USF PROFESSOR RESURFACES AFTER BREAKING WORLD RECORD


Joseph Dituri resurfaces from 100 days underwater. Photo courtesy of Dave Decker/Brock Communications. (Source: Axios)
HOW AI TOOLS BOTH HELP AND HINDER EQUITY


"The technology promises to assist students with disadvantages in developing skills needed for success. But AI also threatens to widen the education gap like no tech before it." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

FLORIDA UNIVERSITIES EYEING AI FOR POSSIBLE USE IN HIGHER EDUCATION


"As artificial intelligence becomes an increasingly high-profile topic in higher education, Florida universities are holding discussions about how to harness the technology’s power — and stave off the potential for academic malfeasance." (Source: News Service of Florida)

TRANSIENT STUDENT ADMISSIONS APPLICATION (TSAA) STEERING COMMITTEE

Over the last year, FLVC announced its newly reconvened Transient Student Admissions Application (TSAA) Steering Committee. This group provides suggestions to improve the online admission process for transient students, including the areas of admissions, registration, financial aid, and credentialing requirements. Comprised of representatives from colleges and universities across the state, this group meets periodically throughout the year. Membership information can be found on FLVC’s website.
TRANSIENT STUDENT ADMISSIONS APPLICATION (TSAA) NUMBERS SEE SHARP INCREASE

Transient Student Admissions Applications submitted during spring 2023 surpassed last year's spring applications by 14 percent. There were 11,607 applications created during the spring 2023 period. So far, this academic year there have been 32,301 applications created compared to the same period in 2022 (26,522), which is a 22 percent increase. Thank you for supporting the mission of the Florida Virtual Campus and being a part of the Transient Admissions Application process to support your students. Please do not hesitate to contact the Florida Virtual Campus Help Desk, throughout the semester, for further assistance.

STATEWIDE CATALOG OF COURSES, PROGRAMS, AND INSTITUTION PROFILES

FLVC continued to enhance the Statewide Catalog of Courses, Programs, and Institution Profiles to include additional Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Course indicators. The ZTC indicator identifies those courses which have no associated textbook costs, thereby enabling students to make informed decisions regarding total course costs when registering. As of fall 2022 and spring 2023, the Zero Textbook Cost indicator has been added to over 1,900 course sections in the online Catalog.

“COLLEGE 101: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS”

FLVC partnered with education groups across Florida in September/October 2022, to present “College 101,” a series of free online webinars to prepare students for college and beyond. College 101 webinars educate students and parents on a variety of topics, including how to conduct an effective college search; complete their admissions applications; how to pay for college, and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The College 101 events spanned four nights, attracting more than 3,700 people from across Florida. Each night's session focused on a specific topic and featured institutional experts in admissions, financial aid, FAFSA, college readiness, and more, who walked participants through each process and answered their questions.

EDUCATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY PLATFORM (EMOP) PROJECT, HB 1507

FLVC has been working with the Florida Department of Education and statewide stakeholders since August 2021 on the Education Meets Opportunity Platform (EMOP) credentials project, which will develop a comprehensive and interactive credential registry for the state. The programs provided by institutions to the FloridaShines Catalog will play a significant part in this statewide effort. FLVC is providing program information to Credential Engine which will be used in the EMOP platform. FLVC has completed development work allowing institutions to upload their 2022-23 program data with the new field requirements and validation process. With our continued work alongside statewide stakeholders, in the upcoming months the collection process will begin for the 2023-24 program data, allowing full integration with the EMOP platform.
FLORIDA’S NEW ONLINE CAREER PLANNING & WORK-BASED LEARNING SYSTEM

The Florida Department of Education has announced a new statewide contract, being managed by FLVC, with Xello - a leading online college and career readiness platform. FLVC is actively working with the system offices and Xello staff on the creation, integration, and implementation of this new platform. Beginning in the Fall of 2023, all districts will have access, at no cost, to a full suite of K-12 tools for career exploration and planning as well as work-based learning coordination to support the delivery of on-the-job training, pre-apprenticeship, and internship opportunities.

REVERSE TRANSFER SYSTEM

The 2023-2024 FCS and SUS Legislative Budget Requests approved funding for a statewide computer-assisted system to implement the reverse transfer provision of s. 1007.23(9), F.S. FLVC has been tasked with the creation and implementation of this Reverse Transfer system for all Florida College System and State University System institutions to use. The system will provide the ability for universities to identify eligible students, assist in communication and notification between FCS and SUS institutions, and provide aggregate reporting. FLVC is in the beginning stages of development and has been actively working with this project's many stakeholders.

EXPANSION OF FLORIDASHINES RESOURCES TO TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND CENTERS

Technical Colleges and Centers now have the opportunity to promote their institution as well as online and in-person programs through the FloridaShines Catalog. With this expansion, the Technical Colleges and Centers can showcase their educational offerings alongside the Florida College System and the State University System. FLVC continues to develop and maintain processes by which career centers can access appropriate postsecondary distance learning, student support, and library services.

IMPLEMENTING REST: MODERNIZING CONNECTIVITY FOR SUS/FCS INSTITUTIONS

FLVC is actively working on the REStrofit project to connect Florida's public colleges and universities with upgraded technology, moving from older EDI technology to a RESTful API platform. This effort will enable institutions to maintain and strengthen their connections to FloridaShines. Currently, FLVC is actively working with 10 institutions on various pieces of the REST upgrade and will continue onboarding new institutions over the upcoming months.

UPGRADING INSTITUTIONS AND DOE USERS TO SINGLE SIGN-ON

FLVC is finalizing the recent transition from its former Identity Management Software, Partner Login, to Single Sign-On (SSO). This move enhances both security and access for all users including students accessing the various FloridaShines advising functions and Florida College System and State University System staff with access to current or future FLVC services, such as the Common Prerequisite Manual (CPM). Currently, FLVC has completed the work needed to transition the relevant DOE staff to SSO. Additionally, FLVC has transitioned 32 FCS and SUS institutions to SSO and is finalizing the work needed to transition the remaining 8 institutions.
FLORIDA INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER NETWORK (FL-IDN)

Through its ongoing partnership in the Florida Instructional Designer Network (FL-IDN), FLVC collaborated with the Florida College System, State University System of Florida, and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida to provide seven free, online professional development webinars reached more than 2,400 people across Florida, the U.S., and the world. FL-IDN provides eLearning professional development resources for instructional designers, technologists, and other online learning professionals. The network promotes online teaching and learning innovation, effective practices, and education quality, as well as creating collaborative, learning, and networking opportunities for its members. Membership in FL-IDN is free and has grown to more than 600 people.

QM LICENSE RENEWAL FOR 2023-2024

Effective July 1, 2023, all pricing for QM primary and supplemental subscriptions will increase by 10%. This is the first time QM has increased fees since 2017.

The Florida Quality Matters Consortium (FLQMC) currently has 34 affiliate institutions. FLQMC will continue making efforts to help our affiliate institutions to save cost and maximize the QM professional development benefits that the QM System License Subscription offers.

Please remember your total annual QM subscription cost for 2023-2024 includes two parts:

- $1275 Affiliate Institution Subscription Fee (QM will bill your institution, and you pay QM this amount directly.)
- $187 FLVC QM MOU Fee (The $6355 QM Lead Institution Fee mentioned above is divided evenly among 34 affiliate institutions in the system.)

Please note that FLVC will invoice your institution on a QM MOU fee for 2023-2024, as detailed on the FLQMC website. The FLVC Financial Services will email the MOU Fee invoices to QM coordinators at the affiliate institutions on or shortly after July 1st, 2023. Please make arrangements for the payment upon receiving the invoice.
**IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM QUALITY MATTERS**

The QM Higher Education Rubric, Seventh Edition is slated for release on July 5. The Rubric Update — a free, self-paced, standalone session which will help you understand what’s new in the QM Higher Education Rubric, Seventh Edition — must be completed by all QM role holders.

The Rubric Update will be available to complete starting June 5, with registration opening May 5, and must be completed before January 5, 2024 in order to retain your QM role(s). If the Rubric Update session is not completed by January 5, 2024, you will need to complete the Rubric Update Role Reinstatement session — beginning January 8 — in order to reinstate your role, at a cost of $55.

Additionally, if you are a QM-Certified Peer Reviewer, Master Reviewer or Facilitator, please visit your QM Resource Site(s) for more information on keeping your role current.

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**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**DLSS WELCOMES BROOKE TOME**

Tome is originally from Bainbridge, Ga. and has been working in higher education since 2013. She comes to FLVC from Georgia Southwestern State University where she provided senior level administrative support, oversaw many projects, and served as the university’s Student Activities Coordinator. During her tenure there, she coordinated bi-weekly campus events, annual spirit weeks and award ceremonies, and summer camps. She also supervised 40 student organizations and helped bring two offline facilities and an outdoor student social space back to campus. Tome completed her Master of Business Administration degree at Georgia Southwestern State in December 2022. She also previously worked at Darton State College and Albany State University in various student affairs capacities.

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**FLORIDASHINES CATALOG**

- 2022-23 Academic Year in-person & online program upload window closes June 30th

- Review of Institution Profiles opens July 1st and closes August 1st

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**REMINDERS**
IDN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS & LIGHTNING ROUNDS

- **Exploring ChatGPT & Online Assessments**
  - Tuesday, July 11th
  - 2:00 PM (ET)
  - Free Registration Link: [https://bit.ly/42iAtGg](https://bit.ly/42iAtGg)

- **AI in Higher Education: The Future is Now**
  - If ChatGPT Were a Cookie?
  - Monday, July 24th
  - 2:00 PM (ET)

Have something that you’d like to share? Send Brooke the details, and we’ll put it here!

ARTICLE DIGESTS

- **A WCET CLOSER LOOK AT CREATING ACCESSIBLE CONTENT**
  "Accessibility is an important concept to keep in mind when creating content for any audience, whether it’s for students, colleagues, or other users. While the process of creating accessible content is often a work in progress because technologies and user needs are both constantly evolving, there are several things that content creators should always keep in mind..." (Source: [WCET](https://www.wcet.org/))

- **TURNITIN ADMITS THERE ARE SOME CASES OF HIGHER FALSE POSITIVES IN AI WRITING DETECTION TOOL**
  "Accessibility is an important concept to keep in mind when creating content for any audience, whether it’s for students, colleagues, or other users. While the process of creating accessible content is often a work in progress because technologies and user needs are both constantly evolving, there are several things that content creators should always keep in mind..." (Source: [Higher Ed Dive](https://www.higheddive.com/))

- **SUPPORTING ONLINE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITH COURSE DESIGN**
  "Online learning continues to grow in popularity among college students, but some programs lack the engagement opportunities learners are looking for. A June survey from McKinsey & Company found that, globally, two-thirds (65 percent) of students want part of their learning experience to take place online..." (Source: [Inside Higher Ed](https://insidehighered.com/))

- **ACT TO BE PILOTED ONLINE STARTING IN DECEMBER**
  "The ACT college admissions exam will start to be administered online more broadly starting in December. They would like to increase access to the exam by offering it online. They will start an online pilot program with 5,000 students. The ACT’s chief executive believes that an online option is crucial when striving to expand equitable and inclusive testing experiences for all students..." (Source: [Higher Ed Dive](https://www.higheddive.com/))

- **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CALLS FOR ‘AI BILL OF RIGHTS’**
  "The U.S. Department of Education believes an “AI Bill of Rights” is necessary. They recently identified key questions, concerns, and recommendations for establishing educational policies. Although humans are always in command and enhanced by technology, AI does its job of liberating us from involvement or supervision..." (Source: [GovTech](https://www.govtech.com/))
THE FUN STUFF

MOVIE MUST-SEE:
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

This is the second film in the series (following the 2018 Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse), and it is in theaters now! This movie continues the fun and brings a new take on the classic Spider-Man story we all know! Before viewing, be sure to stream the first one in case you haven’t already seen it. With its unique animation style and amazing soundtrack, this is a great film that viewers of all ages can enjoy!

Sarah Michael Anderson
Program Coordinator
Distance Learning & Student Services
Florida Virtual Campus

YOU GOTTA TRY IT:
CLEAN JUICE

With 19 locations across the state, Clean Juice is a great choice if you’re looking for a light and refreshing meal. Their smoothie “The Double One” is always my go-to!

Sarah Michael Anderson
Program Coordinator
Distance Learning & Student Services
Florida Virtual Campus

NEXT UP:
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HOST NEXT MCDLSS MEETING

Our next Members Council meeting is scheduled for November 7th and 8th at Hillsborough Community College’s Ybor City Campus. We love a shout-out, so we’ve provided their campus factsheet here. And no MCDLSS meeting is complete without things to do for 5 kinds of visitors.

(Source: Visit Florida)

Have something that you’d like to share? Send Brooke the details, and we’ll add it to the newsletter!