

DEPARTMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION  
HOOT presents a *Community Outreach Event*

# Coming Together for Students with Exceptionalities

Panel Moderator: Daniely Lins da Silva – DESE Honors in the major (HOOT) student, Founder & Director of a support group for Brazilian families of special needs children living in South Florida Autism activist, and mother of neurodiverse children.

## HOOT - Honoring Outstanding Owl Teachers

*Expanding research and practice to prepare educators for the future.*

**Friday  
OCT 15  
4:30-6:30 PM**

**Connect via ZOOM**  
<https://tinyurl.com/5yk2u592>

**Join Our Guest Panel**

### Abstract

Through empowerment and unison, we can better the life and education of students with disabilities. This moderated panel discussion will address the importance of early intervention, how to prepare yourself for an IEP meeting, roles of the educator-activist, and how teachers can support their community to become more inclusive, as it truly takes a village!

### Agenda:

- 4:30-4:40 Introductions
- 4:40-5:00 My child was diagnosed with a disability. What now? (Riane SantaCruz De Melo)
- 5:00-5:20 How to prepare for an IEP meeting from the inside out. (Fabiola Ana Torrez)
- 5:20-5:40 Beyond the classroom (Kelly Thomas)
- 5:40-6:00 The educator activist (Marissa Kase, Ed.D.)
- 6:00-6:20 Q& A
- 6:20-6:30 Closing & RER/HW Explanation

Free Event

Open to COE students, faculty, staff & interested individuals.

**Riane SantaCruz De Melo**  
FAU alumnus,  
(Former) Broward Early Steps  
Service Coordinator



**Kelly Thomas**  
FAU alumnus,  
School District of Palm Beach  
County Teacher



**Fabiola Ana Torrez-Chalifour**  
Parent Coach & Advocacy  
Coordinator at United Community  
Options of Broward, Palm Beach &  
Mid-Coast Counties UCO, Broward  
Autism Foundation President



**Marissa Kase, Ed.D.**  
School District of Palm Beach  
County Teacher,  
CEC President

If you need a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, contact Sharon Darling at [sdarlin4@fau.edu](mailto:sdarlin4@fau.edu), 561.297.0807 or TTY Relay Station 1.800.955.8770. Please make your needs known as soon as possible, preferably at least four business days prior to the event, to allow sufficient time for effective accommodations.

