DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES NEWS

RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2023

TOP NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FINAL RULES HAVE BEEN RELEASED

“The Biden-Harris Administration has announced final regulations to significantly enhance oversight and accountability for institutions of higher education and strengthen consumer protections for student borrowers...” (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

READ MORE HERE.
**UPDATE**

**WINDOW TO UPLOAD PROGRAMS TO FLORIDASHINES CATALOG UNDERWAY**
The Florida Department of Education and FLVC recently co-hosted a webinar to explain and answer questions about the process to upload postsecondary programs to the FloridaShines Catalog for the 2023-24 academic year.

All institutions will upload in-person and online programs during the program upload window which began on October 16 and closes December 15.

The program data collected through the FloridaShines Catalog will be shared with Credential Engine for population into a data dashboard that’s required in accordance with s. 1008.40, F.S.

**BIDEN SIGNS SWEEPING ORDER REGULATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
“President Joe Biden signed an executive order on artificial intelligence that establishes standards for security and privacy protections and requires developers to safety-test new models — casting it as necessary regulation for the emerging technology...” (Source: Bloomberg Law)

**READ MORE HERE.**

**REPORT: YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO GET TO WORK SOONER**
“Nondegree pathways are growing in popularity among high school graduates. A new report reveals a gap between students’ knowledge of available opportunities beyond a four-year degree and their interest in skills-based learning...” (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

**READ MORE HERE.**
The IDN successfully hosted a “ChatGPT and Generative AI in Education” webinar series in summer 2023. Now, a lot of our instructional design and distance education peers are exploring innovative ways of transforming instructional design, content development, and faculty development processes with artificial intelligence (AI).

For instance, the Florida SouthWestern State College team started a faculty professional development pilot program, Tinker Time. In four hy-flex, mini training sessions, the team got faculty thinking about, experimenting with, and developing their own ideas about how to start incorporating generative AI into their courses.

On November 7, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the design and delivery of this program, as well as what was accomplished and learned. Many thanks to the FSW training team members and IDN guest speakers, Anna Haney-Withrow and Heather Olson for sharing their expertise and experience with our community.

The recording and other resources related to this webinar will be shared as soon as they are made available, so stay tuned!
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS FALL MEMBERS COUNCIL MEETING

Our next Members Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, from 1:00PM – 5:00PM (ET) and Wednesday, November 15, from 9:00AM – 12:00PM (ET) at Hillsborough Community College Ybor City Campus in Tampa, Florida. Lunch will be served at 12:00PM on the first day, and breakfast will be served at 8:30AM on the second day.

MCDLSS MEETING SNEAK PEAK: NEST TOUR ON NOVEMBER 14

Nourishment, Education and Social Terraces (NEST) is a multi-campus public art initiative created by artist Tory Tepp that transformed sections of the HCC Dale Mabry and Ybor City Campuses into socially activated green spaces. Utilizing social practices while capitalizing on a local community’s assets and potential, NEST aims to empower creative solutions for addressing issues of food insecurity, sustainability and inclusion through the creation of accessible spaces to gather, interact, teach and entertain one another.

At the HCC Ybor Campus, the NEST site re-imagines existing architectural features to create a proscenium stage, tiered earthen seating, and a mosaic of ceramic tiles designed by diverse Tampa Bay artists.

Today, the spaces are home to over 300 individual plants from more than forty different species—such as Muscadine Grape, African Blue Basil, Sunshine Mimosa, White Jade Pineapple, Butter Cream Mango, Pomegranate, and Tropical Milkweed, among others—and can be utilized as outdoor classrooms, performance venues, and gathering spaces.
The development of the HCC Art Galleries dates to 1977 when the Visual Arts building on the HCC Ybor City Campus was completed, adding to the historic Tampa neighborhood’s culturally and artistically rich community. In addition to classrooms and art studios, a small gallery, largely for exhibiting student work, was established to support the visual arts curriculum of HCC. The Performing Arts building, built in 1978 and expanded in 2007, eventually became the new home of the Ybor Campus gallery, which is today Gallery114.

For Spanish-Cuban immigrant Casimiro Hernandez, Sr., arriving in Tampa, FL, with his four young sons meant searching for opportunity and a better life. On Dec. 17, 1903, he helped open the Columbia Saloon, which became the Columbia Restaurant in 1905. Over nearly 120 years, the original restaurant has expanded to an entire city block and is now the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Casimiro’s descendants diligently care for the Columbia Restaurant and help preserve his American dream. As Florida’s oldest restaurant, the Columbia has seven locations in Florida and is still owned and operated by family members.

Our meeting will take place in the Ybor Room located in the Ybor Building at 2001 N. 14th Street, Tampa, FL 33605. The South parking lot and North Palm Avenue parking garage are the closest parking options to our destination.

I’ve included a few important resources below:
- HCC Ybor City Campus Map
- Parking Passes

Parking passes should be printed and visibly displayed on your vehicle’s dashboard.

We are excited to share that a dinner reservation at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City has been made for Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m. Our current reservation is for 20 people. If you are interested in attending, please sign up below. If we exceed 20 people, an additional reservation will be made.

Check out the Columbia Restaurant’s menu, pictures, and more here.

If you are interested in attending, please take a moment to fill out our form here.
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.

According to our operating procedures, it is acceptable to invite colleagues that aren’t current members of the DLSS Members Council to join if you feel they have relevant experience and would make a great addition to our standing committees.

With that being said, please feel free to share the following link to anyone that you have in mind.

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Nashla Dawahre
Shawn Wilson
Chase Fiorini
Sade Carnegie
Priscilla Suarez

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

ARTICLE DIGESTS

CHAMPIONING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN THE AGE OF AI: THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"We are currently in a world of change and education is not hidden from these changes. While technological advancements (including artificial intelligence (AI)) have opened new possibilities for students and educators, it has also given rise to challenges in upholding academic honesty. In this context, the International Center for Academic Integrity’s (ICAI) annual International Day of Action for Academic Integrity (IDoA) emerges as a critical event that sheds light on the importance of academic integrity in the age of AI." (Source: WCET)

THE EVOLUTION OF COMPLIANCE FOR STATE AUTHORIZATION OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

"For more than a century, postsecondary institutions have been subject to a complex patchwork of rules and policies regulating their ability to provide educational services to students outside of the traditional campus setting. Now, the regulatory landscape around distance learning has transformed from a handful of state laws into a multivalent policy apparatus that operates on state and federal levels. This summary provides a high-level overview of that remarkable evolution..." (Source: SAN Network)

NEW EDUCAUSE HORIZON REPORT IDENTIFIES TECHNOLOGY IMPACTING STUDENT EXPERIENCE

"A recent report from Educause highlighted the importance of supporting the holistic student experience in higher education. It points to the "increasing use of technology for all kinds of student support" and a surge in the use of artificial intelligence. The report identifies six key technologies and practices "anticipated to have a significant impact on the future of the holistic student experience." It discusses artificial intelligence, accessible and inclusive tools and processes, student connection and belonging with technology, expanded mental health support, and unified data models for learning analytics..." (Source: Campus Technology)
OFFICIAL RELEASE: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY, CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES, ABILITY TO BENEFIT (ATB)

“The Secretary amends the regulations implementing title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), related to financial responsibility, administrative capability, certification procedures, and ATB. We amend the financial responsibility regulations to increase the Department of Education’s ability to identify high-risk events at institutions of higher education and require financial protection as needed. We amend and add administrative capability provisions to enhance the capacity for institutions to demonstrate their ability to continue to participate in the financial assistance programs authorized under title IV of the HEA (title IV, HEA programs). Additionally, we amend the certification procedures to create a more rigorous process for certifying institutional eligibility to participate in the title IV, HEA programs. Finally, we amend the ATB regulations related to student eligibility for non-high school graduates.” (Source: Federal Register)

FACT SHEET: PROTECTING STUDENTS THROUGH FINAL REGULATIONS THAT STRENGTHEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

“Today, the Biden-Harris Administration released final rules to significantly strengthen monitoring and oversight of institutions of higher education (institutions) and strengthen consumer protection for student borrowers. These regulations will allow the Department of Education (Department) to better protect taxpayers from the negative effects of sudden college closures, will restrict colleges from withholding course credits paid for with Federal money from students’ transcripts, and require colleges to clearly communicate to students how much financial aid they will receive—a common source of confusion and error. The regulations also provide a more streamlined process for States to approve postsecondary opportunities for students without a high school diploma or its equivalent. These regulations will go into effect on July 1, 2024.” (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

INSTRUCTURE TO BUY PARCHMENT, A CREDENTIALING PLATFORM

“Have you ever heard of the digital transcript and credentialing platform called Parchment? Parchment will be acquired by Instructure, which makes the learning management software Canvas. Instructure will buy it for approximately $795 million and believes that the companies’ combined services will provide a set of solutions that connect learners, institutions, and employers across a learner’s journey. Instructure is positioning itself to provide not just education and training offerings through its institutional customers but also tracking them into and through employment.” (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

CAN TECHNOLOGY HELP COMMUNITY COLLEGES AVOID THE LONG-PREDICTED ENROLLMENT CLIFF?

“The long-predicted enrollment cliff is the period around 2025 or 2026 when the effects of the Great Recession on this country's birth rate will be felt as dramatically fewer high school seniors reach graduation. The supply of college-eligible students could take two decades to recover. Community colleges will rely on technology to help them face this enrollment cliff. They must invest in the technology necessary to teach effectively in any modality. Investing in interactive flat panel displays, collaborative furniture, and 3D printers could go a long way toward convincing students...” (Source: EdTech Magazine)

SIIA RELEASES GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR AI IN EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

“The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) recently released a set of guiding principles for artificial intelligence in education technology called “Education Technology Industry's Principles for the Future of AI in Education.” The principles were developed in conjunction with several companies involved in education and ed tech like Pearson, Instructure, and McGraw Hill. The seven principles say that AI technologies in education should address the needs of learners, account for educational equity, inclusion, and civil rights, protect student privacy and data, strive for transparency, engage with education institutions, adopt best practices for accountability, and work with the greater education community to identify ways to support AI literacy.” (Source: THE Journal)
**MOVIE MUST-SEE: THE HOLDOVERS**

The period comedy drama The Holdovers reunites director Alexander Payne with actor Paul Giamatti for the first time since 2004’s Academy Award nominated film Sideways.

Set in the 1970s, The Holdovers follows a “curmudgeonly instructor (Giamatti) at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go.”

(Source: Rotten Tomatoes)

**YOU GOTTA TRY IT: CASUAL CLAM SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL**

The Casual Clam Restaurant has been a staple in the St. Petersburg area since 1991. Offering indoor and outdoor dining, the Clam creates a casual atmosphere where you can enjoy whole belly Ipswich clams, scallops, their famous clam chowder (made fresh daily) or a New England style lobster roll.

**YOU GOTTA GO: SAFARI WILDERNESS RANCH**

“You don’t have to fly all the way to Africa to go on safari! Located in a 260-acre wilderness area in Lakeland, halfway between Tampa and Orlando, Safari Wilderness offers an intimate, up-close encounter with herds of free-roaming exotic animals in a breathtaking natural setting that rivals the African savanna. Safari Wilderness is not a zoo. Unlike the beaches and theme parks, there are no crowds or lines - just your small group of adventurers and an experienced guide driving a custom safari vehicle, fitted with a shade canopy and stadium seating. Tours are by safari vehicle, kayak or camelback. Add-on experiences include lemur, budgie and guinea pig feedings. Tours are available daily by reservation only.”

(Source: Visit Tampa Bay)

**FUN STUFF**

**YOU GOTTA TRY IT: CASUAL CLAM SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL**

You Gotta Try It: Casual Clam Seafood Bar & Grill

The Casual Clam Restaurant has been a staple in the St. Petersburg area since 1991. Offering indoor and outdoor dining, the Clam creates a casual atmosphere where you can enjoy whole belly Ipswich clams, scallops, their famous clam chowder (made fresh daily) or a New England style lobster roll.

**SPINE-BENDERS:**

“Spine-Benders: ‘This month, pile your nightstand with a thrilling look inside the current state of the British royal family, a deep dive on the enduring legacy of Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, a long-awaited biography from one of music’s most iconic stars, and so much more. Here are T&C’s picks for the best books of November 2023.”

(Source: Town & Country)