



Schmidt College of Science

TIDES (Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM) Scholars

TIDES (Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM) Institute was launched by the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) to provide professional development opportunities to help:

- Develop and implement curricula that will enhance the interests, competency, and retention rates of underrepresented STEM students
- Empower STEM faculty to adopt culturally sensitive pedagogies and sustain the necessary changes in practice required for relevant and inclusive STEM teaching

This workshop will showcase what three TIDES scholars from the College of Science, Dr. Lilah Besser, Dr. Lana Jones, and Sheryl van der Heiden, have learned from the 2021 TIDES Institute in integrating diversity and equity in STEM curricula. The workshop will also reflect upon how their own teaching, research, and program coordinating experience has elevated the role of diversity and equity in enhancing students' perspective taking skills, cultural awareness and competence, and social responsibility in the STEM disciplines.

Dr. Lilah Besser



Dr. Besser's research interests focus on the intersection between neighborhoods, the built environment, aging, and health. Dr. Besser states that "The TIDES Institute emphasized the importance of self-reflection and perseverance in our work on DEI in STEM education. With my fellow FAU TIDES scholars, I learned from peers and mentors about common barriers in DEI work and some resources, strategies, and examples that could be employed to address our DEI goals."

Dr. Lana Jones



Dr. Jones is an instructor and the communications coordinator for the Department of Psychology. Dr. Jones states, "One thing that resonated with me during the TIDES experience was that DEI work can be challenging and may be met with resistance. However, we must embrace our patience and maintain our motivation to affect the kind of change that is absolutely needed."

Sheryl van der Heiden



Mrs. van der Heiden is an instructor with the Department of Biology. Over the last year she collaborated with COCE to build the fully online lecture and lab courses for Life Science. Since many students take this course to fulfil the IFP, Sheryl anticipated the TIDES institute would offer her specific strategies, outlining how to engage her large class of diverse students with relatively low levels of science acumen. Though scarce on defined methodologies, Sheryl found attending the TIDES conference an energizing experience. "The TIDES speakers expressed rich personal perspectives that highlighted many universal conflicts and constraints that students experience, coming from different cultures and socioeconomic classes. TIDES gave me a deeper grasp of the multifaceted problem and the resolve to take part in finding successful DEI strategies in teaching life science."