision-making during the COVID-19 pandemic era. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 1-16. [online first] <https://doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2024.2429672>

Lawless, C., **Simonitis, L. E.**, Finarelli, J. A., & Hughes, G. M. (2025). Decoding deception: The binding affinity of cuttlefish ink on shark smell receptors. *G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics*, 15(3), jkaf001.

**McMahon, M.** (2025). Noteworthy Science: Guided Notes in 5th Grade Science. *Florida Journal of Educational Research*, 62(1), 2-10. <https://doi.org/10.62798/GXNE2209>

Noventa, S., Heller, J., **Ye, S.**, & Kelava, A. (2025). Toward a unified perspective on assessment models, part II: Dichotomous latent variables. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, 125 (10292), 6.

#### FAU High School students:

Matarazzo, A., Hennkens, C. H., Dunn, J., **Benson, K.**, Willett, Y., Levine, R. S., ... & Kitsantas, P. (2025). New Clinical and Public Health Challenges: Increasing Trends in United States Alcohol Related Mortality. *The American Journal of Medicine*, 138(3), 477-486. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjmed.2024.10.024>

Willett, Y., Meli, G., Meli, P., Lack, B., **Benson, K.**, Kitsantas, P., & Hennkens, C. H. (2025). Popliteal Artery Rupture: A Rare but Life-Threatening Complication of Total Knee Arthroplasty. *Clinical Case Reports*, 13(2), e70202. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ccr3.70202>

**Georgiev, A. & Levy, E.** (2025). Financial Literacy: An Inside Look on Americans' Investing Habits. *Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Research Journal*, 14(Spring 2025). <https://www.fau.edu/ourj/documents/faurj-vol14-sp25-digital-3-31-25.pdf>

**Vignola, A. & Levy, E.** (2025). Fast Fashion: Discovering American Consumers' Opinions. *Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Research Journal*, 14(Spring 2025). <https://www.fau.edu/ourj/documents/faurj-vol14-sp25-digital-3-31-25.pdf>

#### FAU Lab Schools Research Newsletters:

- [May 2025](#)
- [June 2025](#)

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