



# EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VOL.5, ISSUE 4

A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2025

## Welcome Doctoral Students

Florida Atlantic College of Education welcomes all students who were accepted into its graduate and undergraduate programs this past year. Among them are 39 doctoral students in programs offered by three departments:

### CE (Fall 2024 Students)

#### Ph.D. in Counseling

Devin Rohack  
Elisaul Perez

### CI (Fall 2024 Students)

#### Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction

Macie Barrett  
Danielle Brown  
Katelyn DiGirolomo  
Michelle Knecht  
Samantha Lopez  
Linnsey McFerguson  
Marijayne McMahon  
Kimberlee Miller  
Christine Njeru  
Jazly Pizzuti  
Diego Rios

### Jennifer Soberon

Bianca Oliveira  
Christa Oralus  
Savannah Wilkerson  
Amber Mc Cune (Dupree)  
Karen Wallace  
Bryan Valentine

### Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders

Robera Walker  
Donna Baker  
Anthony Valachovic  
Adria Francani-Dooley  
Courtney Rippe  
Audrey Destito-Stutt  
Natalie Baldie  
Asmaa Almutairi

### ELRM (Fall 2024 Students)

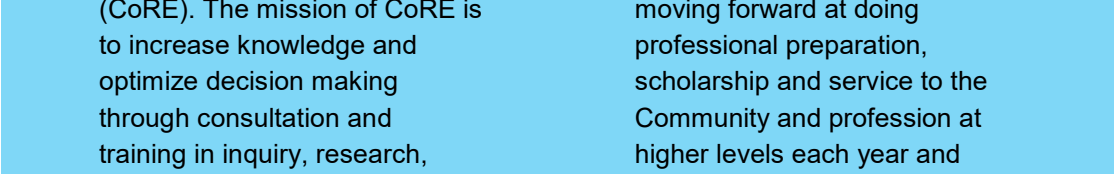
#### Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders

Melissa Conrad  
Laura Aguilar  
Eileen Bustamante  
Nyobee Van Pelt  
Fedilia Guzman  
Danielle Wilson-Gulston

### (Spring 2025 Students)

#### Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders

Sheila Walden  
Wendy Graves  
Allen Currelley  
Alexandra McGarvey  
Emily Chavez Nunez



## COE Establishes Center for Research Excellence

In Spring 2024, the College of Education at Florida Atlantic University established a Center of Research Excellence (CoRE). The mission of CoRE is to increase knowledge and optimize decision making through consultation and training in inquiry, research, evaluation, assessment, and analysis. This mission includes providing consulting services across the university, school districts, and non-profit



organizations.  
**Michael DeDonno, Ph.D.,** associate professor and director of

CoRE oversees the new program.

"Many university campuses have centers/programs like this that provide consulting and teach about data analysis and research," Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., Dean, College of Education. "We are developing this, so it is available to many

more faculty, students and organizations." The Center also serves to support Silverman's vision for the College to "keep moving forward at doing professional preparation, scholarship and service to the Community and profession at higher levels each year and continue to be recognized as one of the top graduate schools of education in the country."

Campus contracts for SPSS and NVINO software have made it possible for this Center to make available statistical software to FAU faculty and graduate students, who use the lab. It is free to COE faculty, staff and students. There is a tiered pricing structure for other colleges across campus, school districts and non-profit organizations.

The Center is located in ED-469, ED-470 and ED-471 on the fourth floor of the Education building on the Boca Raton Campus. For more information, contact DeDonno at [mdedonno@health.fau.edu](mailto:mdedonno@health.fau.edu).

## FAU Secures \$21M Promise Neighborhoods Grant for Broward Up

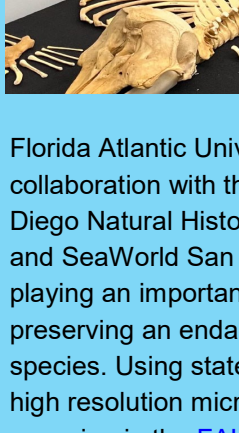
[Florida Atlantic University](#) has received the largest grant in its history: a \$21 million multi-year grant from the United States Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods program. As part of a place-based initiative to transform poverty-concentrated neighborhoods into communities of opportunity, this grant funds the program titled, "Broward Unlimited Potential Promise Neighborhood" (Broward UP), following the lead by [Broward College](#), initial innovator of the project.

Broward UP will link resources, talents and community innovations to address the needs of children from cradle to career. The objective is to ensure all children who grow up in Promise Neighborhoods have access to excellent schools and community support systems, preparing them to successfully transition into college or career pathways. Over the course of the project, Broward UP expects to serve more than 14,655 students and their families in Broward County.

A team of FAU administrators, faculty and research analysts will participate in research-related activities to support the project goals under the leadership of [Gregg Fields](#), Ph.D., principal investigator and FAU vice president for research, including oversight of critical data analytics that will steer the program toward successful outcomes. In addition, a network of community organizations such as the School Board of Broward County, the Children Services Council of Broward County and the Community Foundation of Broward will partner with FAU on the project.

Co-principal investigators of the grant are: Nancy Romance, Ed.D., assistant vice president for STEM Research Initiatives, FAU Division of Research; Jonathan Mahadeo, director of analytics for Broward UP; [Michael DeDonno](#), Ph.D., associate professor and director, Center of Research Excellence (CoRE), FAU College of Education; [Naelys Luna](#), Ph.D., founding dean and professor; [Marianna Colvin](#), Ph.D., associate dean and associate professor; and [David Simpson](#), Ph.D., assistant professor, all with FAU's College of Social Work and Criminal Justice. ...[Read more](#)

## COE Online Master's in Education Moves up in 'U.S. News & World Report' Rankings



The *U.S. News & World Report* Online rankings released on

Feb. 17, 2025 shows FAU College of Education's online master's in education program moved up to No. 46 (tie) in [Best Online Master's in Education Programs](#) nationwide for 2025 up from No. 52 in last year's rankings.

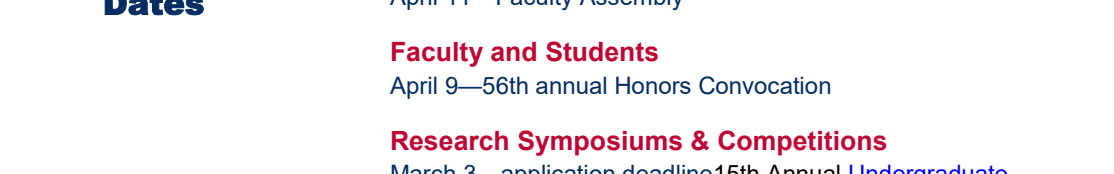
Now in its 15th year, the *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Online Programs" list is a resource for students and working adults who are increasingly seeking online education programs for degree completion and career advancement. Prospective students can use the searchable directory to explore factors such as tuition, program offerings and online services offered to enrolled students. ...[Read more](#)

## COE Faculty/Adjunct Earn ACUE Certification

Faculty and adjunct faculty in the College of Education recognized during Florida Atlantic's Trailblazers in Teaching: ACUE Faculty Certification Ceremony on Jan. 17, 2025, in the Acura Club at the FAU Stadium included the following:

- Brian Nichols, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction (Advanced Credential)
- Sharon M. Darling, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Special Education
- Shernette Dunn, Adjunct, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology

The Office of the Provost held the ceremony to recognize faculty who have successfully earned ACUE certification or the Advanced Credential during the period from January through December 2024 from the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). The nationally recognized Certificate in Effective College Instruction prepares educators to use research-based practices shown to help students succeed. ACUE six-week asynchronous online courses or micros are offered year-round ...[Read more](#)



## Digitizing Hope: Preserving a Species on the Brink of Extinction



Florida Atlantic University in collaboration with the San Diego Natural History Museum and SeaWorld San Diego is playing an important role in preserving an endangered species. Using state-of-the-art, high resolution micro-CT scanning in the [FAU High School Owls Imaging Lab](#), researchers have scanned a full skeleton of a very rare vaquita specimen. ...[Read more](#)

### FAU High School Students Place Second, Tie for People's Choice Award in Art of Science Competition

Addison Manofsky, FAU High School student and Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College undergraduate took second place in the 6th Art of Science photography and videography contest held by the Division of Research for the [The Art of Transgenesis](#) photograph. Fernanda Salomao Del Bianco, FAU High School student tied for the People's Choice award for the [Sense-Sational](#) photograph. Photographs by the Art of Science contest winners will be displayed starting March 11, 2025 in the Ritter Art Gallery on the Boca Raton Campus. ... [Read more](#)

## SABBATICAL SIGHTING

One College of Education faculty member was awarded a sabbatical in Fall 2024:



**Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D.,** Professor, Special Education, at Florida Atlantic University's College of Education, devoted his Fall 2024 sabbatical semester to focus on research and professional service. He coauthored one manuscript and submitted it for publication; worked on revising unfinished manuscripts; initiated working with coauthors to revise third edition textbook, "Single Subject Research: Applications in Educational and Clinical Settings;" and completed the data collection at Camford High School in Coimbatore, India, for his value-added model study.

For professional service, he provided workshops on classroom management, applied behavior analysis, inclusive education for general education teachers and highlighted the unique pearls of special education to Kalaivani College of Education faculty in Coimbatore, India.

Next, Ramasamy was invited to provide a faculty training on teaching strategies to recently recruited faculty members at Coimbatore Institute of Engineering and Technology (CIET). He used his 30 years of university teaching experience at FAU to guide them with large-group lectures and small group discussions, and he guided and practiced the use of technology. Also, he agreed to provide individual faculty guidance on an ongoing basis. One of CIET's students is doing his master's degree in data science in the College of Engineering at FAU and agreed to help CIET connect with FAU's College of Engineering for future collaborations.

In addition, Ramasamy provided staff training to special education teachers across two different Vevekam Matriculation Schools in Coimbatore, India. This weeklong training prepared them to use unique teaching strategies (direct instruction, one-on-one instruction, inquiry learning), highlighted effective classroom management techniques, and incorporated positive behavior support into their daily routine through reinforcement procedures.

### Important Dates

#### Faculty

April 11—Faculty Assembly

#### Faculty and Students

April 9—56th annual Honors Convocation

#### Research Symposiums & Competitions

March 3—application deadline 15th Annual [Undergraduate Research Symposium](#) to be held April 4

March 10 & 11—Florida Atlantic Graduate College [3MT®](#) Preliminary Rounds; March 12 Championship Round

March 12—submission deadline for [2025 Student Publication Ceremony](#) to be held March 19

Mid-late March—submission deadline for [Florida Atlantic Wave Competition Award Ceremony](#) to be held in April

April 10—24th Annual COE [Student Achievement Council \(SAC\) Research Symposium](#), virtual

#### Students

March 10—Dissertation Defense Deadline

March 17—Spring Dissertation due in the Dean's Office

March 28—Choose FAU 8 a.m.—9 a.m.

March 31—Spring Dissertation due to University Graduate Dean

### Awards

**Brown, V.S., Powers, J.R., & Kumar, D.D.** (2025). Awarded 2025 USDLA *Distance Learning/Teaching Award – Gold*. United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). This international award will be presented June 25, 2025 at its national conference in St. Louis, Mo. for the implementation of Robotics Day on FAU Davie as a hyflex event. ...[Read more](#)

### Publications

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Ahn, S., Park, J., & Ye, S. (2025). How AI enhances employee service innovation in retail: Social exchange theory perspectives and the impact of AI adaptability. *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*, 84. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jretconser.2024.104207>

**Brown, V. Powers, J., & Olden, D.\*** (2024). Self-efficacy of experienced faculty adoption of distance learning tools compared to professional development opportunities. *Journal of Distance Learning Administration*, 24(4). <https://ojdla.com/articles/self-efficacy-of-experienced-faculty-adoption-of-distance-learning-tools-compared-to-professional-development-opportunities>

**Foster, M. & Pavek, C.** (2024). Integrating Novel Effect During Read-Alouds: Preliminary Evidence for a Balanced Approach. *Florida Journal of Educational Research*, 61(2). <https://journals.flvc.org/fjer/article/view/137870>

Green, E.\* & **Brown, V.** (2025). The theory and methodology underpinnings of artificial intelligence research for classroom integration a literature review. *Journal of Literacy and Research*, 26(1), 42- 55. [https://literacyandtechnology.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/jlt\\_v26\\_green\\_brown.pdf](https://literacyandtechnology.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/jlt_v26_green_brown.pdf)

\*Ponce, J., \*Kwok, S., \*Moshe, R., & **Emelianchik-Key, K.** (2024). Using Mutual Storytelling as a Broaching Skill: Bridging the Gap when Counseling Older Adults. *The Journal of Creativity in Mental Health Counseling*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15401383.2024.2432249>

Propst Cuevas, A. E., **Bloom, J. L.,** & Warshaw, J. B. (2025). The appreciative campus: Rehumanizing higher education through the appreciative education theory-to-practice framework. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 0, 1-7.

**Schoorman, D.,** & Gatens, R. (2025). Understanding Florida's HB7: A policy of intimidation by confusion. *Educational Policy*, 39(2), 464-493. DOI: 10.1177/08959048241235405. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08959048241235405>

**Wellman, R. L., Henderson, A., Coleman, R., Hill, C., & Davey, B. T.** (2025). Assessment of a youth climate empowerment program: Climate ready. *Geoscience Communication*, 8(1), 1–46. <https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-8-1-2025>

**FAU Lab Schools Research Newsletters:**  
[January 2025](#) [February 2025](#)

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