

HALLOWEEN EDITION

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# DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES

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## TOP NEWS

### ■ ADVISORY BOARDS AID IN ALLEVIATING AI ANXIETY

Close to a year after ChatGPT debuted, more than 500 educators from across the country gathered at the Teaching and Learning with AI conference at the University of Central Florida last month. (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

[READ MORE HERE.](#)





## HOW ONE COLLEGE IS LOCKING IN FINANCIAL AID EARLY TO OFFSET FAFSA DELAY

"Assumption University, in Massachusetts, said it's found a temporary solution for helping students and families navigate the confusion." (Source: Higher Ed Dive)

[READ MORE HERE.](#)

## XELLO'S COMING TO FLORIDA

"As the newly selected online college and career readiness platform for the state of Florida, Xello is excited to bring you intuitive tools designed to engage your K-12 students in planning for life after high school—and there's lots to learn about. Spend the day with the Xello team and learn all the amazing things you'll be able to do for your students with Xello." *Registration can be found using the link below.* (Source: Xello)

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# DLSS UPDATES

## "COLLEGE 101: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS" CAME TO A CLOSE LAST MONTH

FLVC partnered with education groups across Florida last month to present "College 101," a series of free online webinars to prepare students for college and beyond.

The College 101 events, which spanned three nights, provided students with all the information they need to explore their education options after high school and how to apply and pay for college.

Experts in higher education from across Florida were on hand during each session to share information and answer questions to help students plan their future after high school.

To view recordings for each of the three webinars, visit [here](#).

## ■ TRANSIENT STUDENT ADMISSIONS APPLICATION (TSAA)

Transient Student Admissions Applications submitted this past summer (24,994) showed an increase of almost 37 percent compared to summer 2022 (18,281). So far, during this fall term, applications (12,708) have grown almost 16 percent when compared to the same period in 2022 (10,972).

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.

## ■ FL-IDN HOSTS HALLOWEEN PARTY AND FREE WEBINAR NEXT WEEK

Next week, FL-IDN will host a Halloween party and free webinar, *Integrating Digital Escape Room Learning Experiences for Medical Students*. Attendees will learn how to design, develop, implement, and evaluate low-stakes, gamified learning experiences for all students. Ms. Jessica Campusano, our guest speaker, is an experienced instructional designer in Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University. This event will also serve as a Halloween party for the IDN community. Join the chat early to network with colleagues, and don't forget to wear your favorite Halloween costume!

The webinar registration link and other information can be found here:

- <https://bit.ly/3F438Ff>

## ■ ALL FLVC WEBSITES ARE NOW LIVE ON NEW WEBFLOW PLATFORM

We are happy to announce that all four FLVC websites are now live on the new Webflow platform. This is a big step forward for FLVC. Webflow's intuitive and user-friendly interface will allow us to more easily and quickly adapt our websites to create a better user experience for our visitors and provide opportunities for future enhancements.

From the beginning, there have been many hands involved in this project, and we would like to thank everyone for their time and expertise. We would especially like to recognize [Kathy Parker](#) and her team, [Peggy Pfeifer](#), [Dawn Aguero](#), and [Chris Carney](#) from Operational Performance Improvement and [Bob Hartnett](#) and his team, [Matt Warner](#) and [Olivia Dunham](#) from Marketing & Communications. They spent the past four months rebuilding every page of the four FLVC websites in the new Webflow platform – that's 100's of pages. Great job, everyone!

Take a closer look at each of the four websites here:

- [Distance Learning and Student Services](#)
- [Library Services](#)
- [FloridaShines](#)
- [Florida Virtual Campus](#)



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

## ■ THE MCDLSS HAS SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS!

We'd like to welcome the following new Primary representatives:

- Breanna Perry
  - Pasco-Hernando State College
- Vicki Westergard
  - Hillsborough Community College
- Vanessa Herrera
  - The College of the Florida Keys
- Tim Godcharles
  - St. Petersburg College
- Kevin Corcoran
  - University of Central Florida
- Jehu Chong
  - Palm Beach State College

We'd like to welcome the following new Alternate representatives:

- Sonia Thorn
  - Pasco-Hernando State College
- Hagen Treadway
  - Hillsborough Community College
- Kristina Neihouse
  - The College of the Florida Keys

## ■ BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Ashley Thimmes



Share your birthday month and receive a special shout-out in our monthly newsletters.

## ■ WE'RE UPDATING OUR STANDING COMMITTEE ROSTERS

If you currently serve on one of our standing committees and/or are interested in joining, please take a moment to fill out our form [here](#).

This form is intended to create updated rosters for each of our three standing committees: Online Instruction Standing Committee, Strategic Partnership & Licensing Standing Committee, and Student Support/Web Services Standing Committee.

## ■ DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER & BOOK YOUR HOTEL - DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

**REGISTRATION DEADLINES:**

Registration closes on Monday, October 30.

The last day to cancel and receive a refund is Friday, November 3.

**HOTEL HAYA ROOM BLOCK DEADLINE:**  
Special rates expire on Friday, October 20.

# REMINDERS





# ARTICLE DIGESTS

## MICROSOFT ROLLS OUT NEW SEARCH FEATURES

"Microsoft recently announced two new search features: Bing Chat Enterprise for Faculty (BCEF) for Microsoft 365 A3 and A5 users and Search Progress, a new learning accelerator built into Teams Assignments. BCEF differs from regular Bing Chat in that there are commercial-level protections for faculty users. User and chat data stays within the organization generating it, and chat data is not saved. Microsoft has no access to it, and it is not used to train other models. BCEF will help faculty create content, customize learning, brainstorm, summarize..." (Source: [Campus Technology](#))

## HOW HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS CAN BETTER PROTECT DATA WITH APP MODERNIZATION

"Higher education institutions must bring their applications up to date as digital transformation initiatives continue to accelerate. The limitations of some legacy applications may delay transformation efforts and hamper improvements to efficiency, productivity, and security. Digital transformation is the application of technology to drive better experiences and gives organizations the ability to respond to what users want more effectively. Application modernization helps organizations ensure that their data and workloads remain secure..." (Source: [EdTech Magazine](#))

## ENHANCING THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HIGHER ED MARKETING THROUGH GENERATIVE AI

"The rapid evolution of generative artificial intelligence can sometimes feel overwhelming, but marketing and communications is one area where AI's technology can gain major steam on campus. The University of Arizona ensured their entire department developed a working level of AI literacy. Over the past nine months, they have moved forward to ideate, test, and implement multiple initiatives that help themselves and their campus partners embrace AI while improving their marketing efforts. To ensure this is a success at your institution..." (Source: [The EvoLLLution](#))

## IBM COMMITS TO TRAIN 2 MILLION AI LEARNERS FOR FREE BY 2026

"IBM recently announced that it will train, for free, two million learners in artificial intelligence worldwide within the next three years, building on its existing commitment to skill 30 million learners by 2030. The free program, IBM SkillsBuild, will use its career-building platforms to partner with institutions around the world to create and make available new generative AI courses, significantly focusing on adult learners in underserved communities. This program will increase access for individuals who would like to be trained in AI but may not have the necessary financial resources to do so." (Source: [Campus Technology](#))

## GOOGLE'S TECH EQUITY COLLECTIVE INTRODUCES FREE BLACK GENIUS ACADEMY APP TO FOSTER BLACK TECH TALENT

"Google started the Tech Equity Collective (TEC) to assist aspiring Black tech talent and innovation. The free app, Black Genius Academy, helps aspire Black tech learners by providing resources like personal guidance to help them locate and enroll in certificate and boot camp programs with supportive and successful Black tech leaders that guide them in navigating careers. They also have access to information on grant opportunities. Users on the app can listen to audio interviews with Black leaders in cybersecurity, software engineering, and user experience design fields. They also can get help working out a career plan." (Source: [Campus Technology](#))

## EDUCAUSE 2023 STUDENTS AND TECH REPORT EMPHASIZES CHOICE & ACCESSIBILITY

"Educause recently released its "2023 Students and Technology Report: Flexibility, Choice, and Equity in the Student Experience. One of the key areas of this report is how accessibility impacts student education choices. They collected data from 1,953 students across 10 institutions. One of the key findings was that students' technology experiences relate to internet accessibility. Also, students with disabilities need more technology supports from their institutions, based on the type of disability. The report suggests that higher education institutions listen to students, develop a hybrid learning policy, and create a plan..." (Source: [Campus Technology](#))

- YOU GOTTA GO:  
HALLOWEEN SYMPHONY SPOOKTACULAR  
The [Halloween Symphony Spooktacular](#) is a FREE Halloween concert that will be held on Oct. 27, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Adderley Amphitheater in Cascades Park in Tallahassee. The event will include trick-or-treating, costumes, food, games and the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra performing spooky favorites such as Thriller and Ghost Busters.



(Source: [Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra](#))



# SPOOKY STUFF

- YOU GOTTA GO:  
MORTEM MANOR HAUNTED ATTRACTION  
[Mortem Manor Haunted Attraction](#) in Kissimmee is the area's only year-round Haunted House. Named one of the "Scariest Haunted Houses in America" by the Travel Channel, Mortem Manor features "effects and sets that drop you into a new realm of horror." The old victorian manor themed attractiion features dozens of state-of-the-art special effects, live actors and animatronics.



(Source: [TripAdvisor Katy](#))

- YOU GOTTA GO:  
ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE GHOST TOUR  
This 90 minute to 2 hour [Dark of the Moon Ghost Tour](#) includes a guided walk through the 1876 Keepers' House and the 1874 St. Augustine Lighthouse tower. Your guide will share true tales from the history of the Light Station. Tours are offered year-round on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays, with extended hours/days during peak times.



(Source: [Smithlandia Media/Getty Images](#))