



← The inaugural Floyd Scholars were honored in January 2025 with a Presidential Reception at the Eleanor R. Baldwin House. Their mentors, families, faculty, and donors celebrated their achievements. Pictured with Dr. Deborah L. Floyd, *front right*, and Dr. Stacy Volnick, *front left*, a founding donor to the Floyd Scholars Fund, are the six scholars: Marilyn Lopez, *front center*; Row 2 from left: Kelli Listerman, Susan Richard and Francine Coker; Row 3 from left: Enaris Inman and Daniel Cornely.

# Shaping the Future

## of Student Success and Mentoring

In her professional career, Dr. Deborah Floyd has held many titles, among them: professor, dean, vice president, and community college president. But perhaps the title that brings her the most joy is that of mentor.

She credits the power of mentors for supporting her throughout her almost 50 years of academic service, and she has served as a mentor, guiding more than 50 doctoral students through their dissertations to completion.

With that in mind, Dr. Floyd created the Dr. Deborah L. Floyd Scholars Fund, an endowed fund that will support Ph.D. students and mentoring events in the Higher Education Leadership program in the College of Education. Dr. Floyd made a significant gift to launch the fund and is planning to give a legacy gift

of more than a million dollars to impact mentoring and research of Florida Atlantic University's Ph.D. students in perpetuity.

Inspired by Dr. Floyd's vision, other donors joined her in investing in the Floyd Scholars. Last fall, the first six Floyd Scholars were selected, and each will benefit from career and research mentoring while also pledging to "pass it on" and mentor others.

"When I think back on my 50-year career in college and university work, my doctoral studies were just the launching pad of my leadership journey. I am truly indebted to many people who took a risk by supporting me through the good times and challenging ones as I navigated positions of dean, vice president, president, and more," Dr. Floyd said.

“

This is a way for me to launch a fund that will grow during my lifetime and also leave a legacy at Florida Atlantic that focuses on student success and mentoring in higher education. I would not be here had it not been for those before me who spent time coaching and mentoring me as an academic and leader.”

—DR. DEBORAH FLOYD



Dr. Floyd invites others to invest in the Floyd Scholars fund and support higher education leaders who aspire to make a difference in academics and leadership in colleges and universities.

Obtaining a doctoral degree, no matter which area of focus a student chooses, includes research, and each Floyd Scholar is mentored by a research scholar as well as a career mentor. Many of the doctoral candidates will move on to their own careers in higher education, impacting higher education in South Florida and nationwide.

Dan Cornely, one of the inaugural Floyd Scholars, oversees Florida Atlantic's top-ranked Sport

Management program in the College of Business. That program produces future leaders of the sport industry, and students within the program have roles in all of South Florida's major sports organizations, including the Panthers, Dolphins, Miami Heat, Florida Marlins, and Inter Miami.

Cornely's research aims to enhance the effectiveness of sport management programs in preparing students for their careers.

You, too, have the power to create a legacy that transforms the lives of countless deserving students. Contact Kristina Gregg at [k.gregg@fau.edu](mailto:k.gregg@fau.edu) today to discuss the impact you want to make at Florida Atlantic.



From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Floyd for this incredible honor. Being named an inaugural Floyd Scholar is a testament to the values of leadership, mentorship, and dedication that Dr. Floyd embodies."

—DAN CORNELY



**R1**

## Florida Atlantic University Has Achieved the Pinnacle of Research Excellence

In 2025, the Carnegie Foundation Classification of Institutions of Higher Education designated Florida Atlantic as **R1: Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production—the most prestigious research accolade in the country**. This distinction highlights Florida Atlantic's commitment to excellence in research and education, attracting world-class faculty, top-tier students, new funding sources, and global collaboration.

# You Can Make a Difference at Any Age

As you navigate through the different decades of your life, you have opportunities to consider these different giving opportunities that may align with your goals and values.

## In your 50s

- Share the life-changing power of education with future generations through **a gift in your will or living trust**. It won't affect your current finances!

## In your 60s

- Create a dependable stream of lifetime income for yourself or a loved one with **a gift that pays you income**. What's left of your gift will uplift students, advance medical research, and protect our vibrant environment.
- Transform your **retirement plan** or **life insurance policy** into an impactful gift by adding Florida Atlantic University Foundation as a beneficiary. Contact your plan administrator to get started.

## In your 70s

- If you are 70½ or older, **make a gift from your IRA** directly to the Florida Atlantic University Foundation and avoid paying income taxes on the money. Contact us for details.
- Establish **a gift that pays you income** with a tax-free distribution from your **IRA**. Special rules apply, so contact us to learn more.

## In your 80s, 90s and beyond

- If you choose to carry on your values through any of these legacy gifts, please **share your plans with us**. That way, we can take the necessary steps to ensure we carry out your wishes.



## A Gift for You

Because you are a valued member of the Florida Atlantic community, we want to send you a FREE resource, *Estate Planning You Can Do at Home*, to help you organize your plans. **Simply return the enclosed card to request yours today or scan the QR code at left for immediate access!**

# Supporting Excellence

The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is grateful for the planned gift Dr. Elizabeth E. Force, *at right*, made to the college to establish the Dr. Elizabeth Force Chair for Healthcare Research Endowment. This fund will support the salary of a national leader in nursing research within the College and reinforce the College's vision to develop nursing knowledge with a strong foundation in the science of caring.







# Give the Gift of Education

Few things can be more rewarding than transforming a life through education and opportunity.

By establishing a scholarship or contributing to an existing scholarship fund, you can give deserving students the chance to pursue a degree without the stress of debt.

Your gift could be the determining factor in whether a student can even attend Florida Atlantic University. Thanks to you, they will have access to educational opportunities and unique experiences that can translate into world-changing careers and callings.

## Setting Up a Scholarship Is Easier Than You Think

The best part? You can make this momentous difference without cash. Consider the following methods:

- 1 Leave **a gift to the Florida Atlantic University Foundation in your will or living trust.**
- 2 Make us a **beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy** that you no longer need.
- 3 Recommend **grants from your donor advised fund.**
- 4 Give **appreciated assets**, such as stock.

## What Will a Scholarship Do?

- **Make education accessible.** Tuition aid often plays a major role in whether a student can attend Florida Atlantic and have the kind of experience that has enriched the lives of so many.
- **Attract hard-working, dedicated students.** You'll help create a campus full of brilliant minds who can focus on their studies and worry less about paying off loans.
- **Teach generosity.** Students who receive a scholarship see firsthand how philanthropy can shape a person's life. It may ignite a lifetime commitment to giving back.
- **Honor a loved one or mentor.** Endowed scholarships are a meaningful way to honor a person who had a profound impact on your student life or career. Your tribute will last far into the future.

## Take the Next Step

We would be honored to help you secure your legacy at Florida Atlantic and empower future generations through your gift. Contact Kristina Gregg to start transforming lives today.





↑ Friends, new and old, gathered at the 2025 Horizon Society Luncheon at Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club. Pictured are College of Business alumni and friends, from left, Geoff Thomas '71, Dick Schmidt '70, Tom Workman '71, Maureen Workman, College of Business Dean Daniel Gropper, and Darryl Hinkle '69.

## 2025 Horizon Society Luncheon

Each year, the Florida Atlantic University Foundation holds a luncheon to honor members of the Horizon Society. This generous group of caring individuals have made commitments within their estate plans to support a strong and vibrant future for Florida Atlantic University, our students and community.

Stewart Martin '89, and his wife, Wendy, were welcomed into the Horizon Society at the 2025 luncheon. They have gifted Stewart's life insurance policy to the Florida Atlantic University Foundation. The policy will eventually add \$500,000 to their endowed scholarship fund, which supports scholarships for first-generation student athletes and for students who are active military or military veterans.

▶ If you have chosen to include a gift to Florida Atlantic within your estate, please contact us so we can welcome you as a new Horizon Society member.



↑ Stewart and Wendy Martin



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
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Florida Atlantic University President Adam Hasner and First Lady Jillian Hasner ↑

SUMMER 2025

## Introducing President Adam Hasner and First Lady Jillian Hasner

Adam Hasner serves as Florida Atlantic University's eighth president. Raised in Palm Beach County, he has spent decades championing his "hometown university" and holds student success as his top priority.

President Hasner leads the University's six campuses from Fort Lauderdale to Fort Pierce where he's turning regional strengths into national achievements in areas such as ocean science and engineering, neuroscience, artificial intelligence and human health.

"I am honored to serve as President of Florida Atlantic University, leading this dynamic institution as we advance our mission to promote student success and drive innovative research that tackles some of our region's most urgent challenges. Throughout our careers, my wife, Jillian, and I have been passionate advocates for education across Florida. We are excited to continue that work by serving Florida Atlantic's students, supporting our community, and contributing to the progress of our great state."

President Hasner's service to Florida Atlantic began decades before his recent appointment to lead the University. From 2002 to 2010, he proudly served in the Florida House of Representatives, including two terms as House Majority Leader. During his tenure

he championed several key projects for Florida Atlantic, many which contributed to the recent awarding of Carnegie R1 top-tier research institution to the university. Those include securing funding to establish the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, which welcomed its inaugural class in 2011. He also played a pivotal role in securing \$43 million to construct the Engineering East building on Florida Atlantic's Boca Raton campus.

Jillian Hasner shares her husband's passion for education. Since 2015, she has served as president and CEO of Take Stock in Children, a statewide program that helps at-risk, and low-income students achieve their dreams by providing scholarships and mentoring. As a highly accomplished nonprofit executive, she also has been involved with the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Leadership Florida, the United States Global Leadership Coalition, and the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Southern District.

"Jillian and I extend our thanks to the dedicated members of the Horizon Society for your support of Florida Atlantic. Your generosity creates a lasting legacy that will benefit students for generations to come."