

News

- The 9th annual Connections Conference will be held May 8-9 in Sanford/Lake Mary, Florida. This year's theme is, "Charting the Course to Success – Navigating Academic Pathways." Presentations will cover topics such as connecting high school to college, programs of study and academic pathways, and instructional innovations. Details, including registration and hotel information, are located at <http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/connections/2014/default.asp>.
- The Board of Governors' Access and Educational Attainment Commission materials may be accessed at <http://www.flbog.edu/about/commission.php>. Florida College System institutions are eligible to apply for funding, in partnership with state universities. The [Targeted Educational Attainment \(TEAm\) Grants](#) are due February 3rd to SUS-teamgrant@flbog.edu.
- The Florida Department of Education has entered into a contract with Tutor.com for a reduction in costs (\$24 per hour) to Florida College System institutions for online tutoring services. You may contact Mr. David Floyd at dfloyd@TUTOR.com for information.
- *Closing the Gap: The Florida College System Civics Literacy Initiative* meeting was held on October 9-10, 2013, as a kick-off to a statewide initiative on civic education and engagement. The Division of Florida Colleges is collaborating with the Council of Presidents and St. Petersburg College's Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions to facilitate ongoing activities, including exploring a system-wide implementation of [TurboVote](#). More information will be presented at this week's CIA/CSA meeting.
- [Marshall Criser](#) III has been appointed Chancellor for the State University System.
- The [Task Force](#) on Postsecondary Online Education in Florida presented its [final report](#) at the January 2014 Board of Governors' meeting. Ongoing collaboration between the Florida College System and State University System is expected as Task Force recommendations are acted upon.
- On January 31st, the Florida Department of Education submitted the *Florida Approved Courses and Tests Initiative* report to the legislature, as required by House Bill 7029. Report attached.
- Governor Rick Scott appointed Rebecca Fishman Lipsey and Andy Tuck to the [State Board of Education](#). The next board meeting is February 18th in Orlando.
- The Florida College System has a new, free [mobile app](#) for Apple and Android devices. You should check it out.
- Fifteen Florida College System institutions are eligible to compete for the prestigious [Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence](#).
- The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) announced its short list for the second annual [Awards of Excellence](#). Miami Dade College and Tallahassee Community College joined 22 other colleges from across the nation as finalists.
- The first monthly Academic and Student Affairs conference call was conducted on January 31st at 2:00 p.m. (ET). It was short and updates were provided on proposed/anticipated legislation regarding textbook affordability and career and technical centers. Monthly calls are targeted for the last Friday of each month through the spring semester. The call-in information will be shared and calls will be regularly scheduled at 2:00 p.m. (ET), unless otherwise noticed. Notifications will be sent at least one week prior to each call.

- Florida College System [Data Snapshots](#) provide key facts about timely and significant topics facing Florida higher education. Data Snapshots contain a statement, graphic illustrating the point and brief background on the subject.

Academics

- Rule development for the final General Education Core Course Option recommendations has been initiated and the notice may be accessed at <https://app1.fldoe.org/rules/default.aspx>. See [Rule 6A-10.0303](#), Florida Administrative Code. The rule is anticipated to be considered by the State Board of Education later this spring.
- The Florida College System Developmental Education website may be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/site/fcsdevelopmentaleducation/home>. Once Developmental Education Implementation Plans are approved, all plans will be made available on this website. As of February 2nd, the division has received 25 plans.
- Faculty members from Florida State University's College of Education (FSU) are conducting a study to document and assess the developmental education reform as required by Senate Bill 1720. The purpose of their research project is to document the implementation process of the new legislation and assess the reform's effects on student progression and success. Specifically, they intend to study how Florida colleges plan to implement the reform measures and the underlying rationale in approaches to advising and developmental education offerings. The Division of Florida Colleges has collaborated on the development of the survey instrument and we are supportive of their research intent.
- The Articulation Coordinating Committee approved an articulation agreement with Johnson and Wales University at its October 23rd meeting, which was subsequently approved by the Council of Presidents. Details and participation agreement to follow.
- Twenty-four FCS institutions are now approved to offer more than 170 baccalaureate programs. Tallahassee Community College recently submitted its first Letter of Intent for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, which makes TCC the 25th college to pursue baccalaureate programming.
- [Rule 6A-10.2412, F.A.C., Foreign Language Competence and Equivalence](#), has been noticed for revision to align with the recently revised Board of Governors regulation requiring competence in the elementary 2 level in lieu of the 8-10 credit hour completion requirement. It is anticipated to be on the board agenda for approval later this spring.

Student Affairs

- The United States Department of Veteran Affairs has launched a new [G.I. Bill Feedback System](#) where veterans using benefits may submit complaints regarding financial aid, grading policies, transcripts, and transfer of credit, among other common issues. This feedback system is aligned with the [Principles of Excellence](#).
- All the statutorily mandated 2013-2014 Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreements to be submitted to the DOE (FCS-district) have been loaded to the Office of Articulation website at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/DualEnrollment.asp>.
- A new URL for the PERT Score Repository is now functional and ready to use at <http://app4.fldoe.org/PERT/Default.aspx>. Users who need assistance should email FloridaCollegeSystemInstitutions@fldoe.org.
- Broward College is in the final stages of development of a Financial Literacy Toolkit that will be available statewide later this spring.

- A listserv for ombudsmen is under development and will be a forum for collaboration and identifying best practices in addressing common student issues and complaints. Dr. Tamar Williams distributed a survey to CSA to identify the ombudsman at each college.
- The [2014 Sunshine State Scholars](#) will be held February 13-14 in Orlando, FL, at the Hilton Orlando Hotel. This is a great opportunity to expose Florida's high achieving high school students to the Florida College System. Colleges are invited to exhibit and/or show off cool STEM programs. You may contact Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org if your college is interested in participating.

Legislation of Interest

HB 0035	Relating to Resident Status for Tuition Purposes	Peters
HB 0051	Relating to Resident Status for Tuition Purposes	Fullwood
SB 0084	Relating to Waivers of Out-of-State Fees for Veterans	Latvala
HB 0205	Relating to Resident Status for Tuition Purposes	Rodríguez (J)
HB 0253	Relating to Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act	Rodríguez (J)
HB 0275	Relating to Postsecondary Student Tuition	Torres
SB 0300	Relating to Postsecondary Student Tuition	Bullard
HB 0355	Relating to Postsecondary Education Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability	Porter
SB 0418	Relating to Fee Waivers for Military Veterans	Sachs
SB 0428	Relating to Resident Status For Tuition Purposes	Bullard
SB 0530	Relating to Postsecondary Education Textbook And Instructional Materials Affordability	Flores
HB 0559	Relating to Military Veterans	Metz
SB 0566	Relating to Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program	Lee (T)
SB 0724	Relating to Military Veterans	Dean
HB 0735	Relating to Postsecondary Student Fees	Clarke-Reed

Grants

- The College of Central Florida has developed the *Dual Enrollment Springboard*, a dual enrollment toolkit for high school and college administrators and faculty. The Springboard is available at <http://www.despringboard.info/>. The development was funded through the College Access Challenge Grant. Please join the Division of Florida Colleges in recognizing the College of Central Florida in a job well done!
- Broward College has been awarded a grant to create statewide, open-access [College Readiness through Game-Based Learning](#) MOOCs. We anticipate the MOOCs will be available by fall 2014.
- [Core to College](#) funds are available for district/college collaboration to improve college readiness. You may contact Julie Alexander for more information until a new “alignment director” is hired to fill Cassandra Brown’s role.
- [Completion by Design](#) encourages the strengthening of pathways to completion and closely aligns with the conceptual framework of meta-majors. The Division of Florida Colleges, in coordination with Miami Dade College, will be sharing information regarding this student success initiative in the coming months.

Listservs

The Division of Florida Colleges maintains several listservs to facilitate communications. You may contact the individual listed below to be added to a listserv.

- Advisors (Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org)
- Chief Academic Officers (Julie Alexander at julie.alexander@fldoe.org)
- Core to College (Julie Alexander at julie.alexander@fldoe.org)
- Council of Instructional Affairs (Julie Alexander at julie.alexander@fldoe.org)
- Dual Enrollment Coordinators (Tamaria Williams at tamaria.williams@fldoe.org)
- Developmental Education Faculty (Tamaria Williams at tamaria.williams@fldoe.org)
- Educator Preparation Institutes (Abbey Ivey at abbey.ivey@fldoe.org)
- Financial Aid Coordinators/Directors (Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org)
- Ombudsmen (Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org)
- Registrars and Admissions Officers (Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org)
- Testing Coordinators/Administrators (Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org)
- Veteran Services Coordinators (Narcissus Willis at narcissus.willis@fldoe.org)

The Council of Student Affairs and Chief Student Affairs Officers listservs are not maintained by the Division of Florida Colleges. To be added to CSA, contact the CSA Chair (currently, Leroy Darby).