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Transforming Education



COE Alumnae Instruct Students at the Academy for Community Inclusion Thanks to Enhancement Grant

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) [Academy for Community Inclusion \(ACI\)](#) in the College of Education (COE) will expand its college program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities thanks to a grant from the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA). Titled, Academy for Community Inclusion Enhancement: Expanding Florida Atlantic University's Comprehensive Transition Program, the grant will fund three instructional personnel ... [Read more](#)



Please Consider Giving to the FAU Cares Emergency Fund

During this global health crisis, one of the ways Florida Atlantic University (FAU) showed its support for its students was by establishing the [FAU Cares Emergency Fund](#) on April 1, 2020 for registered, [degree-seeking](#) students in the spring 2020 term experiencing financial hardship. The economic situation caused by the Coronavirus pandemic .. [Read more](#)

The College of Education Begins a Conversation...

Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., Dean and Professor, College of Education (COE), initiated the first listening session regarding race relations and police brutality on June 23, 2020. COE faculty, staff and students participated in the virtual meeting, offering perspectives and suggestions. The Dean expressed his recommitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and thanked everyone for the thoughtful and respectful talk.

Charles Dukes, Ed.D., Ph.D., Professor, Exceptional Student Education, moderated the discussion and Joe Waters, M.Ed., Associate Director, Office for Academic and Student Services, monitored the chats, bringing them to the moderator's attention. The purpose of the listening session, noted Dukes, was to begin a conversation that will serve as a catalyst to produce principles, pose questions for reflection and result in action.



Scholarships Contribute to Academic Success

Thanks to the generosity of donors, 78 students in the College of Education (COE) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) received scholarships during 2019-2020. They were recognized in an announcement of COE Honors and Award recipients on May 8, 2020 by Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., Dean, COE. Five of them, who are pursuing degrees offered by the College's six departments, shared how these scholarships contributed to their academic success... [Read more](#)



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Florida Atlantic University

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COE Alumnae Instruct Students at ACI Thanks to Enhancement Grant



Florida Atlantic University (FAU) alumnae who hold doctoral degrees from the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in the College of Education and serve as Visiting Instructors for the Department's Academy for Community Inclusion (ACI) are (from left), Kelly Kearney, Ed.D.; Brianna Joseph, Ed.D.; and Gwendolyn Carey, Ed.D. Angelica Downey, M.Ed. (right), who earned a master's degree from ESE, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Special Education. Downey serves ACI as a Curriculum and Training Specialist. FAU ACI, a college program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, recently received a grant to enhance the program on the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses.

By Josephine Elliott | JULY 31, 2020

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) [Academy for Community Inclusion \(ACI\)](#) in the College of Education (COE) will expand its college program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities thanks to a grant from the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA). Titled, Academy for Community Inclusion Enhancement: Expanding Florida Atlantic University's Comprehensive Transition Program, the grant will fund three instructional personnel and employment specialists to enhance the program on the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses. ACI has used grants such as this to hire Visiting Instructors and employment specialists who are alumnae of FAU's COE.

FAU became eligible for the grant as a result of its recently renewed certification as a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. The award, which is \$300,000 per year for three years, totaling \$900,000, adds to ACI's renewed certification, and follows the appointment of Gwendolyn Carey, Ed.D.,

"This grant provides funds to ACI to enhance the program by increasing the number of students served and increasing employment opportunities for students upon graduation."

*-Michael Brady, Ph.D.
Chair and Professor,
Exceptional Student Education*

who teaches on the Jupiter campus, as Visiting Instructor on April 29, 2020 and renewal appointments of two Visiting Instructor's, Kelly Kearney, Ed.D., and Brianna Joseph, Ed.D., who instruct classes on the Boca Raton campus. All of them earned doctoral degrees in Exceptional Student Education from the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in FAU's COE. Carey and Kearney also received a M.Ed. from ESE and Joseph, both M.Ed. and B.A.E. from ESE.

The employment specialists include Angelica Downey, M.Ed., Coordinator, Educational Training Programs, who serves as a Curriculum and Training Specialist and holds a M.Ed. from ESE. She is presently pursuing a Ph.D.



Heather Graeve
Job Coach
Academy for
Community Inclusion

in Special Education from ESE in FAU's COE. Heather Graeve and Candice Tedesco, A.A., both serve as job coaches. They are all located on the Jupiter campus. Together they will work to increase the number of students served and the number of employment opportunities available for students upon graduation by creating on-campus and off-campus internship and employment sites. They will also provide follow-up job coaching for ACI graduates for up to five years after graduation. Moreover, ACI staff will implement curriculum changes to create classes on executive functioning for its present certificate offerings in the areas of Supported Community Employment, Supported Community Access, and Supported Community Living that lead to community based employment, independent living, and mastery of self-advocacy skills. In addition, they will create an industry credential centered on a new ACI vocational pathway of animal care, with internships tailored to enhance employment skills for ACI graduates.



Candice Tedesco, A.A.
Job Coach
Academy for Community
Inclusion

Finally, grant funds will support an ACI doctoral scholar prepared for a future faculty position at a university that offers similar transition programs.

For more information, contact the Academy for Community Inclusion (ACI) at aci@fau.edu. To explore ways to give, contact the College of Education, at coedevelopment@fau.edu.

[Back to Front Page](#)

Please Consider Giving to the FAU Cares Emergency Fund



Florida Atlantic University faculty and staff contributed to the FAU Cares Emergency Fund in lieu of the Paradise in Giving campaign. The fund was established by Florida Atlantic University on April 1, 2020 to provide emergency funding to students, who were financially impacted due to disruption of academic operations caused by the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

By Josephine Elliott | JULY 31, 2020

During this global health crisis, one of the ways Florida Atlantic University (FAU) showed its support for its students was by establishing the [FAU Cares Emergency Fund](#) on April 1, 2020 for registered, [degree-seeking](#) students in the spring 2020 term experiencing financial hardship. The economic situation caused by the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) placed the finances of many students, especially those who work to put themselves through school, in a precarious position.

In lieu of the Giving in Paradise campaign, faculty and staff were asked to consider contributing to the FAU Cares Emergency Fund in response to the unprecedented need. As a result, a number of FAU students, including College of Education (COE) students, received emergency funding through FAU Cares thanks to the generosity of FAU faculty and staff, according to Michele Guinane, Annual Giving Coordinator, FAU Office of Alumni Relations, providing struggling students a lifeline. Donations to the fund are still welcomed.

“More than 65 percent of all FAU students work to put themselves through school. During these unprecedented times, we want our Owls to know we are there for them.”

*John Kelly, Ph.D.
Florida Atlantic University
President*

Eligible graduate and undergraduate students were encouraged to apply through FAU’s Office of Student Financial Aid. Funds could be used for education-related expenses such as room, board, tuition and personal expenses. Some examples of qualifying financial impacts included technology purchases to equip the student for remote instruction, healthcare costs related to COVID-19 and other complications, moving costs due to leaving on-campus residence halls or off-campus apartments, food costs due to not having access to on-campus dining options, loss of employment and other unforeseen expenses due to public health concerns.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete a current FAFSA before applying for the FAU Cares Emergency Fund.

Please consider contributing to the [FAU Cares Emergency Fund](#). To explore ways to give, contact the College of Education at coedevelopment@fau.edu. For more information on undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by the COE, contact an advisor at the [Office for Academic and Student Services](#).

Scholarships Aid Academic Success

Among the College of Education (COE) students at Florida Atlantic University who are grateful for receiving scholarships during the 2019-2020 academic year are (front page, from left): Elizabeth Brown, Shernette Dunn, Andrea Johnson, Chandorer Mowatt and Jillian Scott. All of them anticipate graduating in Summer 2020, except for Beth, who plans to graduate in fall 2020.

By Josephine Elliott | JULY 31, 2020

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Elizabeth Brown, a graduate student in the [M.Ed. in Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification \(K-6\)](#) offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning where she is a Graduate Assistant, is grateful to be one of the recipients of the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship because she is passionate about children's literacy. She has found her reading development courses most helpful and chose FAU for its strong education program, which she could attend in person. "I have always known I was meant to be a teacher," Beth revealed. "My mother and grandmother were teachers. I am passionate about shaping future

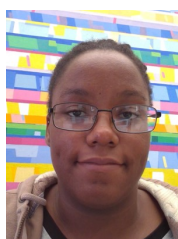
generations and world leaders." As a single mom, the scholarship has given her the time to become a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education, and serve as the Rho Omega Chapter President in spring 2020.



For Shernette Dunn, a doctoral student in the [Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Adult and Community Education \(ACE\)](#)

offered by the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, the scholarship she received helped her with paying for her college tuition. As a full-time student and working parent, the scholarship has given her the time to focus on what is important, her son. Having earned the Bachelor's in Elementary Education (K-6), M.Ed. in Reading Education and Ed.S. in School Leaders (K-12) from FAU, she chose FAU's ACE program to pursue her Ph.D. for the opportunity to work in

various sectors of higher education as either a faculty member or administrator. Shernette credits the Leadership 5 and 6 classes for equipping her with essential skills needed to be a leader in her field. "These classes provided both theoretical and practical experiences that could be taken to the field immediately," Shernette noted. "FAU is an excellent institution that allows students to think critically and learn at a deeper level."



Andrea Johnson, a graduate student in the [M.Ed. in Counselor Education with a specialization in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling](#) offered by the

Department of Counselor Education, truly appreciates the scholarship she received. "Due to the loss of my parents, I am 100 percent financially on my own," divulged Andrea, who works full time while pursuing her master's degree. "Through the help of such generous donors, my journey through college and life has been less hectic." The scholarship "has afforded the opportunity to focus more of my time on academics, so this has led to better performance in classes." Having majored in psychology and

sociology as an undergraduate student, Andrea decided the career path offered by the specialization in Clinical Rehabilitation was unique after taking the two or three education courses required to obtain the certificate in Applied Mental Health Services. "I am happy with my chosen academic program and career path," she said.



Chandorer Mowatt, an undergraduate student in the [Bachelor's in Early Care and Education \(BECE\)](#), jointly offered by the Department of

Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry and the Department of Exceptional Student Education, said, "I love working with kids. I like helping them, especially those who face challenges, to be successful." Having worked as a teaching assistant in Broward County Public Schools for the past 12 years, she is grateful for the scholarship to help her pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher. While this degree program

does not fulfill the Florida Department of Education Teacher Certification requirements, students completing the program are eligible to pursue alternative teacher certification after completing the degree. The courses Chandorer found most helpful are Introduction to Teaching Speakers of Other Languages (TSOL) and Blended Early Childhood Methods from birth to age 5, which taught her how to talk to parents and explored an organized approach of teaching young children, with and without disabilities, developmental, educational and functional skills. Chandorer hopes to make a difference in the lives of students just as the scholarship has impacted her life.



As for Jillian Scott, who works two jobs while pursuing the [M.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology](#) offered by the Department of

Communication Sciences and Disorders, she stated, "The scholarship came at a good time, I had to study for the comprehensive exams and the Praxis exam." The scholarship "gave me the flexibility to take time off in April to study." The Praxis is a national examination in speech, language and audiology and a passing score is required to graduate and receive the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech

-Language-Hearing Association. During the summer 2020 semester, Jillian is taking her second internship and is looking forward to graduation in August. She recently accepted a position in an elementary school in the School District of Palm Beach County working in an Autism unit. "I am glad I went into speech-language pathology and audiology," Jillian explained. "I have always wanted to work with children, especially ones with special needs. I am honored to receive the Adam Susser Scholarship since the criteria for the recipient of the scholarship is 'an individual who embodies the qualities of a professional in the field'"

Consider helping College of Education students reach their full potential. Contact the College to explore ways to give at coedevelopment@fau.edu or visit <https://fauf.fau.edu/education/> to make a donation. For more information on COE degree programs, contact an advisor at [Office for Academic and Student Services](#).

[Back to Front Page](#)