



EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2024

Welcome Doctoral Students

FAU College of Education welcomes all students who were accepted into its graduate and undergraduate programs this past year. Among them are 41 doctoral students in programs offered by four departments:

CE (Fall 2023 Students)
Ph.D. in Counseling
Kathy Altidor
Yasmynne Salhia Bemales
Brandon Triche

Patrick Dempsey
Kathryn Nicholas
Zachary Bevis
Jenny Posadas
Gina Jones
Kimberly Adams Goulbourne

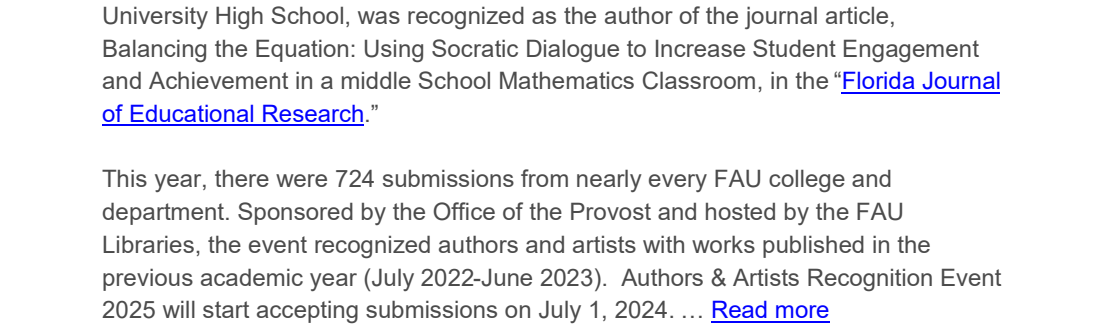
CI (Fall 2023 Students)
Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction
Robert Bogle
Leigh Anne Brown
Atensia Earp Bowen
Caitlin O'Brien Fielding
Eloise Findlay
Javier Garcia
Christine Kassover
Viktoria Korogodsky
Vanessa Robinson
Maria Soto
Daniel Suarez

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in School Leaders (K-12)
Judith Phillips-Pitter
Terri Coyle
Channale Augustin
Leslie Taylor
Jill Slesinski
Ann Marie Evans
Sheneka Blue
Celia Jimenez

ELRM (Fall 2023 Students)
Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders
Alejandro Matias
Julie Sant
Salam Still
Shihab Siddique
Kayla Cabrera
Laura McDermott Matheric
Anthea Pennant
Kimberly Adams Goulbourne

(Spring 2024 Students)
Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders
Annelyn Martinez
Bryan Valentine
Nelson Barahona
Megan Togno
Jordan DiPentima

SE (Spring 2024 Student)
Ph.D. in Special Education
Marilyn J. Taylor-Balodano



COE Online Programs Hold Steady in 'U.S. News & World Report' Rankings

The *U.S. News & World Report* Online rankings released on Feb. 7, 2024 shows FAU College of Education's online master's in education program remained ranked at No. 52 (tie) in [Best Online Master's in Education Programs](#) nationwide for 2024 same as last year. In addition, the online educational administration and supervision specialty program tied at No. 15 in [Best Online Master's in Educational Administration Programs](#).



Now in its 14th year, the *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Online Programs" list is a resource for students and working adults who are increasingly seeking online education programs for degree completion and career advancement. Prospective students can use the searchable directory to explore factors such as tuition, program offerings and online services offered to enrolled students. ...[Read more](#)

COE/Lab School Faculty Participate in FAU Authors and Artists Recognition Event

A book chapter and journal article by faculty in the College of Education and Lab School, respectively, were among selected works highlighted during the 2024 Authors and Artists Recognition Event held at the S.E. Wimberly Library on Feb. 12. Victoria Brown, Ph.D., Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, was recognized as the author of the book chapter, *Planning and Control for Distance Education*, in the first edition book, *"Using ROI for Strategic Planning of Online Education: A Process for Institutional Transformation"* and Pilar Taylor, Director, Stiles Nicholson STEM Teacher Academy at A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School, was recognized as the author of the journal article, *Balancing the Equation: Using Socratic Dialogue to Increase Student Engagement and Achievement in a middle School Mathematics Classroom*, in the *"Florida Journal of Educational Research."*

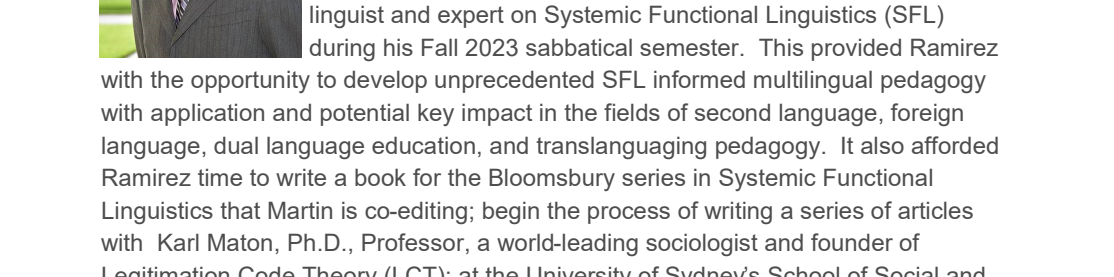
This year, there were 724 submissions from nearly every FAU college and department. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and hosted by the FAU Libraries, the event recognized authors and artists with works published in the previous academic year (July 2022-June 2023). Authors & Artists Recognition Event 2025 will start accepting submissions on July 1, 2024. ...[Read more](#)

COE Faculty/GTA Receive ACUE Certification

Among faculty, graduate teaching assistants and adjunct faculty in the College of Education recognized during Florida Atlantic University's Trailblazers in Teaching: ACUE Faculty Certification Ceremony on Jan. 19, 2024 in the Acura Club at the FAU Stadium were the following:

- Lisa Finnegan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Special Education
- Kelly Steele, M.S., Clinic Director & Instructor, Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Melissa Lucezia, Adjunct, Curriculum and Instruction
- Bryan Hurst, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology

The Office of the Provost held the ceremony to recognize faculty that have taken courses (micros) offered by the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) and earned a nationally recognized certificate in effective teaching practices. Spring 2024 Micros are now open for registration; Summer 2024 Micros will open for registration soon. ...[Read more](#)



FAU High School Seniors Named Candidates in U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

FAU High School seniors Isaac Dash and Katie Poquette, have been named candidates in the 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

The candidates were selected from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2024. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities. ...[Read more](#)

FAU Lab Schools Middle/High School Students Earn Awards

[A.D. Henderson University School](#) and [Florida Atlantic University High School](#) students were among the award winners announced by the Palm Beach Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024. Of the 18 ADHUS students and 19 FAU High School students competing, they all received placement awards. ADHUS took home *Best in Show* in the middle school division for the third year in a row. Five middle school students won their categories, and seven high school students earned first or second place in their categories, automatically advancing them to the state science fair competition in April. ...[Read more](#)

FAU High School Student Places First in Art of Science Competition

Addison Manofsky, FAU High School student and Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College undergraduate took first place among 300 participants in the 5th Art of Science Education. Addison also competed in the Zebrafish Spinal Cord 1 photograph on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024. Created by the Division of Research, the event showcased the research happening across the University through Feb. 18, 2024 in the Schmidt Center Gallery on the Boca Raton Campus. ...[Read more](#)

SABBATICAL SIGHTINGS

Two College of Education faculty members were awarded sabbaticals in Fall 2023:

Eileen N. Whelan Ariza, Ed.D., Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, at Florida Atlantic University's College of Education, devoted her Fall 2023 sabbatical semester to investigating and exploring the newest language research and innovative teaching strategies that K-12 grade teachers need to know when instructing English learners, or multilingual language learners. She was invited to explore and collaborate with the research team at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. to learn about the grant activities and most recent research on multilingual learners in rural settings, led by one of her co-authors, Maria Coady, Ph.D., the Goodnight Distinguished Professor in Educational Equity in the College of Education. Ariza also interviewed graduate and doctoral students; interviewed and observed teachers in the field; and talked to rural multicultural/multilingual students and families about their instructional needs. The state of North Carolina has the largest number of dual language and bilingual education programs in the South and educators can gain valuable information that can also be used in the state of Florida.

As a bilingual English/Spanish speaker, Ariza communicates with families in their own language, gaining firsthand cutting-edge knowledge from the interactions, which she parlays into restructured instructional strategies for English learners that pre-service and in-service teachers can utilize in Florida schools. The data gathered on issues such as native language assessments, literacy/biliteracy development, systemic functional linguistics, the science of reading and other best practices help Ariza to include critical updates on classroom information and pedagogy as she revises three textbooks popular within and outside of the state of Florida, and across the country in teacher training programs. According to Ariza, "FAU is known both for being the first ESOL [English to Speakers of Other Languages] infusion teacher education program in the state of Florida, and for the books for the programs that have originated from the University." These books further FAU's reputation in this field, and current research can be shared in future presentations and journal articles.

During this Sabbatical, Dr. Ariza was also invited by the Ministry of Education, San Jose Costa Rica, where she did her second Fulbright experience in 2016, to visit schools, La Escuela José Ezequiel González Vindas and La Escuela Domingo González Perez, located in San Pablo, Heredia, Costa Rica, to observe classes, and provide professional development opportunities for teachers of English. While there, she shared ideas with Costa Rican educators about future potential collaborations between FAU and some of their schools. ...[Read more](#)



Andrés Ramirez, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, at Florida Atlantic University's College of Education, served as a visiting scholar and faculty affiliate in the Department of Linguistics, School of Humanities at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia during the direct supervision of a world collaboration with J.R. Martin, Ph.D., Professor, and a world-leading linguist and expert on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) during his Fall 2023 sabbatical semester. This provided Ramirez with the opportunity to develop unprecedented SFL informed multilingual pedagogy with application and potential key impact in the fields of second language, foreign language, dual language education, and translanguaging pedagogy. It also afforded Ramirez time to write a book for the Bloomsbury series in Systemic Functional Linguistics that Martin is co-editing; begin the process of writing a series of articles with Karl Maton, Ph.D., Professor, a world-leading sociologist and founder of Legitimation Code Theory (LCT); at the University of Sydney's School of Social and Political Science and present a paper with Ramirez's former Fulbright scholar, Yuly González, at the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics conference in Wollongong, Australia. This paper is already transformed into two accepted book chapters that focus on the application of the multilingual methodology done by González in the context of public schools in Bogotá, Colombia. The book "aims at extending the already successful Australian literacy genre-based pedagogy approach called *Reading to Learn* (R2L) to already existing or future, ESL, mainstream, and bilingual programming and design in the United States and beyond," Ramirez explained. Presently in its third generation, R2L practices are being adopted and adapted by scholars and practitioners to teach first language literacy, including English as a foreign or second language as well as other languages. Recognizing this, Ramirez developed his own R2L multilingual adaptation as well as laid the foundation for a fourth-generation genre-based pedagogy. As a teacher educator in language education, Ramirez is currently extending his scholarship to the broader education context of his research in culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy as he develops a mixed-research study on the efficacy of the multilingual methodology with vulnerable rural populations in Colombia. He also has infused the undergraduate and graduate courses he teaches with R2L pedagogy and plans to design specialized courses in bilingual R2L, such as Topics in Reading Education (RED 7933), which focuses on an analysis of specific topics in the area of reading. ...[Read more](#)

GRANT FEATURE



Curriculum and Instruction Associate Professor Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D., has received \$40,000 from the George Storer Foundation to promote the College of Education's undergraduate certificate program in [Early Childhood Environmental Education \(ECEE\)](#) for the 11th year. Bhagwanji's work in 2024 as ECEE curriculum coordinator will focus on developing a conceptual curriculum framework that supports children's awareness and agency development that can be applied in schools and teacher preparation programs. This framework will be integrated in the COE's early childhood environmental education courses as well as promoted through many professional development activities nationally and internationally.

The college's ECEE certificate program is the only [undergraduate certificate](#) offered nationally with a focus on nature-based education for children," noted Bhagwanji. The courses are "also program electives for the undergraduate degree in Early Care and Education at Florida Atlantic, making the degree program the first in the nation to offer nature-based early childhood studies an option as part of undergraduate studies in early childhood education. Two other public universities have since also provided options in ECEE studies as a part of their early childhood education baccalaureate studies, marking a growing trend in higher education as [nature-based education](#) gain track in public and private schools and preschools, forest schools, and other early education program settings."

Tuition support is available for students to complete one or more of the ECEE courses listed below:

- EEC 4020 Foundations of Early Childhood Environmental Education
- EEC 4237 Exploring Natural Habitats as a Curriculum for Children
- EEC 4404 Community Engagement in Early Childhood Environmental Education

Students may contact Bhagwanji at ybhagwan@fau.edu for more information.

Important Dates

Faculty
April 5—Faculty Assembly

Faculty and Students
April 17—55th annual Honors Convocation

Research Symposia & Competitions
March 22—submission deadline for [2023 Student Publication Ceremony](#) to be held April 10
March 28 — [FAU Wave Competition Award Ceremony](#)
April 4—[23rd Annual COE Student Achievement Council \(SAC\) Research Symposium](#), virtual
April 5—[14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium](#), Boca Raton Campus

Students
March 1 & 15—admitted student tours 12 p.m.—1 p.m.
March 11—Dissertation Defense Deadline
March 22 & 29—Choose FAU 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
March 18—Spring Dissertation due in the Dean's Office
April 1—Spring Dissertation due to University Graduate Dean
April 5—admitted student tours 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
April 20—Explore FAU

Awards
Emelianchik-Key, K. (Jan. 1, 2024 - Jan. 1, 2027). **Associate Editor, The Professional Counselor**. National Board for Certified Counselors.
Percival, J. (2024). Elected to the National Board of Directors. Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), serving 39 state

Publications

Book
Boettcher, M. & Salinas, C. (2024). *Law and ethics in academic and student affairs: Developing an Institutional Intelligence* approach. Routledge. [Endorsed by ACPA - College Educators International] <https://www.routledge.com/Law-and-Ethics-in-Academic-and-Student-Affairs-Developing-an-Institutional/Boettcher-Salinas-Dr/jp/book/9781642674330>

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Clevenger, C. (2023). The effect of metacognitive reflective tools on historical writing ability and self-efficacy. *Voices of Reform: Educational Research to Inform and Reform*, 6(2): 23–37. <https://doi.org/10.32623/6.10005>.

Elsberry, M., Bloom, J. L., Cuevas, A. P., & Beorchia, M. (2023). Appreciative administration in action: How the appreciative education theory-to-practice framework is being infused into higher education administrative practices. *New Directions for Student Services*, 2023, 77–82.

Hendrickson, K. (2023). The creation of a cross-age scientific curricular experience program model: exploring instructor self-efficacy and learner engagement. *Voices of Reform: Educational Research to Inform and Reform*, 6 (2): 38–67. <https://doi.org/10.32623/6.10006>.

Kaya, C., Chun, J., Torres, A., & Chen, R. K. (2023). Predicting competitive integrated employment outcomes of Asian American vocational rehabilitation Clients: A national study. *Social Science Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13323>

Sylvestri, S. & Arlt, L. (2023). Student self-efficacy: learning math with visual/kinesthetic tools. *Voices of Reform: Educational Research to Inform and Reform*, 6(2): 102–11. <https://doi.org/10.32623/6.10009>.

Timar, A. (2023). Multiplying success: small-group instruction in an early college high school mathematics class. *Voices of Reform: Educational Research to Inform and Reform*, 6 (2): 112–27. <https://doi.org/10.32623/6.10010>.

Villares, E., Bowers, H., Brigman, G., & Bottini, C. (2024). The effects of Student Success Skills on attendance and emotion regulation. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcad.12503>

Villares, E., Miller, A. E., & Chevalier, J. A. (2023). The Impact of *Leader in Me* on the School Climate and Student Behaviors: A Meta-Analysis. *International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership*, 19(2), 1-16. <https://journals.sfu.ca/iejpl/index.php/iejpl/article/view/1339/351>

FAU Lab Schools Research Newsletters:
[November 2023](#) [December 2023](#) [January 2024](#)

Prestigious Lectures

Invited
Exume, T. (2024). *Training first responders*. Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Orlando.

Scott, J., Exume, T., Lucas, J. (2024). *Special Issues Facing Black Families in Obtaining Autism Services*. CARD Conference, Orlando. <https://cardconference.info/session/b3-f-special-issues-facing-black-families-in-obtaining-autism-services/>

Panel Presentation
Meredith, T., Blakley, E., McGinnis, C., Murdock, K., Potak, M., Scott, J., & Stubbs, A. (September 2023). Facilitated Communication and Other Pseudoscientific and Unsubstantiated Treatments: Guidance for Behavior Analysts. Florida Association for Behavior Analysts Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Workshop
Gottman, J., Gottman, J., Irvine, T. & Peluso, P. (December 2023). Invited to be members of the faculty for the Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference. Presented a three-hour workshop on infidelity. *Treating Affair Couples*.

Grants

Adusumilli, Y.* (2024). Implementation of *Gracilaria* as a biofilter for nutrient pollution. *Blue Integrated Partnerships Purdue Center of Excellence for Climate Change*. \$10,000.
*FAU High School student

Adusumilli, Y.* (2024). Implementation of *Gracilaria* as a biofilter for nutrient pollution. *U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) & Hach Equipment*, \$4,500.
*FAU High School student

Torres, A. (2023). U.S. Administration for Community Living: National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Research Switzer Research Fellowships Program, "Augmented Reality Enhanced Supported Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." September 2023- September 2024, Grant Budget: \$70,000

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Florida Atlantic University
College of Education
777 Glades Road, P.O. Box 3091
Boca Raton, FL US 33431-0991
(561) 297-3564
www.fau.edu/education/