



FLORIDA ATLANTIC
**DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026





A message from the Vice President for Student Affairs ***Larry Faerman, Ph.D.***

As we reflect on the past year, we recognize it as a period of significant transition, achievement, and preparation for the future. It was a year marked by change at the highest levels of the institution, as we welcomed a new university president whose vision and leadership are helping to shape an exciting new chapter for our campus community.

This year also represented the successful conclusion of our current university strategic plan. The accomplishments realized through this plan are a testament to the dedication, innovation, and collaboration of faculty, staff, and students across the institution. Within the Division of Student Affairs, we are proud of the meaningful contributions we have made toward advancing student success, engagement, well-being, and belonging. As we celebrate these achievements, we are equally energized by the opportunity to help launch the university's next strategic plan and to develop a new divisional strategic plan that will align our work with the institution's evolving priorities and aspirations.

While the year was not without challenges, our community consistently demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to students. Together, we navigated complex circumstances, addressed emerging needs, and transformed obstacles into opportunities for growth and innovation. What stands out most is not the challenges themselves, but the extraordinary ways in which our staff rose above them to create positive outcomes and meaningful experiences for our students.

Throughout this report, you will see evidence of that commitment reflected in programs, services, partnerships, and initiatives that have strengthened the student experience and supported student achievement. These accomplishments are the direct result of a talented and dedicated team that places students at the center of everything they do.



On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs Leadership Team, I extend my sincere gratitude to every staff member who contributed their expertise, passion, and care throughout the year. Your efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of our students and have positioned the division for continued success as we move forward.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism and purpose. Guided by new leadership, informed by the lessons of the past year, and inspired by the possibilities before us, we remain committed to fostering an exceptional student experience and advancing the mission of the university.

Thank you for your dedication, partnership, and belief in the transformative power of the student experience.

Sincerely,

Larry Faerman, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs



TOP 100
PUBLIC
UNIVERSITY
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 6** Core Values
- 8** Onboarding Our New Class
Sense of Belonging
- 12** Connecting Throughout the Year
Sense of Belonging
- 16** The Safety Net
Health and Wellbeing
- 20** Promoting Healthy Habits
Health and Wellbeing
- 24** Experiential Learning
Career Readiness
- 28** Moving From College to Career
Career Readiness
- 32** Professional Development
Staff Success
- 36** Behind the Scenes: People and Processes
Staff Success
- 40** Overall Impact



STUDENT AFFAIRS CORE VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Division of Student Affairs fosters success through cultivating a sense of belonging, supporting wellbeing practices, and creating opportunities for career skill development.

VISION STATEMENT:

We create a transformational experience that prepares students to lead in an ever-changing global environment.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS:

The Personal and Professional Skills are based on the NACE Career Readiness Skills and the Dimensions of Wellbeing. Measuring these skills helps the Division showcase how students are learning during their collegiate experience.

We're All About Students

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

 CAREER AND SELF DEVELOPMENT

 TEAMWORK

 COMMUNICATION

 LEADERSHIP

 TECHNOLOGY

 CRITICAL THINKING

 PROFESSIONALISM

 WELLNESS

ONBOARDING OUR NEW CLASS

CENTRALIZED CHECK-IN

Housing and Residential Education reimagined our Fall check-in as an **experience rather than just a process.**

The goal was simple: creating an efficient, safe process that builds off of SOAR (Student Orientation, Academics, and Resources), connects families to Florida Atlantic, and sets the tone for the year.

Families began at the FAU Recreation and Fitness Center, where housing staff, campus partners, and even Owlsley welcomed each student and their supporters. With clear signage, organized check-in stations, and a steady flow of arrivals, the experience was seamless. There were FAU-branded selfie stations, opportunities for parents to write postcards to their Owl, and if you felt a little nervous, Nala, the FAUPD therapy dog, was on hand for pets.



NALA
FAUPD THERAPY DOG

Among more than 870 family members who responded to a post-move-in survey, 82% reported feeling warmly welcomed, and 84% shared that staff were readily available to assist.

Families described the experience as “welcoming,” “organized,” and “easy,” and shared stories of staff who went out of their way to help and made them feel at home from the start.

Centralized move-in is more than a process. It’s a collaborative effort that reflects the heart of our division: showing up, working together, and ensuring every student’s first day feels like the beginning of something special.



PRESIDENT ADAM HASNER AND FIRST LADY JILLIAN HASNER SHARE A PHOTO OP WITH NEW OWLS

3,967
First Year
Orientation Attendance

2,916
First Year
Family Members Reserved

700
Transfer Orientation
Reserved

3,299 First Time in College Convocation Attendance

FIRST SATURDAY IN PARADISE

Before a student ever steps into a classroom,
they are already asking the question:

"Do I belong here?"



First Saturday is our answer.

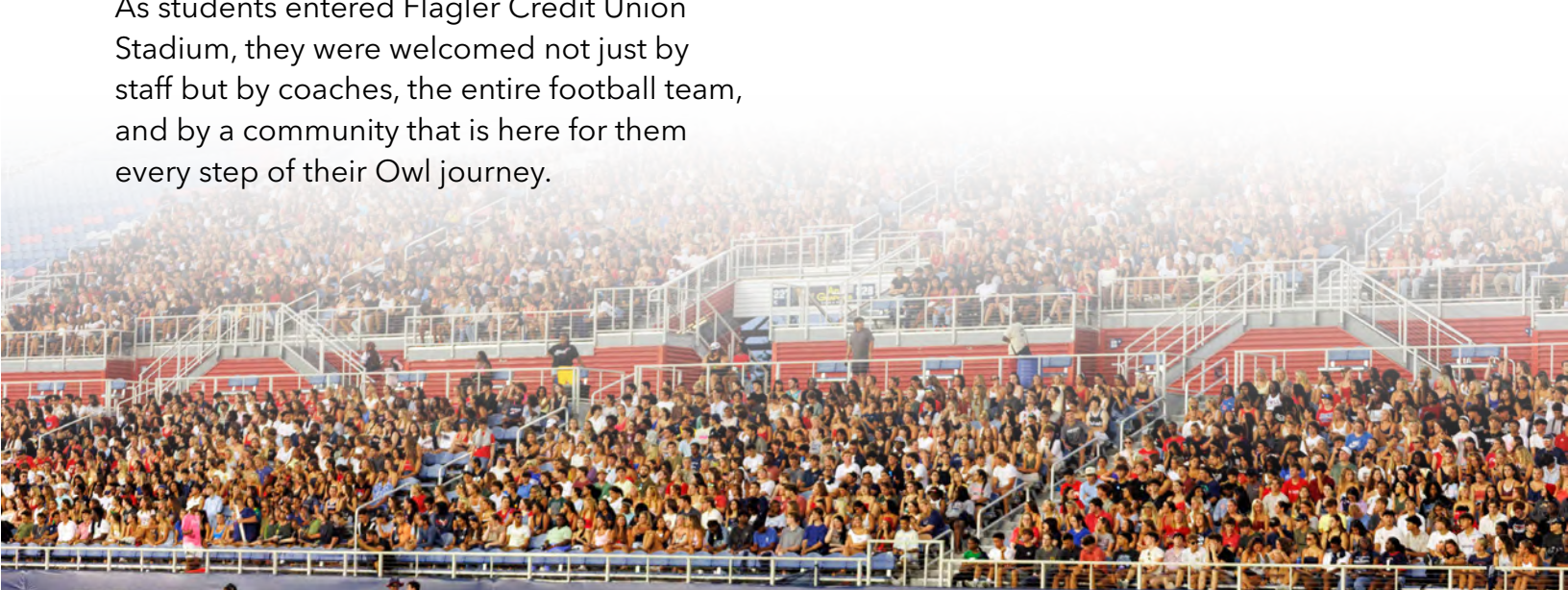
What began as Phase 3 of orientation has grown into something more intentional and more reflective of who we are and what we want our students to become at Florida Atlantic. This year, we reimagined the experience to meet the needs of our incoming students, not only First Time in College but also our Transfer population, to ensure they felt like a part of the Owl family. Athletics was not adjacent; they were fully integrated. The stadium became more than a venue; it became a front door.

As students entered Flagler Credit Union Stadium, they were welcomed not just by staff but by coaches, the entire football team, and by a community that is here for them every step of their Owl journey.

Our message was clear and consistent:

Get involved now, find your people early, and understand that your engagement here directly connects to where you are going in the future.

First Saturday is not just a mandatory event; it is a launch point for success. It provides the connection, energy, and direction for the student's first Saturday and others to come. Because belonging is not something we hope students find later. It is something we create from their first Saturday on campus.



"I believe that I will fit in
at Florida Atlantic"

88%

"I made the right choice to
attend Florida Atlantic"

90%

"I will succeed as a
Florida Atlantic Student"

96%

FROM FIRST SATURDAY IN PARADISE SURVEY



“
First Saturday in Paradise was a great welcome event and really helped me feel more connected to the FAU community... It definitely got me excited for the semester ahead.
”

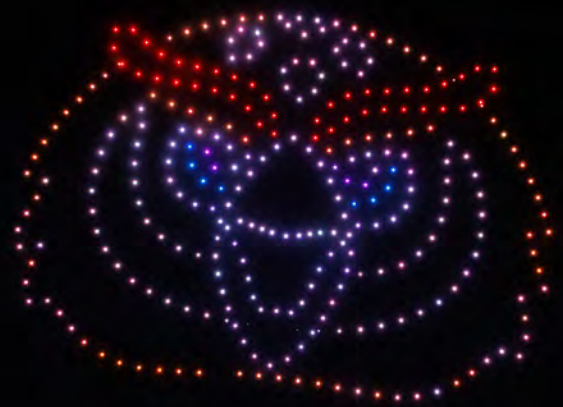
“

I had a great time seeing the carnival rides, going to the concession stand, watching the cheer team and the marching band.

The football team was very cool too, and hearing the faculty speak inspired me to become more involved.

I also liked the drone show a lot, I had never seen anything like that before in my life.

”



CONNECTING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

PROGRAMS AND TRADITIONS

AUGUST

Rave at the Rec kicked off the year with over 1000 students roller skating, connecting, and enjoying the Recreation and Fitness Center.

SEPTEMBER

The annual **Bonfire** featuring Sexy Red sold out with 3,700 tickets requested within five hours of the announcement. Students flooded the Student Union to kick off the start to the football season.

OCTOBER

During **Owl Family Weekend**, we hosted over 1,000 family members at events including a Wine and Cheese Night, Tailgate with Alumni, and a trip to the FAU Astronomical Observatory.

NOVEMBER

The signature event of **Homecoming** at Jupiter is **Carniv-OWL**. This year, we brought students from the Boca Raton campus up to Jupiter to join the fun at their most widely attended event, with 489 student attendees.



BONFIRE MUSIC FESTIVAL



OWL FAMILY WEEKEND



CARNIV-OWL



LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST

DECEMBER

Late Night Breakfast was hosted on both the Boca Raton and Jupiter Campuses, with hundreds of students turning up for food, dancing, and community.



CAREER FAIR

JANUARY

The Council of Student Organizations (COSO) hosted their largest **Spring Owl Involved** with over 100 student organizations signed up to engage with the campus community all around the theme of World Cup.

FEBRUARY

Time to connect with employers! We hosted our largest career Fair, **The Florida Atlantic Career Fair**, with 772 students and alumni attending and 92 employers representing 32 industries.



FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

MARCH

Festival of Nations continued as a way to celebrate the many backgrounds of students at Florida Atlantic. Across all campuses, over 500 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended these events, with food, cultural dancing, crafts, and community.



THE LAST HOOT

APRIL

475 students attended **The Last Hoot**, our signature closing of the year event with games, inflatables, and food. What a way to cap off the year!

MENTORING PROGRAMS

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Mentoring

Population:
Students who are registered with SAS for accommodations

Type:
Staff-to-Student Group Mentoring

Focus:
Socialization, Integrating with Campus, Learning Skills

96% of attendees found the meetings “somewhat helpful” or “very helpful”

32 students involved as Mentees

Wilkes Honors College Peer Mentor Program

Population:
First Year Students in the Wilkes Honors College

Type:
Peer-to-Peer Group Mentoring

Focus:
Sense of Belonging, Campus Resources, Building Relationships

84% of mentees felt that having a mentor helped them fit in at Wilkes Honors College

199 students involved as Mentees or Mentors

First Year Connections

Population:
FTIC students in their first semester

Type:
Peer-to-Peer 1:1 Mentoring

Focus:
Transitioning to FAU, Campus Resources, Staying Balanced

82% of mentees who responded to the surveys felt comfortable at Florida Atlantic

1,019 students involved as Mentees or Mentors

Transfer Connections

Population:
Transfer students in their first semester

Type:
Staff-to-Student 1:1 Mentoring

Focus:
Transitioning to FAU, Campus Resources, Decoding College

76% of mentees who responded to the surveys felt supported at Florida Atlantic

703 students involved as Mentees or Mentors



My mentor always gave me great advice on college life and balancing being a student and worker.
- Honors Peer Leader Program Participant

This program not only connected me with someone I relate to, but it also helped me better integrate into FAU.
- Transfer Connections Mentee



BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH GAMES

The eSports Arena and Gaming Center has become a true home away from home for many students. Stop by the Student Union just before noon, and you'll find students gathering in the lobby, eagerly waiting for the doors to open. While the center features 30 Lenovo Legion gaming PCs, many students gravitate toward the social side of gaming—playing pool, ping-pong, board games, Magic: The Gathering, dominoes, and console favorites like Super Smash Bros.

This spring, the Arena partnered with Owl TV to launch a streaming station, expanding opportunities to showcase events and competitions, including the Owl Cup. Nearly 2,000 students used the gaming PCs or checked out equipment through the program this year, with many returning week after week. As the Student Union serves as the campus living room, the eSports Arena and Gaming Center provides a welcoming space where students can connect, build community, and spend time with friends.



9/11 MEMORIAL AND STADIUM STAIR CLIMB

On September 11, 2025, over 250 campus and community partners participated in a 9/11 ceremony at FAU's Flagler Credit Union Stadium, co-hosted by the Military and Veterans Student Success Center, FAU Police Department, and the FAU ROTC. The event began with an opening ceremony, reflection, and moment of silence. Immediately after, participants transitioned to the inaugural FAU 9/11 Stadium Stair Climb, an exhaustive 10-round, 2,050-step ascent, symbolizing the 110 floors First Responders ascended in the World Trade Center towers. All participants started together at 8:46 a.m., when the first World Trade Center was struck. The event paid tribute to the people who lost their lives that day, while also helping connect our students, faculty, and staff.

THE SAFETY NET

THE GERSTNER HELPING HANDS GRANT

In May 2025, Case Management received the Gerstner Helping Hands Grant, a one-time financial assistance program designed to support individuals facing short-term, unexpected emergencies. Students can receive up to \$3,000 to address urgent needs that threaten stability, such as housing, utilities, or medical expenses.

The grant is administered through a structured eligibility process requiring a verified emergency, an allowable expense, and a clear path to recovery. Students meet with Case Management to determine eligibility and ensure that the grant will meet a need. Funds are typically paid directly to third-party providers to ensure proper use. The program prioritizes equitable, efficient distribution and requires thorough documentation and recordkeeping to ensure compliance, accountability, and effective support for students to regain stability.

The work doesn't stop after funds are disbursed; Case Management follows up with students who need additional support to help them stay on track to graduate.

43 STUDENTS
served in
Spring 2026

\$71,210
awarded



I am writing to sincerely thank you for awarding me the Gerstner Grant. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and for the support it provides toward my academic journey.

Receiving this grant is both an honor and a motivation for me to continue striving for excellence in my studies. I deeply appreciate the investment being made in my education and future. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

— TR (Student Recipient)

SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

2,302
Total Unique Students
Served in Clinic

2,097 First Appointments

544 Crisis Appointments

300 Assessments Appointments

2,109
Total Unique Students
Served in Relaxation Room

96%
reported being **very satisfied** with CAPS services

89%
agreed that CAPS has **positively impacted**
their academic experience

91%
reported that CAPS services
reduced overall distress

“With some guidance from my peers, I finally went [to CAPS]. My mental health and overall wellbeing has drastically improved over the past few months and I think my freshman year here at FAU would’ve been completely different had I not gone to therapy.

— CAPS Client”

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES (SHS)

96%
agreed "the services I received made it easier for
me to **achieve my academic goals**"

100%
said "**I would recommend** SHS to fellow students"

100%
agreed "the information provided by my provider
has **helped me manage my health**"

“The service is tailored towards academic achievement without forgetting that we are people too. Super happy with the appointment and looking forward to coming back for my follow-up!

— SHS Client”

8,407
Medical Clinic Visits

5,013 Number of Labs Performed In-House

3,411 Number of Free STI Screenings

1,295 Number of Free HIV Screenings

6,617 Number of Unique (Unduplicated) Patients

HAZING PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Over the course of this year, Florida Atlantic has taken meaningful steps to promote transparency, accountability, and community well-being in compliance of the **Federal Stop Campus Hazing Act**, signed into law in December 2024. This includes developing a comprehensive, university-wide Hazing Policy. In addition, a new Hazing Prevention and Education website has been developed and is housed on the Vice President for Student Affairs webpage. Student Affairs expanded its hazing prevention and education efforts through presentations, online training, targeted conversations, and campus-wide programming.

Dean of Students staff facilitated targeted conversations with Athletics' coaches, administrators, and support staff to recognize, prevent, and interrupt hazing behaviors.

Approximately 2,300 students participated in the Hazing Prevention Summit.

Additionally, 2,600+ students completed online training modules through Prevent Zone by AliveTek. These modules included Hazing Prevention 101: Student Edition, with specific modules for Fraternity & Sorority Life, Athletics, and Creative & Performing Arts organizations.

More than 50 faculty and staff completed an employee-focused hazing prevention module in partnership with Human Resources.

These efforts were made possible through cross-divisional collaboration of Student Activities and Involvement, Owls Care Health Promotion, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Athletics, Campus Recreation, the Weppner Center for LEAD and Service-Learning, and the Dean of Students office, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering a safe and respectful campus community.



iLEAD

2025 Student Leadership Conference
Launching Leaders from your Florida Atlantic Command Center

GREEK UNIVERSITY

Integrating Greek University into iLead: Advancing Belonging, Leadership, and Student Success

Greek University is a part of the introductory experience for new members of the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) community, many of whom are also new students navigating their transition to Florida Atlantic. This year, Greek University was fully integrated into the iLead Conference in Fall 2025, since both events emphasized personal responsibility and community well-being. **Over 330 new Greek Students attended the event.** The integrated model supported students in understanding their roles as leaders and in making healthy choices in their new organizations. Sessions were concise, high-impact, interactive, and focused on leadership development, career readiness, hazing prevention, and alcohol harm reduction.

Overall, the event was well received, and even initially hesitant participants became active contributors through the interactive learning experiences. At the end, **99% of participants reported stronger decision-making skills and confidence as upstanders.** Overall, the congruence between the two events led members to be more confident in their leadership potential and their ability to make healthy choices in challenging situations.



The teamwork aspect, being part of Greek life, I think it's good to know how to be supportive and successful together.

- iLead Attendee

I learned the importance of stepping up against hazing and what to do if you witness someone intoxicated by alcohol.

- iLead Attendee

PROMOTING HEALTHY HABITS



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

For the past four years, the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (SCCR) has intentionally shifted its focus toward proactive conflict management, helping students build the skills needed to navigate challenges before they escalate. The Holistic Conflict Management Framework is a six-step approach that teaches students how stress, belonging, emotional intelligence, and communication shape conflict experiences. Through trainings, **more than 1,000 students** are learning practical strategies such as **collaboration, de-escalation, and emotional regulation**; skills that contribute to healthier relationships and stronger campus communities.

The feedback is clear, with **96% of respondents** stating they were able to demonstrate an **accurate application of conflict management strategies after instruction**. In addition, 92% reported increased confidence in applying conflict management techniques, while 95% said the skills learned were useful in addressing conflict.

As we move forward, Student Conduct and Conflict resolution is looking at ways to better understand how student staff use the skills from these workshops. These efforts lay the groundwork for expanding toward a larger-scale assessment model that more fully captures student learning and long-term impact, reinforcing conflict management as a critical component of student wellbeing and success.

This work was recognized nationally in 2025 when the department received the Association for Student Conduct Administration Innovation Award for advancing the student conduct profession through proactive, educational conflict management practices.



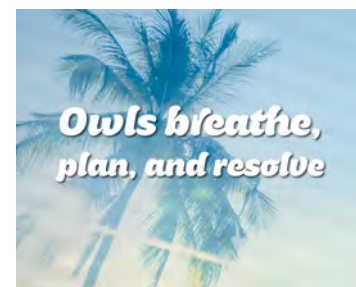
ENHANCED CAMPAIGN AND HEALTH MESSAGING

During 2025-2026, Owls Care Health Promotion expanded its health communication and outreach efforts through coordinated, student-centered campaigns that increased awareness of wellness resources and encouraged healthy decision-making.

The **Caring for Every Owl** campaign was reimaged through stronger collaboration among campus health and wellness partners, creating a more unified and comprehensive approach to student support. Wellness resource kits and branded water bottles were distributed to incoming students across campuses, helping to increase awareness of available services from the beginning of their university experience. The campaign's marketing outreach included 16 social media posts that generated approximately **54,000 views, 957 likes, and 221 shares**, significantly expanding student engagement. The **Health Flex Day** at the end of September further connected students with campus resources through interactive engagement opportunities.

The revised **Owls Breathe** campaign shifted its focus from resource awareness to building practical coping skills and resilience. Five targeted wellness messages were delivered through social media, digital displays, campus signage, and My FAU communications, providing students with actionable strategies to manage stress and support mental well-being. The campaign's marketing outreach included 16 social media posts that generated approximately **17,900 views, 512 likes, and 88 shares**. The most popular was a collaboration post with housing on Owls Breathe, Plan, and Resolve.

These initiatives helped make health and wellness resources across the university visible, accessible, and useful.



NEW AT CAMPUS REC

This year, Campus Recreation furthered its hold as a hub of energy, connection, and healthy habits as students embraced revitalized spaces and expanded wellbeing opportunities.

Over 14,600 students engaged in Campus Recreation over the academic year.



Our summer renovation set the stage with refreshed flooring, branded equipment, and a redesigned layout.

Added the largest functional cable system in the State University System, increasing user capacity for one of our most popular areas.



Outdoor adventures were relaunched with kayaking and sunset paddle trips that blended movement with mindfulness.

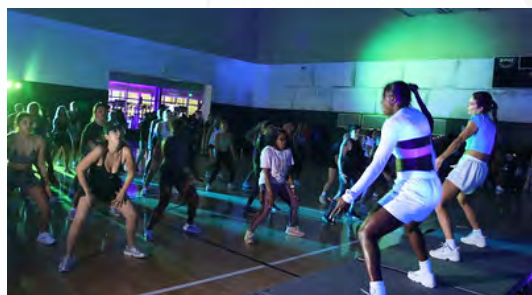
With the help of Student Government and IT, we integrated the **Les Mills** system for in-person and virtual classes.

We introduced a new signature **Earth Day** event, bringing together community partners and drawing more than 225 students.

Sports Club expanded by 9 new teams, bringing us a to a total of 26 clubs.

Intramural championships were moved to the varsity fields, transforming the student experience.

The cycle studio was updated with new bikes to rave reviews from the students.



BRINGING WELLNESS TO EVERY OWL ALONG THE COASTLINE

Owls Care Health Promotion partnered with **Jupiter** and **Broward Campus Life** to expand health promotion and adapt wellness programming to meet the unique needs of partner campus students. Together, the departments created interactive programs focused on mental health, nutrition, sexual health, and student wellbeing.

On the Jupiter campus, initiatives such as Building Healthy Habits and Lunch and Learn with a Registered Dietitian helped connect students to counseling, nutrition, and wellness resources.

In Broward, the addition of a wellness cart at the Fort Lauderdale campus increased access to essential wellness items, distributing more than 3,000 items during the academic year. Broward campus created repeatable events on Davie, Fort Lauderdale, and Dania Beach including Taste of Italy, Make-A-Bear, and Surviving Spring Break: Creative Blends focusing on meal preparation, boundaries, consent, and sun protection.

Overall, this collaboration addressed the challenge of engaging a geographically dispersed student population by creating programs that seamlessly blend education with student-centered experiences.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

PRESIDENT'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT



Experiential learning is highly valued at Florida Atlantic, but for many students, an unpaid internship is financially prohibitive. After realizing that over 40% of the FAU student body is Pell Eligible, President Hasner collaborated with the Career Center to launch President's Internship Program for Community Impact (PIPCI), a high-impact, donor- and institutional-supported internship program that connects students with employers across the government and nonprofit sectors. The Career Center recruits and provides professional development for students, the President's office provides funding to pay students, local community partners benefit from high-quality work by students, and students have hands-on, in-person internship experience.

PIPCI is open to all juniors or seniors with 60+ completed credits who are actively enrolled in classes.

The program launched in January 2026 with **63 students interning at 35 organizations**. Internships were diverse, including Academic Support Intern, Biology Intern, Communications Intern, Curatorial Intern, Finance Intern, Grants Support Intern, Planning & Zoning Intern, IT Intern, and Wildlife Clinic Intern.

From the outset, feedback from supervisors and interns alike reflected not only strong performance outcomes but also a deeper sense of mutual investment and shared mission. Students can test career options, build professional networks, and better understand the world of work. Interns also provide employers with insight into new technology and cutting-edge research from their academic classes. The program will continue helping students connect their academics to their future.





I had the opportunity to connect with individuals who are deeply passionate about serving their community, while also witnessing firsthand the meaningful and impactful work that goes into supporting vulnerable populations. This experience has not only strengthened my professional development but has also deepened my understanding of community advocacy and service.

— *Julia Melo*
Human Resource Intern
Adopt-A-Family
Junior, Psychology



I developed strong critical thinking skills while also helping to support [the students'] social-emotional learning and emotional intelligence. Every day I walk into the building, I feel a sense of family, with everyone ready to take on the day together.

— *Tyler Doll*
Academic Support Intern
Boys & Girls Club of PBC
Junior, Sociology



The internship allowed me to gain hands-on experience reviewing projects, learning about zoning and code regulations, and understanding how planning decisions impact the community. Overall, it has been a valuable experience that has helped me grow professionally and gain a deeper appreciation for the work that goes into shaping cities.

— *Maxine Nguyen*
Planning & Zoning Intern
City of West Palm Beach
Senior, Urban Design



LEARNING THROUGH STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Student employment is more than a campus job—it is an opportunity for students to develop the skills and experiences that prepare them for success after graduation. Across the Division of Student Affairs, departments are intentionally helping student employees connect their work to career readiness.

This year, Owls Care Health Promotion, the Student Union, Campus Life Broward, and Campus Recreation implemented the Career Readiness Inventory with their student staff. Students completed a self-assessment measuring their proficiency in career competencies identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), while supervisors completed the same evaluation from their perspective. Comparing the results **helped students identify strengths, uncover growth areas, and engage in meaningful conversations about their professional development.**

Student Affairs also continued to support leadership development through the **Resident Assistant Track** at the 2025 iLead Student Leadership Conference. Through workshops and guided discussions, Resident Assistants explored how the skills they develop on the job translate to future careers. Topics included effective communication, sharing information appropriately with supervisors, navigating challenging conversations with residents, and balancing the responsibilities of being both a student and an employee.

By combining employment with intentional learning and reflection, Student Affairs helps students build skills that will serve them long after they leave campus.

SERVICE-LEARNING AS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Weppner Center for Lead and Service-Learning advances experiential education by creating meaningful opportunities for students to lead, serve, and grow. Through a dynamic year-round suite of Registered Student Organization officer leadership development workshops and signature service initiatives such as Days of Service and Owls Break, the Center brings learning to life beyond the classroom.

During the **Red and Blue Day of Service**, one student reflected an increased awareness of food insecurity and the collective effort required to address it.



I learned that food insecurity is more common than many people realize, and even small contributions at a food drive can make a big difference for families in need.

I also learned how organized and collaborative food drives need to be. It takes teamwork and planning to ensure food reaches the right people quickly and safely.



Through engagements like these, students expand their awareness of complex community challenges while building the skills and confidence to make a meaningful difference on campus, in their communities, and beyond.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Student Employees in the Division: 517

Unique Students holding Internships: 3,618

**Students enrolled in at least one
Experiential Learning Course: 25,291**

Students reporting Volunteer Hours: 1,479

**Number of Students holding an Executive Position
in a Registered Student Organization: 2,881**



MOVING FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO EMPLOYERS

Throughout the academic year, the Employer Engagement team within the Career Center works to connect our students with employers locally, statewide, and nationally. This year, **1,881 unique employers** participated in FAU Career Center recruitment programs, events, platforms, and initiatives.

Career Fairs remain one of the most visible ways for employers to connect with students. A total of 627 employers attended our 15 signature career fairs. These fairs included general events like The Florida Atlantic Career Fair and industry-specific ones such as Nursing or Technology. Each fair provided students with the opportunity to speak directly with employers. To enhance the student experience at Career Fairs, the Career Center introduced a Career Fair Orientation before each event to help employers prepare. These sessions offered guidance on best practices for student engagement, recruiting strategies, and event logistics. A total of 105 unique employers participated in these orientations.

However, that's not the only way students connect with employers. For instance, 1,182 unique employers engaged through workshops or events. Employers participated in our January Resume Bowl, meeting one-on-one with students to review resumes and highlight strengths and areas for improvement. This individual attention helps students better understand how to become strong candidates. Additionally, the Career Center partnered with JM Family Enterprises and the College of Business Finance Department to host a student case study competition. In this event, 15 students presented their analyses and recommendations to the JM Family Enterprises finance team, gaining valuable real-world experience and employer engagement. Each of these opportunities help students practice to become strong job candidates.

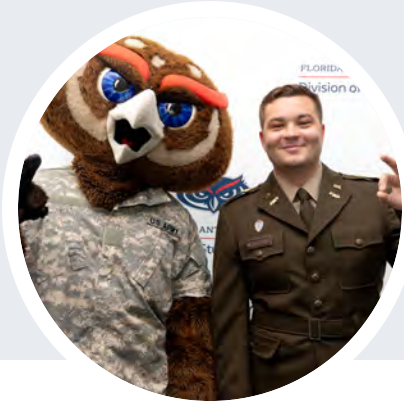




ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

On May 15, 2026, the **FAU Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Commissioning Ceremony** was held at the Boca Raton campus, bringing together family, friends, and university staff to celebrate students who completed the four-year ROTC military science and leadership program. Organized by the Military and Veterans Student Success Center and Family Engagement, the event highlighted an exciting milestone for the cadets.

During the ceremony, 19 cadets took the Oath of Office and were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army, marking the start of their journeys as Army officers. The ceremony recognized their hard work and dedication, both in the classroom and in their military training, and celebrated their readiness to step into leadership roles and serve the nation with strong support from across the university and student government.



HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR NEXT STEP

Career Center Appointments: 11,313	Career Center Course Registrants: 852
Cover Letters or Resumes Critiqued: 27,259	Employers that Participated in Florida Atlantic Initiatives: 1,881
Practice Interviews with Big Interview: 1,857	Career Fairs: 15
	Students Attendance at Career Fairs: 7,937

STUDENT MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

Supporting students in their transition from academic experience to professional success remains a central priority of Student Media. During the 2025-2026 academic year, students demonstrated exceptional achievement, earning recognition from the **Florida Association of Broadcasters, College Media Awards, SPJ Green Eyeshade Awards**, and the **Suncoast Emmy Award**, where one student was named a top-five finalist statewide.

The Office of Student Media further strengthened its impact by expanding internship and job placement opportunities through strategic partnerships with **JM Lexus** and **WPBF**. Relationships with major regional outlets, including **Telemundo, Newsmax, NBC, CBS, The Palm Beach Post**, and the **South Florida Sun Sentinel** were deepened, while a new collaboration with **WPTV** was explored.

Through a combination of mentorship, hands-on newsroom experience, and leadership development opportunities, students cultivated industry-ready skills and professional networks. As a result, more than 20 students secured internships, full-time employment, or admissions to graduate programs.



PREPARING FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS FOR CAREERS

The Office of First-Generation Student Success

employed several strategies this year to help First-Generation Students prepare for their future careers. In addition to successful events like Maximizing LinkedIn and sending 6 students to the Circle of Change Conference at FIU, they introduced two new signature events.



During **Plates, Protocol, & Power: The Nuances of Networking**,

students had the chance to network with 13 employers from 10 different organizations. Students had one-on-one conversations with local employers while learning best practices in dining etiquette and professional networking. At the **First-Gen Wine & Cheese Networking Event**, 36 upperclassmen, graduate, and non-traditional students learned the do's and don'ts of networking from the FAU Career Center and then applied those skills in a business setting. Each of these events offered students opportunities to develop new skills before graduation.

EARLY EXPOSURE TO CAREER PATHWAYS

Florida Atlantic TRIO Programs have played a key role in preparing students for academic and career success by providing structured opportunities for career exploration and skill development. In partnership with **15 local middle and high schools**, TRIO supported students in achieving milestones such as graduation, college enrollment, and degree attainment through goal-setting and access to postsecondary resources. Programming included on- and off-campus activities, college tours, and academic workshops that strengthened college awareness and readiness.

Students participated in ACT tutoring in reading and math through FAU Pre-College Programming, building critical academic and problem-solving skills. Career readiness was further enhanced through job shadowing, field trips, and interactions with professionals, giving students firsthand exposure to various industries. Workshops and guest speakers helped students understand educational pathways and workforce expectations.

A highlight was the **Carnival of Careers**, co-sponsored by Boyd Anderson High School, where students explored career options through presentations and networking. These comprehensive efforts have increased career awareness, strengthened skills, and prepared students for **successful transitions to college and beyond**.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STUDENT AFFAIRS MENTORING PROGRAM

Launched in Fall 2024, Florida Atlantic's Student Affairs Mentoring Program helps new Student Affairs professionals feel welcomed, supported, and connected beyond their department. Across two cohorts, the program has formed 26 successful mentor-mentee pairings.

Surveyed participants reported that the monthly time commitment felt "just right" and appreciated the balance of LinkedIn Learning courses with in-person workshops at the Emerging Leaders Institute. Through skill-building, mentorship, and community, the program continues to strengthen the development of emerging Student Affairs leaders.



I've truly enjoyed getting to know my mentor. We've built a strong connection by learning about each other and sharing our interests. Whenever I see her, I'm genuinely excited to spend time together and catch up. I've especially appreciated hearing about her career path, and I truly value her guidance and insight.

— Jessica Price
Assistant Director, Family Engagement



The opportunity to connect with my mentee, Jessica, has been wonderful; we've talked about her work goals, growth in her role, how she'd like to develop her program, and things she has found pride in within her work. Aside from this, the genuine relationship building through mentorship helps strengthen our Division. This really is a positive two-way experience for both mentor and mentee.

— Pamela Malyk
Dean of Students



EMERGING LEADERS INSTITUTE EMPOWERS FUTURE LEADERS

The second Emerging Leaders Institute took place March 4 - 6, 2026, bringing together eleven participants from six departments for a series of sessions including workshops and presentations, discussion panels, and networking with other participants. Session topics included some of those from the first year such as personal branding, coaching and supervision, conflict management, and professional involvement. New sessions added this year included a Student Affairs overview and trending topics in Higher Education.

Presenters and panelists came from within the Division, from other areas of the institution, and from outside the university, bringing a variety of perspective and expertise to the discussions. Over the course of three days, the participants experienced the Outdoor Adventure Ropes Course, attended sessions in classrooms, residence halls, and the Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center, and enjoyed a closing luncheon at The FAU Club where they received a certificate recognizing their commitment to growth and leadership.



I recognize that each of us brings a unique story that can meaningfully shape the work we do. I learned that one of the most valuable qualities a leader can possess is the ability to grow and adapt. As a professional, I plan to carry these lessons forward by continuing to build and strengthen my existing skills.

— Ashley Johnson
Coordinator, Case Management

Through the Emerging Leaders Institute, I was able to...

Learn about the different
areas of FAU

100%

Network with other staff
members in the Division
of Student Affairs

100%

Develop or enhance skills
I can use as I look toward
future career opportunities

89%

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Part of our goal as professionals within the Division of Student Affairs is to share our work with others across the region and the nation.

This year, we had over 40 staff members present at regional or national conferences.

Kelly Nielsen and Golden Madume (Career Center) presented on Empowering Career Coaches to Help Entrepreneurial Students at the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers. This interactive session provided practical tools for assessing entrepreneurial readiness, offering targeted resources, and building confidence in guiding students through diverse career paths.

Dr. Katherine Cascio (Counseling and Psychological Services) presented at the Association for the Coordination of College Counseling Clinical Services conference on how to help university counseling centers better manage demand for clinical services, increase participation in group therapy, and optimize resources for high-need students.

Farah Robles and Clara Fleites (Student Accessibility Services) presented at the Association on Higher Education and Disability National Conference on using technology to increase student success in the accessibility space. Their presentation focused on the relationship between technology and inclusivity.



BY THE NUMBERS

50+ staff members took classes at Florida Atlantic

6 staff members completed an advanced degree

8 staff members completed a certification or licensure

40+ staff members presented at a regional or national conference

70+ staff members attended a regional or national conference



DIVISIONAL AWARDS

SPRING 2026

**Dr. Leonette
Lee Copeland**
SENSE OF BELONGING

**Sharminah
Ahmad-Khani**
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**Nyobee
Van Pelt**
CAREER READINESS

**Daniel
Woerner**
STAFF SUCCESS:
SUPERVISORY

**Nelson
Barahona**
STAFF SUCCESS:
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

**Mesidor
Ilsaint**
UNSUNG HEROES:
FACILITIES

**Marian
Williams**
UNSUNG HEROES:
ADMINISTRATIVE AND
OPERATIONAL

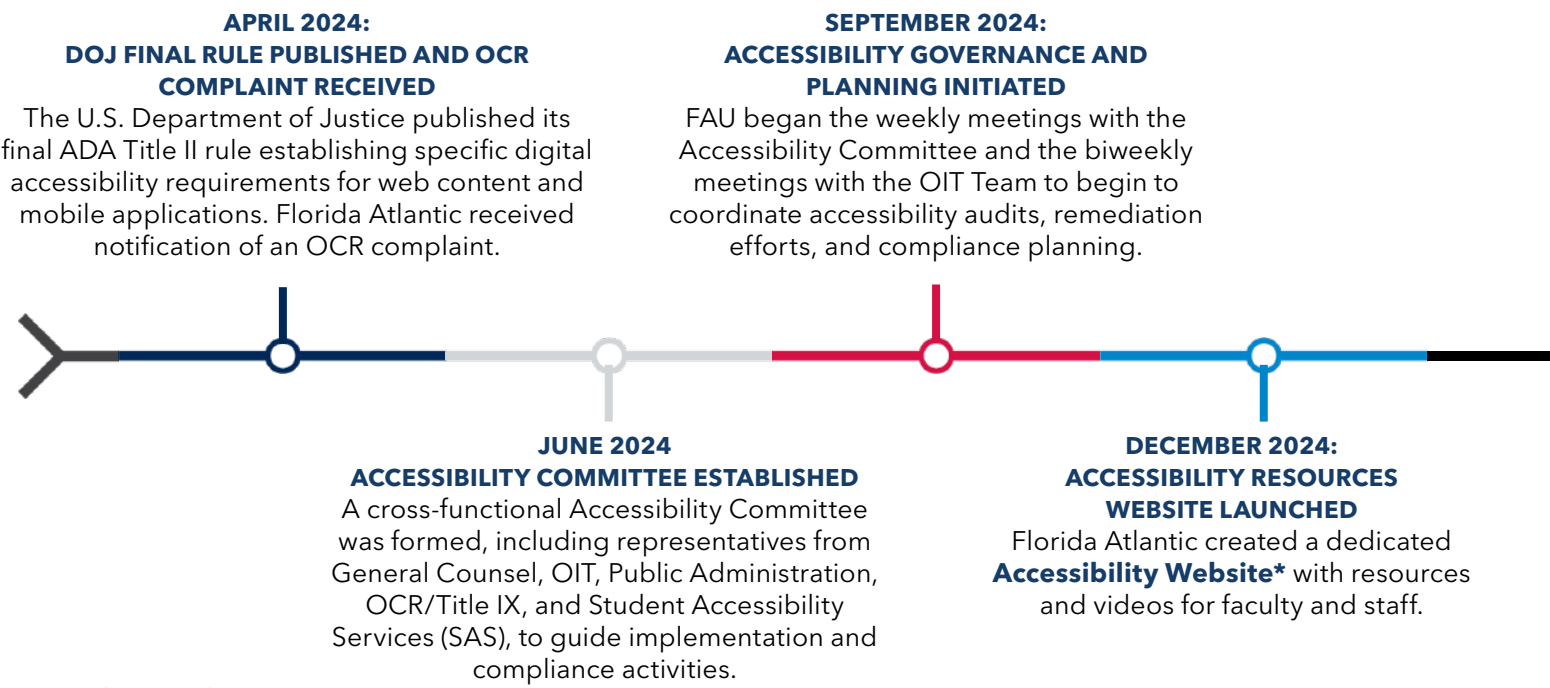
**SAIT, Campus Recreation,
and Student Government**
COLLABORATION :
LES MILLS INTEGRATION

BEHIND THE SCENES: PEOPLE AND PROCESSES

TITLE II

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public institutions to ensure that digital content, websites, mobile applications, and instructional materials are accessible to individuals with disabilities. In April 2024, the Department of Justice finalized updated Title II regulations establishing WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standards for higher education institutions. Since then, Student Accessibility Services (SAS) has played a central role in helping Florida Atlantic achieve compliance through leadership, training, outreach, and remediation efforts.

Over the past two years, SAS helped establish the university’s Accessibility Committee in order to meet compliance by April 24, 2026, by developing campus-wide trainings and workshops, creating accessibility resource webpages, conducting hybrid website audits, and providing one-on-one support for faculty and staff. SAS also led communication efforts with colleges and departments, collaborated with OIT and OCR9, helped develop institutional policies, and hired an ADA Digital Accessibility Coordinator to strengthen compliance initiatives. Through these efforts, millions of accessibility issues were remediated across university course content, significantly improving digital accessibility for all Florida Atlantic students.





Compliance with Title II is a federal requirement, but more importantly, it reflects our shared commitment to a learning environment where every student can fully participate.

– Michelle Shaw
Director, Accessibility Coordinator
Student Accessibility Services

Disability Awareness, SAS Training, and Workshops

Summer 2025: 11

Fall 2025: 34

Spring 2026: 9

Digital Accessibility Trainings for Title II, Faculty Appointments and Hybrid Auditing

Summer 2025: 30

Fall 2025: 57

Spring 2026: 103

FEBRUARY 2025: CAMPUS-WIDE TRAINING INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

SAS began offering training and workshops to faculty and staff in person/virtual on creating accessible documents, webpages, social media, videos and course work materials.

JANUARY 2026: OCR COMPLAINT WAS CLOSED; REMEDATION WAS COMPLETED.

*VIEW THE
ACCESSIBILITY WEBSITE:



fau.edu/sas/accessibility-requirements

MAY 2025: ADA DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR POSITION CREATED

A dedicated ADA digital Accessibility Coordinator position was established to support campus-wide for the Digital Accessibility Remediation Project.

MAY 2026: SAS TOOK OVER ALL THE DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

These can be found on LibCal. LibCal: Multi Calendar View Training, LibCal: Appointments. Canvas Ally Accessibility Tool renewal secured.

RENOVATIONS TO OUR FACILITIES

Take a look around campus—everywhere you look, new and updated spaces are coming online!

The Career Center was renovated in Summer 2025 to celebrate its 60th anniversary. In the new layout, the lobby is open, barrier-free, and intentionally designed to support emerging technology. The table in the center of the lobby serves as a space for employers to casually network with students. Other areas in the Career Center support training for faculty, staff, and employers, whether they are integrating career readiness into their curriculum or deepening their understanding of local labor market trends.



In the summer, **University Village Apartments** also received a major refresh. Housing and Residential Education invested \$6 million in upgrades, including new roofing on two buildings, fully remodeled bathrooms, wall repairs, interior paint, and new LVT flooring throughout every unit.

Our newest residence hall, **Talon Hall**, is under construction and will open in Fall 2026 with 674 beds. Housing and Residential Education has worked with our construction partners to design Talon Hall to meet students' needs for community, comfort, and well-being. The design includes modern study areas and spacious community kitchens. For relaxation and socializing, the building will offer a game room, a sundeck, and an outdoor pavilion complete with BBQ grills and a fire pit.

HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS

Housing and Residential Education implemented a new space-change request process to enhance the student housing assignment experience and improve overall student satisfaction. Following housing assignment notifications, students who did not receive their preferred room type or location were given the opportunity to submit a space-change request form before additional students were assigned from the waitlist. Through this new process, **nearly 300 students were reassigned to preferred spaces** using vacancies created through cancellations prior to the August move-in period. This approach allowed the department to better prioritize current resident requests while maintaining strong occupancy management practices.

Recognizing that satisfaction with housing assignments can positively influence student retention and the overall residential experience, a cross-functional work group was also established to further evaluate and refine both the December cancellation and in-semester room change processes. The group developed recommendations to improve transparency, consistency, communication, and customer service while maintaining operational efficiency, occupancy goals, and facilities readiness.



OVERALL IMPACT

328,882

TOTAL PARTICIPATION

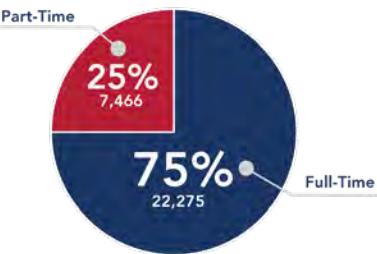
29,741

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

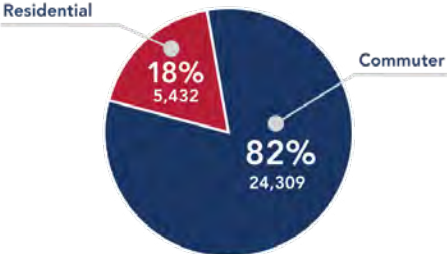
77%

ENGAGED IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

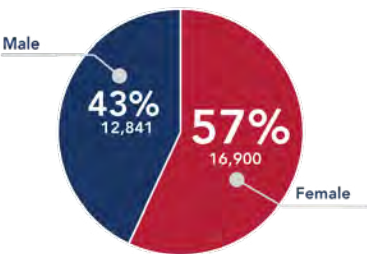
ENROLLMENT STATUS



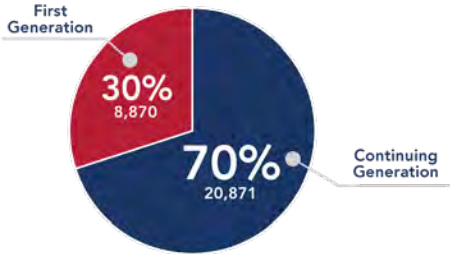
COMMUTER



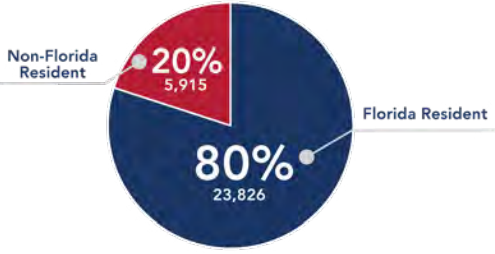
GENDER



GENERATION



FLORIDA RESIDENT



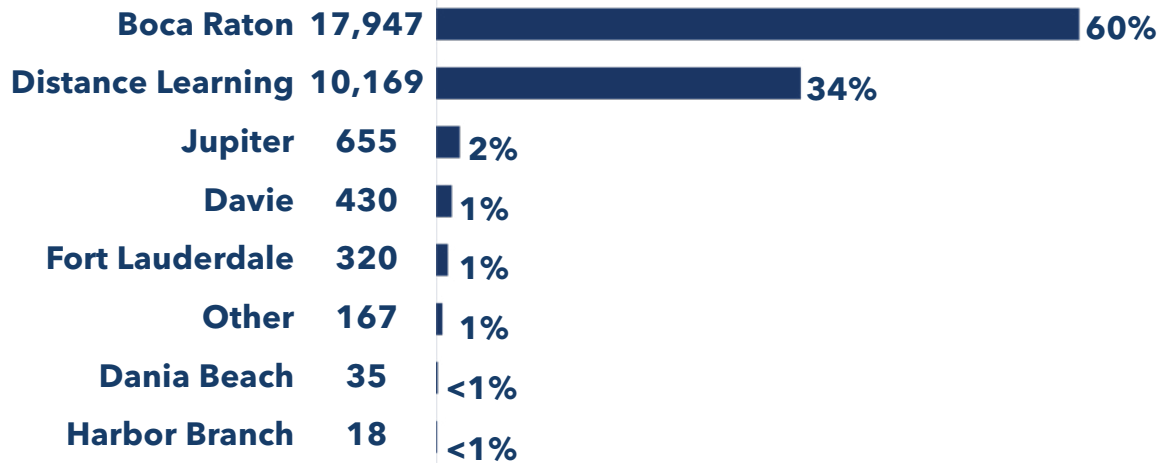
FIRST-TIME IN COLLEGE STUDENTS ENGAGED

4,525

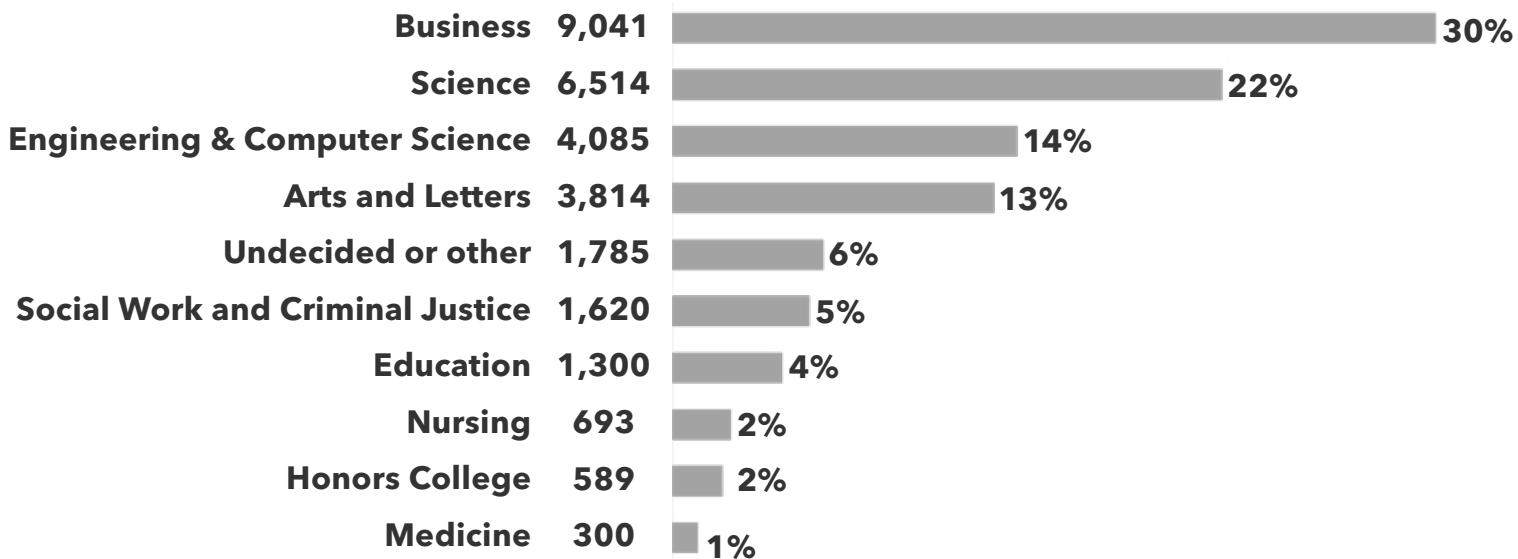
NEW TRANSFERS ENGAGED

3,611

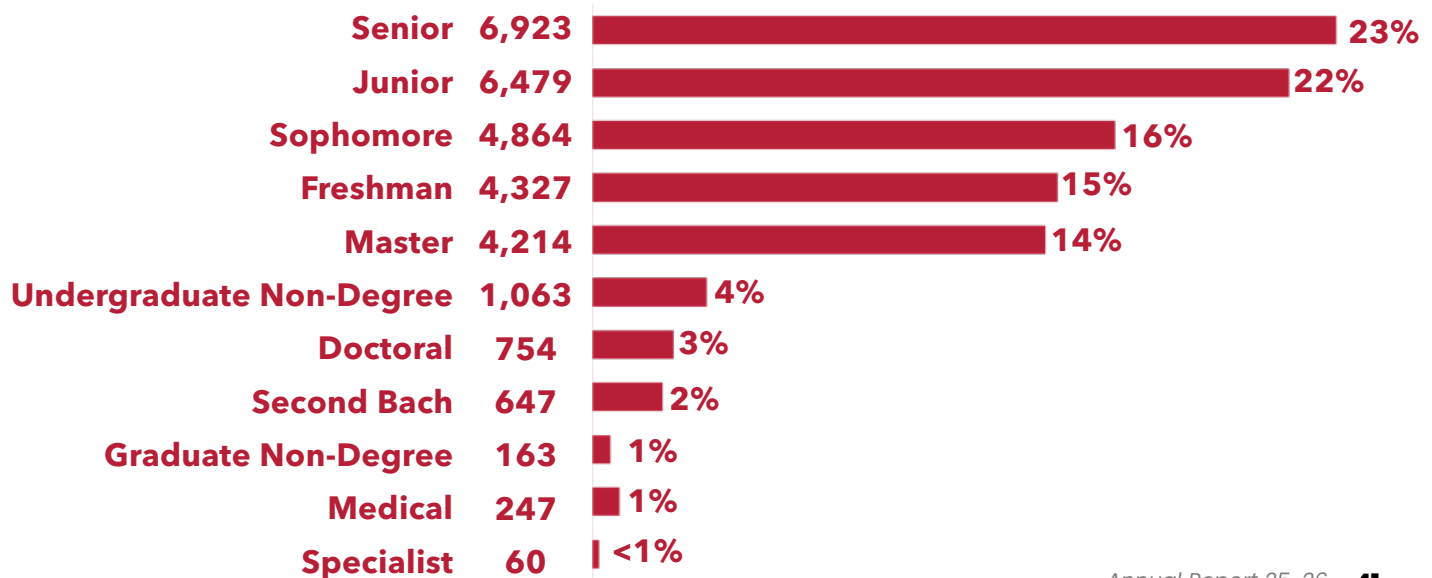
PRIMARY CAMPUS TERM



COLLEGE



ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATION



Where Tomorrow Begins™



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

