



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

College of Education

Floyd Scholars Impact Report

Dr. Deborah L. Floyd Scholars Fund

2024 – 2025



In just two years, the Floyd Scholars Fund at Florida Atlantic University has made a tremendous difference in the success of emerging higher education leaders and scholars through financial support and mentoring. Thanks to donors like you, 11 Floyd Scholars have received \$24K in financial assistance for research and have been personally mentored by 21 research scholars and leaders. Each Floyd Scholar continues to honor their pledge of “passing it on” and mentoring others.

Mentored. Supported. Inspired. Then we pass it on.

Almost **100** donors, including
49 Founders' gifts of



More than **\$225K**
donor support and a

\$1.2M

legacy gift, in endowment
and current use funds



2

Floyd Scholars
conferred with
their Ph.D.
degrees in 2025.



21 leaders and scholars
mentored and guided



11 Floyd
Scholars

Mentoring - The Heart of the Program

Floyd Scholar mentors are higher education leaders and scholars coming from top universities and colleges across eight states. As part of their mentorship, Floyd Scholars joined almost 100 mentors and students at the annual Scholars' Mentoring Dinners, providing them with an opportunity to connect, share experiences,

advance their research and receive guidance and mentorship from successful leaders and scholars.

The Floyd Scholars also give back. In the spirit of "passing it on," they have served as peer mentors to dozens of other graduate students. Each of the two Floyd Scholar graduates will serve as mentors to incoming Floyd Scholars.



"As a proud Ph.D. graduate, I am honored to mentor Floyd Scholars and to invest in their successes. I have deep gratitude for Dr. Floyd and her commitment to student achievement. Supporting this innovative program with my time and resources is deeply meaningful to me. In just two short years, I am so impressed with the remarkable progress and growth of Floyd Scholars. The program's future is full of promise and opportunity. I am excited to see how Floyd Scholars will continue to shape the field of higher education leadership."

Stacy Volnick, Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Florida Atlantic University

Our Scholars

2024-25 Inaugural Floyd Scholars



Dr. Dan Cornely '25 Leads the MBA in Sport Management program at Florida Atlantic. The focus of his dissertation was about sports management and career services in universities.

“Your contributions empower students to thrive, network, and become leaders in their fields. The ripple effect of your investment shapes a brighter future for higher education.” – Dr. Dan Cornely

Dr. Marlynn Lopez '25 serves as the Director for the Weppner Center for LEAD and Service-Learning at Florida Atlantic. The focus of her dissertation was student affairs leadership and Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

“It is immeasurable the impact the Floyd Scholars program has had on my life and will continue to have as I now transition to return the gesture for those who dare to dream.” – Dr. Marlynn Lopez



Francine Coker is deeply committed to being a welcoming leader and “passing it on” as a mentor to others, both as a scholar and at the University of Miami.



Enaris A. Inman takes an active role in mentoring Ph.D. students – sharing how to thrive in the program, drawing on his leadership experience at Daytona State College.



Kelli J. Listermann shines through her publications, teaching, and editorial work with the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice* and as a mentor of graduate students at Florida Atlantic.



Susan E. Richard shares her athletic advising expertise through guidance and mentoring of higher education master's students at Florida Atlantic.

2025-26 Floyd Scholars



Nelson Omar Barahona Jr., is an enthusiastic advocate for students and actively involved in campus life, serving as staff and an instructor at Florida Atlantic.



Jordan DiPentima is deeply invested in providing leadership and oversight of programs that involve students, families, mentors, and the community at Florida Atlantic.



Fedilia Guzman is a successful philanthropy professional with the Broward College Foundation who is passionate about the impact of education on communities and individuals.



Amber Mc Cune is committed to making a difference, especially with first-generation college students, providing support and guidance to fully online freshman at Florida Atlantic.



Sita Ramnarace is a caring professional who values the transformative power of education and student success at the College of Education at Florida Atlantic.



The Floyd Scholars Fund aims to continue fostering a community of support for higher education student success by:

- Increasing funding for students to travel to research conferences and for events and convenings to engage with scholars and career mentors.
- Continuing to connect Floyd Scholars with higher education leaders and researchers, who are committed to mentoring and nurturing scholars through their studies and careers.
- Actively engaging Florida Atlantic alumni and leaders in the Floyd Scholars program as mentors and supporters.
- Expanding Floyd Scholars' mentoring activities, ties with the Florida Atlantic Mentoring Project, and partnerships within the university and local community.

Thank you!



The Floyd Scholars Fund has already changed lives. These emerging leaders are advancing research, developing new perspectives, and preparing to take on roles where their influence will extend to institutions, colleagues, and learners across the country.

Your generosity is the reason their journeys are possible. As they continue to grow and succeed, the reach of your investment will multiply, touching lives well beyond the scholars themselves and leaving an enduring mark on higher education.

“The Floyd Scholars program provides me with the opportunity to give back in the name of a scholar practitioner who had a significant impact on my educational and professional journey, while at the same time passing all I learned from Dr. Floyd to the next generation through mentoring a current Floyd Scholar.”

Larry Faerman, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs, Florida Atlantic University

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For more information,
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