DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES **NEWS**

TOP NEWS
IN FL & BEYOND

■ **RISKS AND REWARDS AS HIGHER ED INVESTS IN AI FUTURE**

"Institutions across the country are spending vast sums, hiring dozens of faculty and erecting large-scale AI-focused centers. But even as colleges and universities boldly dive into the AI deep end, industry experts and analysts are urging caution and thoughtful approaches, both for institutions rushing ahead and those at risk of being left on the sidelines." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

Read more here

WHY COLLEGES ARE USING ALGORITHMS TO DETERMINE FINANCIAL AID LEVELS

"The practice can help colleges optimally distribute their limited resources, but it could also cause issues for students and even create legal risk." (Source: Higher Ed Dive)

Read more here.

COVID WORRIES LINGER AT COLLEGE CAMPUSES AS FALL SEMESTER BEGINS

"Some universities have received reports of infections. But there is little appetite for tighter public health controls." (Source: The Washington Post)

Read more here.

UP NEXT:

COLLEGE 101 BEGINS TOMORROW NIGHT

A series of free "College 101" webinars that will give students all the information they need to explore their education options after high school and apply and pay for college begins tomorrow night!

Experts in higher education from across Florida will be on hand during each session to share information and answer questions to help students plan their future after high school. Each webinar begins at 6 p.m. ET.

The first webinar held tomorrow night, "Explore," will detail all the postsecondary options available to students, including the career and technical programs, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees that can lead them to the career that they want. Presenting that session will be Dr. Amanda Sterk, director of College & Career Advising at Method Learning.

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The second webinar held on September 21, "Apply," will show students how to get all their information ready to apply to the college that best matches their needs and submit an application that stands out to admissions officers. Leading this session will be Dr. Melissa Lynne Neider, academic program manager with Path to College.

The final session held on September 28, "Fund," will show students how to not let the cost of college stop them from achieving their dreams. They will learn about various scholarships and grants and how they can qualify for them. Presenting this session will be Dr. Karemah Campbell Manselle, associate director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance at the University of Central Florida.

To register for these free College 101 webinars, visit here.

UNIVERSITY
SPOTLIGHTS

UF AND FIU NAMED AMONG TOP FIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY

The University of Florida and Florida International University are two of the top five public universities in the U.S., according to rankings released earlier this month by the Wall Street Journal.

The University of Florida was named the number one public university in the country while Florida International University was ranked fourth. When factoring in private universities, UF finished 15th overall while FIU placed 29th. Florida State University ranked as the 35th best public university and No. 102 overall. The University of Miami, a private institution, ranked No. 90 overall on the list. Other Florida universities that made the list were: University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Institute of Technology and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

The Wall Street Journal has published the best college rankings since 2016. The publication partnered with College Pulse and Statista to compile the rankings. This year, Princeton University claimed the top overall spot with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Stanford University, and Columbia University rounding out the top five.

The Journal improved its methodology in this year's rankings, "working with data scientists at Statista, the new WSJ/College Pulse ranking uses the most recent available data to put colleges on a more level playing field, with a focus on comparing the outcomes of each school's graduates to what those students were likely to achieve no matter where they went to school," according to an article accompanying the rankings.

Read the full rankings here.

MCDLSS MEETING INFO

MEMBERS COUNCIL MEETING IN NOVEMBER

MEETING TIMES & LOCATION:
Tuesday, November 14
Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET | Meeting: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. ET

Wednesday, November 15
Continental Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | Meeting: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET

Hillsborough Community College
Ybor City Campus
2112 N 15th St, Tampa, FL 33605

REGISTRATION:
Please register your attendance below:
https://forms.gle/mhV53EZXQCkhvnHH7

If attending in person, there is a $60.00 meeting registration fee.
Payments may be made by institution check, purchase order, or credit card.

INSTITUTION CHECKS AND PURCHASE ORDERS:
An invoice will be sent to you via email.
Please include the invoice number on your check and remit to:

Florida State University (FLVC)
C/O Technology Services Building
1721 W. Paul Dirac Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32310

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CREDIT CARDS:
FLVC accepts all major credit cards as a form of payment. You will see this option once you have submitted your payment on the eMarket Link below. Once paid, an automated receipt will be generated and emailed to you from Florida State University.

EMARKET LINK:
https://commerce.cashnet.com/FLVC

By submitting this registration form, you agree to pay the registration fee unless you cancel or transfer your registration.

DEADLINES:
Registration closes on Monday, October 30, 2023.
The last day to cancel and receive a refund is Friday, November 3, 2023.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS & PARKING:
More information on hotel accommodations and parking will be shared via email soon.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Brooke Tome.

ARTICLE DIGESTS

▪ OPENAI INTROS CHATGPT FOR ENTERPRISES

"OpenAI has recently announced the launch of ChatGPT Enterprise, offering "enterprise-grade security and privacy, unlimited higher-speed GPT-4 access, longer context windows for processing longer inputs, advanced data analysis capabilities, customization options, and much more." OpenAI hopes that organizations integrate this tool into their business operations. A key part of the product pitch is security and privacy..." (Source: Campus Technology)

▪ TECH COMPANIES ANNOUNCE FRONTIER MODEL FORUM TO ADDRESS SAFE, RESPONSIBLE AI DEVELOPMENT

"Anthropic, Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI have partnered to launch the Frontier Model Forum to collectively promote safety and responsibility in developing frontier AI models. According to the companies, "frontier" AI models are those which are being developed and will exceed existing model capabilities. The Forum will create an advisory board, working group, and executive board and will establish a charter, governance, and funding sources..." (Source: Campus Technology)

THE PROMISE AND CHALLENGES OF AI IN HIGHER ED

"The biggest topic in higher education right now, at least in my opinion, is artificial intelligence. There are various stories in higher education news about what impact AI will have on students, instructors, and the education field at large. This week, we welcome Marc Watkins, Academic Innovation Fellow from the University of Mississippi. Marc joins us to discuss the potential of AI in digital learning and to highlight the amazing work happening at his institution to prepare faculty and students for a future that includes working with AI. I really enjoyed learning about these initiatives and student reflections on AI in higher education." (Source: WCET Frontiers Blog)

ADAPTIVE LEARNING CASE STUDIES HIGHLIGHT POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATIVE COURSE REDESIGN INITIATIVES

"The six case studies on adaptive learning initiatives provide a picture of the transformative potential of redesigning courses with adaptive learning technology. The case studies outline the complex implementation work that follows courseware selection and how six different institutions worked through the adaptive courseware initiative and sustained continuous improvement to support equitable teaching and learning." (Source: Every Learner Everywhere Blog)

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE MODALITY OF A LEARNING EXPERIENCE IS UNCLEAR: GUIDELINES FOR CREATING MULTIDIMENSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

"The mix of technologies used in postsecondary instruction has become increasingly more varied, and information with students about instructional experiences can be confusing. Building upon on a series of WCET works over the past year on digital learning definitions, this paper presents several complex cases, based on real-world examples, where the learning modality is unclear. Discussion includes guidance and recommendations for categorizing and naming learning experiences that do not fit neatly into one category or another." (Source: WCET)

WHAT A COOL SYLLABUS ... BUT IS IT ACCESSIBLE?

"How can instructors ensure that their syllabus is accessible? In this case, the term "accessible" refers to the ability that a sight-impaired person can receive the information in the document as well as a sighted person. Accessible documents and resources are a crucial part of inclusion and equity in education as it allows those with a disability to obtain the information without complications. See the original article to see how one instructor made an accessible Pokémon syllabus." (Source: Faculty Focus)

AS HIGHER ED GOES DIGITAL, ADA COMPLIANCE FALLS BEHIND

"AAAtraq recently found that 97 percent of U.S. college and university websites do not fully comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Not complying with the ADA could cost institutions millions of dollars in litigation fees and payouts. AAAtraq CEO shared that they are concerned higher education institutions are being told their sites are compliant, but they actually are not, and no one knows how to check." (Source: GovTech)

A COMPREHENSIVE AND DISTRIBUTED APPROACH TO AI REGULATION

"Have you heard of the Critical Algorithmic System Classification (CASC)? It is a new regulatory approach to allow federal regulators to flexibly govern algorithms used in critical socioeconomic determinations. The CASC framework will preserve consumer and civil rights protections in the algorithmic age, with sensible restrictions and without major changes to the structure of the federal government." (Source: Brookings)

■ MOVIE MUST-SEE:
A HAUNTING IN VENICE

"*A Haunting in Venice* is Kenneth Branagh's third Agatha Christie adaptation after *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*. This one finds Branagh's Hercule Poirot enjoying his retirement in the titular Italian city when he's invited to a séance where, of course, one of the guests is murdered. Once again, it's up to Poirot not only to figure out who the killer is, but whether or not something supernatural is actually going on. The previous two Poirot films have been fun little whodunnits for fans, and this one's illustrious cast includes Tina Fey, Jamie Dornan, and Michelle Yeoh, among others."
(Source: Rotten Tomatoes)

■ YOU GOTTA TRY IT:
AREPA PLEASE

"Located in the heart of Jacksonville, FL in the Brooklyn area, Arepa Please has been serving up authentic Venezuelan arepas since 2018. They are featured in more than 11 magazines, like Forbes, and different TV networks. Step inside and immerse yourself in a lively atmosphere that reflects the rich cultural tapestry of Venezuela, blending mouthwatering flavors with captivating artistic elements. From the moment you walk through their doors, prepare to embark on a culinary journey that will tantalize your taste buds and ignite your imagination."
(Source: Arepa Please)

■ SPINE-BENDERS:

"Some of our favorite authors are back with brand new books — with a few of those being their first book in years. We couldn't be more excited for new books from Zadie Smith, Lauren Groff, Richard Osman, Stephen King, V. E. Schwab and Sy Montgomery — just to name a few. Build your September TBR pile with some of our most anticipated books." (Source: Barnes & Noble)

FUN STUFF

NEXT UP: ■
HCC TO HOST NEXT MCDLSS MEETING
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SUPPORTING THE LEARNING NEEDS OF FLORIDA STUDENTS