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Transforming Education



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College of Education Dean's Message to Alumni, Friends

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COE Honored at Giving in Paradise Thank You Breakfast

The College of Education (COE) was one of three colleges recognized by Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s Division of Institutional Advancement at the 2019 Giving in Paradise Thank You Breakfast attended by FAU President John Kelly, Ph.D., and COE Dean Steve Silverman, Ed.D., on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019 in the Alumni Building's Great Hall from 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development assigned to the COE, accepted the award for most new ... [Read more](#)



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Florida Atlantic University

You may contact us at coedevelopment@fau.edu.

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By [Stephen Silverman, Ed.D.](#) | OCTOBER 31, 2019

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I joined FAU on Aug. 1 after 21 years as a professor and administrator at Teachers College, Columbia University. During the application and interview process I was impressed by the goals of the University administration and the vibrancy of the College. I was particularly impressed by the focus on students and providing support to help them negotiate a large university and graduate and begin a professional career. As a graduate of Temple University—another public research university that has a similar impact on another large, metropolitan area—I am excited about my new role and leading the College!

As you may know, FAU joined the top-tier of national research universities in the latest *U.S News and World Report* rankings and the University administration has implemented plans to continue to enhance our recognition as a national university. The College of Education is playing a big part in this effort—with many research-active faculty members who are prominent scholars in their fields. As part of my portfolio as dean I am working to help support our faculty to enhance our research productivity and the reputation of the College. By producing research and scholarship that impacts their fields our faculty provide evidence to influence practice for educators, counselors, speech-language pathologists, and professional leaders. You will be hearing more about our research and scholarship as we move forward and I am enthusiastic about the contributions our faculty and students make to the scholarly literature.

Our College plays a large role in providing professionals for South Florida—particularly Palm Beach and Broward Counties. Our graduates pursue careers in many areas and we continue to do a first-class job preparing our students to enter professional roles. Our commitment to our communities and the professions we serve is integral to our work and we continue to look for new ways to prepare our students for successful careers.

We will be doing a number of events to connect our alumni with the College and its faculty. We are developing a distinguished lecture series, where prominent scholars from across the country will be on campus and provide insight to their work and the application of it to professional practice. We hope you will be able to come to campus to hear and participate in the lectures and to socialize with faculty and other alumni. We will have other events that will allow us to meet each other and find ways the College can assist in your professional pursuits.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months and hearing about your experiences at FAU. If there is anything we can do for you—or if you just want to say hello—please let me hear from you!

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COE Honored at Giving in Paradise Thank You Breakfast



Jorene Jameson, Ph.D. (right), accepts the award for the most new donors on behalf of the College of Education (COE) during the 2019 Giving in Paradise Thank You Breakfast hosted by Florida Atlantic University's Division of Institutional Advancement on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019. Receiving the Ambassador of the Year awards are Darlene Epperson (center), Office Assistant, Counselor Education, for encouraging COE faculty and staff giving and Suzanne Nichols, Senior Secretary, Dean's Office, for taking part in a video shown by the Department of Human Resources during new faculty and staff orientation. COE alumna Ann Musgrove, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning, who was a COE Ambassador, was not present during the breakfast.

By Josephine Elliott | OCTOBER 31, 2019

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COE, accepted the award for most new donors on behalf of the College of Education.

"By giving to the 2019 Giving in Paradise Campaign, faculty and staff will make a difference in lives of College of Education students."

— Jorene Jameson, Ph.D.
Development Officer assigned to the College of Education

"Many faculty and staff in the College of Education contributed to the scholarship endowment fund Valerie Bristor, Ph.D., established before stepping down as dean of the COE," Jameson explained. "They wanted to honor her legacy." As a result of the special initiative in 2019 to raise funds for Bristor's endowment fund, giving increased for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Darlene Epperson, Office Assistant, Counselor Education, and Suzanne Nichols, Senior Secretary, Dean's Office, received the Ambassador of the Year Awards during the breakfast. A College of Education alumna who has a long history at FAU, Ann Musgrove, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning, was not present for the breakfast. All three are donors and serve as role models.

Epperson and Musgrove served as Ambassadors for the COE. In April 2019, Epperson emailed the campaign information to all the department secretaries to distribute to faculty and staff and Musgrove brought materials to the April 19, 2019 COE Faculty Assembly meeting and handed out payroll deduction forms at Teaching and Learning's faculty meeting. Together, they increased awareness of the 2019 Giving in Paradise campaign by holding a Cookie Break on May 21, 2019 on the second floor of the Education Building on the Boca Raton Campus. Musgrove canvassed all floors in the Education Building to encourage participation.

Epperson received the award in recognition of her efforts to encourage COE faculty and staff to give to the College. Having worked for FAU's COE for more than 21 years, Epperson has conducted numerous giving campaigns over the years on behalf of the COE. She went the extra mile this year by providing forms for faculty in her department to complete during Counselor Education's faculty meeting to make it easy for them to donate.

An FAU alumna who joined FAU last year, Nichols was bestowed the award for taking part in a video that FAU's Department of Human Resources shows new faculty and staff during orientation. The video features several FAU staff that expressed why giving to the University is important to them.

For more information about the [College of Education](#), please contact the [Office for Academic and Student Services](#). To explore ways to give, contact Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development, College of Education, at jjameson2013@fau.edu.

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Donor Renews COE Scholarship to Raise Awareness



Florida Atlantic University (FAU) alumnus Steven Russo renewed the Kimberly Russo Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is awarded each year to a College of Education student who has been affected by cancer, either individually, or by a spouse or parent. It was established in 2015 in memory of his deceased wife, Kimberly, who graduated from FAU's College of Education (COE) in 1997 with a bachelor's in Exceptional Student Education.

By Josephine Elliott | OCTOBER 31, 2019

Approximately 38.4 percent of men and women will be diagnosed with cancer at some point during their lifetimes (based on 2011-2015 cases), according to the [National Cancer Institute](#). The impact can be felt in many ways and by many people. Steven Russo, a Florida Atlantic University (FAU) alumnus, knows this first hand. So when his deceased wife, Kimberly, succumbed to leukemia in May 2015, Russo established a memorial scholarship fund in perpetuity to help FAU College of Education (COE) students affected by cancer, either individually or by a spouse or parent.

"My wife, Kimberly, battled leukemia for eight years," recalled Russo. After being in remission for 14 months, she relapsed and we moved with our three children to Tampa, Fla., for four months so that she could receive a bone marrow transplant at the Moffitt Cancer Center. Five years later the cancer

"My wife, Kimberly, was always helping others, whether at FAU, our children's school or the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. The memorial scholarship honors her indefinitely by helping students going through what we went through."

*--Steven Russo
Florida Atlantic University
(FAU) alumnus*

came back with a vengeance."

Their son, presently a freshman at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), was 14 years old and their daughters were 11 and 8 years old when Kimberly passed away. Both Steven and Kimberly graduated from FAU in 1997. His current wife, Courtney, is an alumna of FAU's COE and teaches first grade at the Alexander D. Henderson University School.

Since Kimberly, who was an FAU employee, earned a bachelor's in Exceptional Student Education from the COE's Department of Exceptional Student Education, Russo chose to help undergraduate students enrolled in the COE. The Kimberly Russo Memorial Scholarship Fund awards a scholarship each year, providing the recipient up to \$500 per semester for tuition and fees only.

Scholarship applicants must submit a one-page essay along with their application describing what receiving this scholarship would mean to them and how cancer has affected their lives. Over the years, Russo has received heart-wrenching letters from scholarship recipients telling him how the scholarship helped them and how the scholarship influenced their lives.

An educational aspect of the scholarship requires the selected student to participate in the [Leukemia and Lymphoma Society](#) (LLS) Light the Night Walk in Boca Raton, Fla., each year the scholarship is awarded. This provides the scholarship recipient with the opportunity to meet other people affected by leukemia and their families. This year's event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 at the Sunset Cove Amphitheater.

The LLS Light the Night Walk generates funds to provide hope in time of despair, community in place of loneliness and life-saving research and support to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Further information on the event is available at <http://www.lightthenight.org/pb/>.

For more information about COE scholarships, visit <http://www.fau.edu/education/students/scholarships/>. To explore ways to give, contact Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development, College of Education, at jameson2013@fau.edu.

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