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TOP NEWS IN FL & BEYOND

■ U.S. WANTS TO LET STATES ENFORCE THEIR OWN REGULATIONS FOR ONLINE EDUCATION

"As the Biden administration eyes regulatory changes aimed at improving consumer protections for students, institutions worry about unintended consequences." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

[Read more here.](#)



ACES SUPPORTED COURSE REDESIGN AT SIX UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING FIU AND UCF



"ACES supported course redesign activities at six universities to improve student success outcomes and reduce equity gaps for minoritized, poverty-affected, and first-generation students. The participating institutions targeted gateway courses with high enrollment and high [DFW rates](#). ACES was delivered through the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities in partnership with Every Learner Everywhere." Link to case studies can be found below. (Source: Every Learner Everywhere)

[Read more here.](#)

NO MORE NO. 2 PENCILS: THE SAT GOES FULLY DIGITAL

"The exam will be briefer — two hours and 14 minutes instead of three hours — and students will have more time for each question. The reading passages will be much shorter, and test-takers will now be able to use an online graphing calculator for the entire math section of the exam. And after 98 years of students scratching answers on paper, the SAT will now be fully digital for the remote-learning generation." (Source: The New York Times)

[Read more here.](#)



TSAA NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

Transient student admissions applications created for Spring 2024 (13,951) have surpassed last year's spring applications (11,435) by 16.3 percent. So far, for the 2023-24 academic year there have been 30,917 applications created, compared to 25,452 during the same period in 2022-23, an increase of 21.5 percent. 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.

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■ IDN EXAMINED THE WAYS ONLINE COURSES CAN PROVIDE RICHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN LATEST WEBINAR

Last week, FL-IDN hosted a free webinar, *Place-Based Experiential Learning in Asynchronous Online Courses*, where attendees examined the ways online courses can provide a richer learning experience than traditional modalities, due to the diversity of our students and their resources. They also tackled the challenges of this approach in order to help students connect with the place where they live, work, and play. Attendees ultimately discovered types of course activities that get online students away from their computers and into their physical communities.

Many thanks to our IDN guest speaker, Carrie Cole (Virginia Commonwealth University), for sharing her expertise and experience with our community.

[YouTube](#) | [Presentation Slides](#) | [Resource 1](#) | [Resource 2](#) | [Resource 3](#)



■ JUST ADDED: IDN TO LEAD INTERACTIVE SHOWCASE ON TRANSFORMING TRADITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS WITH AI

Good news! The latest AI in Real Time with FL-IDN Virtual Capstone Panel Session was very well received by our passionate IDN community members and friends two weeks ago.

In response to the community's growing need for guidance on how to integrate AI-assisted teaching and learning practices in college classrooms, the IDN AI Workgroup has agreed to lead an interactive showcase session featuring demonstrations of transforming traditional assignments using artificial intelligence (AI) tools and UDL.

To learn more about these transformative techniques, please join our IDN AI Workgroup in a free webinar at 2 p.m. (ET) on Wednesday, March 20.

To register, go [here](#).



■ IDN WILL EXPLORE PRACTICAL TIPS AND TRICKS FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS ON APRIL 2

There is a lot of planning and preparation that goes into designing and facilitating effective virtual synchronous faculty development workshops. In this session, we will take a peek "behind the curtain" to explore practical tips and tricks that can help you stay organized, keep track of important tasks, and create a smoother virtual facilitation experience. We will also explore how you can use tools like Wakelet and Scribe to easily share resources with faculty so that learning can continue beyond the workshop.

Join this session to learn helpful organizational tips, systems, and tools that can make preparing and facilitating virtual faculty development workshops easier.

To register, go [here](#).



UP NEXT: OER BOOTCAMP



■ FLVC OER BOOTCAMP TO BE HELD IN TWO WEEKS

There's still time to register for FLVC Library Services' annual OER Bootcamp March 27-29 from 2-4 p.m. (ET) each day. Refresh your knowledge of Open Educational Resources, learn more about OPEN FL and other community support resources, and explore OER engagement features such as peer review, tenure/promotion, and more.

Day 1 of the Bootcamp, titled "Basic" will cover Creative Commons Licenses and the Spectrum of Open. Day 2, "Intermediate," will detail OER and Tenure and Promotion. The final day of the Bootcamp will cover Peer Review of OER.

This event is open to librarians, faculty, staff, administrators, advisors, etc. Feel free to share this opportunity with your colleagues!

To register, go [here](https://flvc.org/bootcamp2024).

FREE Webinars!

OER Bootcamp

MARCH 27 - 29
2 - 4 PM ET

Build your knowledge of Open Educational Resources (OER) and support, like the OPEN FL community, and engage with peer review, tenure/promotion, and more!

- Day 1 | Basic**
Creative Commons Licenses and the Spectrum of Open
- Day 2 | Intermediate**
OER Towards Tenure and Promotion
- Day 3 | Advanced**
Peer Review of OER

OPEN FL
FL LIBRARY SERVICES

Register at [FLVC.org/Bootcamp2024](https://flvc.org/bootcamp2024)

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UP NEXT: OER SUMMIT

■ **FLVC OER SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN MAY**

This year's Florida OER Summit will be held virtually on May 23-24. The theme of this year's Summit is "Innovations and Trends." Join librarians, educators, instructional designers, and OER professionals from across Florida and the U.S. as they explore existing trends, look towards innovative directions, and discover how OER positively impacts students, faculty, and institutions.

Topics covered during the two-day event include: ZTC degrees/pathways, gamification and adaptive learning, library digital content and archives student engagement and development and collaboration.

To register, go [here](#).



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INVITATION: PARTICIPATE IN FALCON

■ INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FLORIDA AI LEARNING CONSORTIUM (FALCON)

We are excited to introduce and invite your participation in the Florida AI Learning Consortium (FALCON), a new initiative to advance the understanding and application of generative artificial intelligence (AI) within higher education. At FALCON, our mission is to foster ethical, responsible, and innovative use of AI through cross-institutional and interdisciplinary collaboration, faculty development, and the exploration of AI's role across various academic disciplines.

Our consortium is led by a steering committee and structured around Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which focus on several critical areas. They are listed below. These SIGs provide a platform for members to engage with specific AI-related topics and contribute to the advancement of our collective knowledge and practices.

- AI Ethics and Policy
- AI Use-Cases and Faculty Development
- AI Literacy and Workforce Readiness
- AI Knowledge Hub
- Data Privacy and Security
- Grants, Publications, and Scholarship

We invite all higher education faculty and administrators in Florida to join FALCON and participate in our SIGs. This is an opportunity to be at the forefront of integrating AI into our teaching, learning, and research processes, shaping the future of higher education in our State and beyond.

[Click Here](#) to become a FALCON member (Look for the Join Group button)

[Click Here](#) to sign up for a FALCON SIG

As you know, generative AI holds the potential to transform knowledge acquisition, research methodologies, pedagogy, and workforce readiness. By joining the consortium, you will be part of a community committed to exploring the implications of AI and ensuring that higher education remains relevant and responsive to the rapidly evolving technology landscape.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Co-Chairs. We look forward to working together to harness the transformative power of AI in higher education.

Warmest regards,

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EVENT REMINDER

Save the Date!

Day One

TUESDAY, MAY 21

LUNCH: 12 PM - 1 PM

MEETING: 1 PM - 5 PM

Day Two

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

BREAKFAST: 8:30 AM - 9 AM

MEETING: 9 AM - 12 PM

See you there!

AUTOMOTIVE CENTER
SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
SANFORD/LAKE MARY CAMPUS

REMINDERS



MCDLSS SUMMER MEETING

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A regular meeting of the FLVC Members Council on Distance Learning and Student Services will be held on Tuesday, May 21 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 22 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Seminole State College's Automotive Center in Sanford, Florida. If attending in person, there is a \$60.00 meeting registration fee. Payments may be made by check, purchase order, or credit card.

[Registration Now Open](#) | [Pay by Credit Card](#)

ARTICLE DIGESTS



ASSESSING QUALITY OF MICROCREDENTIALS IS DIFFICULT

"While most parents and educators are generally supportive of students pursuing nondegree pathways after high school, a new survey from American Student Assistance and Jobs for the Future shows that many lack information about the quality of the [ever-increasing number of available programs...](#)" (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

GAME-CHANGING ACCESS TO ACADEMIC MATERIALS IN PRISON

"JSTOR, an expansive digital library of academic articles and books frequently used by students and scholars, is now accessible in 1,054 prisons, all but 17 of them in the U.S. The JSTOR Access in Prison Initiative began in 2007 and is currently free. JSTOR's expanded reach means its digital library of millions of academic articles and tens of thousands of books is now available to at least 550,000 incarcerated individuals, a population that often does not have access to technology and library resources..." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

COMPUTING DEVICE PROGRAMS PAVE THE WAY TO DIGITAL EQUITY

"Technology allows students to access the internet, take online classes, complete online coursework, and communicate and collaborate with their peers and is necessary for a comprehensive educational experience, but the digital divide remains an issue. For the past five years, the University of Kentucky has provided every first-time degree seeking student with an iPad Air, Magic Keyboard, and Apple Pencil. Lincoln University and Lone Star College are also institutions that provide access to devices for their students..." (Source: EdTech Magazine)

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CONGRESS PASSES FAFSA FORMULA FIX

"Congress recently moved to fix an error in the legislation overhauling the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), days after the Education Department announced it was updating to formula for aid eligibility to comply with the law. The formula change would have made more students eligible for the Pell Grant, but Congress was hesitant about the change. Congress addressed the issue in the continuing resolution that recently passed to fund the government through March 22..." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

COLLEGES URGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO KEEP RULES ALLOWING INCLUSIVE ACCESS

"Administrators and professors from over 60 institutions across the country are calling on the Education Department to abandon its current proposal to change how colleges can bill students for books and supplies. The department has proposed ending a 2016 policy that allowed institutions to automatically charge students for books and supplies as part of tuition and fees which allowed inclusive access to flourish. The representatives in the letter wrote how the department's attempt to curb programs like..." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

WILL NOTRE DAME COLLEGE'S CLOSING BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS? EDITORIAL BOARD ROUNDTABLE

"Last week's announcement that 102-year-old Notre Dame College in South Euclid [would close at the end of the spring semester](#) was gut-wrenching for many of its 1,400-plus students and its loyal graduates. The South Euclid college, which first opened in 1922, cited financial challenges in its closing announcement. Notre Dame said it has dealt with declining enrollment, rising costs and significant debt — and that these challenges lead the college's board of trustees to decide to close the institution..." (Source: Cleveland.com)

HOW HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS USE TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNICATE

"Enrollment and retention are more important than ever, and getting in touch with internal and external stakeholders is key to attracting and retaining new students. Technology plays a critical role in making this communication happen, and institutions are making investments to enhance these interactions. Syracuse University has a video wall that shares the stories of successful graduates. Employees at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education rely on technology to improve..." (Source: EdTech Magazine)

NEW CHIP OPENS DOOR TO AI COMPUTING AT LIGHT SPEED

"Engineers at the University of Pennsylvania have developed a new chip that uses light waves, rather than electricity, to perform the complex math essentials to training AI. The chip could accelerate the processing speed of computers while reducing their energy consumption. It also has privacy advantages. Since many computations can happen simultaneously, storing sensitive information in a computer's working memory would no longer be necessary. This would render a future computer powered by virtually unhackable technology. Will this be the future for computers? " (Source: Penn Engineering Today)

SURVEY SUGGESTS HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT READY FOR GENERATIVE AI

"Cengage's annual digital learning pulse survey showed that approximately 95 percent of two-and four-year higher education administrators, faculty, and trustees expect generative AI tools to change their institution over the next five years. While many recognize the impact generative AI could have on their institutions, a significant portion of respondents do not believe their institution is prepared for AI-related changes. See the original article for a full report about Cengage's Digital Learning Pulse Survey." (Source: Campus Technology)

CHATGPT PILOTING SELECTIVE 'MEMORY' FEATURE

"Have you heard about ChatGPT's newest feature? It will now let users control what and how much it remembers and forgets from conversation to conversation. OpenAI explained in an FAQ about the pilot memory feature, "ChatGPT can now carry what it learns between chats, allowing it to provide more relevant responses. As you chat with ChatGPT, it will become more helpful. ChatGPT's memory will get better the more you use ChatGPT and you'll start to notice the improvements over time..." (Source: Campus Technology)

ADOBE IS MAKING IT EASIER TO CREATE SOCIAL CONTENT ON MOBILE WITH AI

"Adobe is simplifying the process for users to create and publish social content from their phones. With this update, Adobe is introducing its Firefly AI models directly into the app, allowing users to quickly create and edit social content using generative AI tools. The latest version of the app will be similar to the AI tools available in Canva..." (Source: TechCrunch)

MOVIE MUST-SEE:

DUNE: PART TWO

"Dune: Part Two" will explore the mythic journey of Paul Atreides as he unites with Chani and the Fremen while on a warpath of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the known universe, he endeavors to prevent a terrible future only he can foresee." (Source: [Rotten Tomatoes](#))



YOU GOTTA GO:

GALLERY ON FIRST

"Gallery on First is a unique gallery and working space for professional and emerging artists that invites the public inside the artistic process through shows, events, education and conversations with working artists." Gallery on First is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m. (Source: [Gallery on First](#))



FUN STUFF

SPINE-BENDERS:

"With March comes bright colors, fragrant flowers and our brand new must-reads. From an unforgettable story of family set in Appalachia to a genre-defying speculative fiction, an essential guide to an American literary icon and a chilling (and award-winning) thriller, these picks will pair nicely with your picnic blankets and outdoor charcuterie boards. In between St. Patrick's Day parties and Easter plans, [these books](#) will accompany you through all of March's madness." (Source: [Barnes & Noble](#))

YOU GOTTA TRY IT:

SHANTELL'S JUST UNTIL

Voted "Best Fried Chicken in Central Florida" by the Orlando Sentinel more than five years in a row, Shantell's Just Until in Sanford has been serving "incredible southern comfort food and Caribbean-inspired seafood since 2013." (Source: [Shantell's Just Until](#))

