

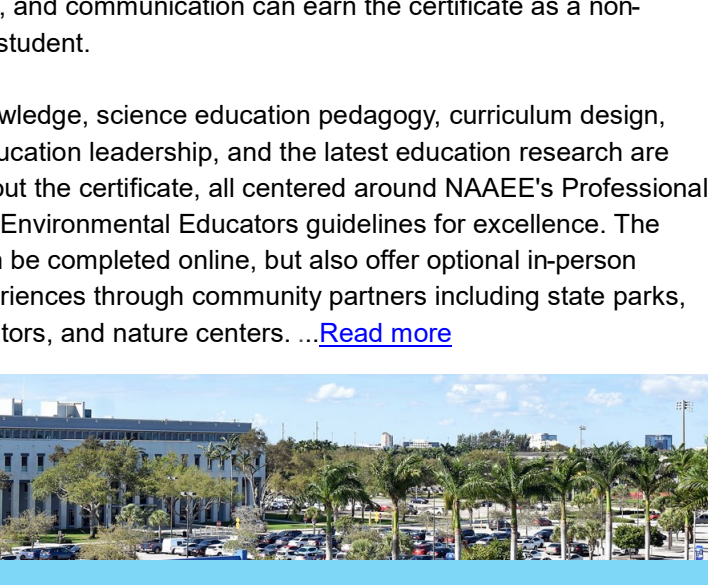


EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
VOL. 5, ISSUE 3 | A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

Enhance Teaching Skills in 2025

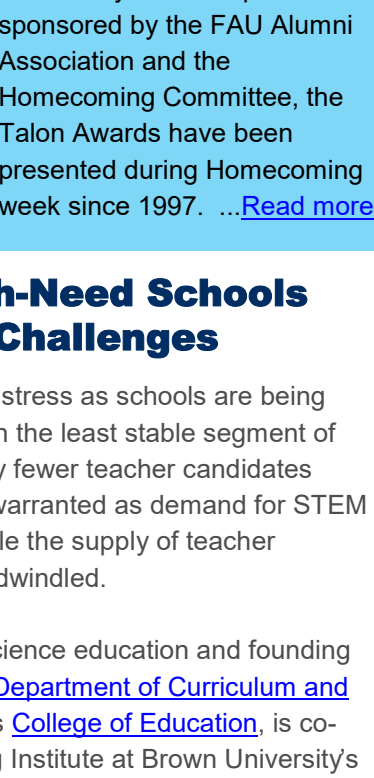
Looking to explore environmental, wildlife, and indigenous education in our increasingly challenging world? Consider a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Education. Students in any master's or doctoral program may earn this certificate as an addition or supplement to their current program. Professionals working in formal and informal education, the natural sciences, and communication can earn the certificate as a non-degree seeking student.



Key content knowledge, science education pedagogy, curriculum design, sustainability education leadership, and the latest education research are infused throughout the certificate, all centered around NAAEE's Professional Development of Environmental Educators guidelines for excellence. The four courses can be completed online, but also offer optional in-person networking experiences through community partners including state parks, wildlife rehabilitators, and nature centers. ...[Read more](#)

COE Alumna Honored with Talon Award

Florida Atlantic University President [Stacy A. Volnick, Ph.D.](#) received the Richard L. Schmidt Alumni Talon Award at the Talon Leadership Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 at the Recreation and Fitness Center, MAC Gym, on the Boca Raton Campus. She was one of four awardees. Volnick is an alumna of Florida Atlantic's College of Education, having earned her master's and doctorate in educational leadership in 2006 and 2022, respectively.



Throughout her tenure, she has played a critical role in streamlining university operations, strengthening institutional partnerships and increasing student success.

A proud first-generation college graduate of Florida Atlantic, Volnick's leadership spans more than 30 years in higher education administration, and culminated with her present appointment in 2022. She also serves as an affiliate clinical professor in the College of Education and as an affiliate faculty member in the College of Business. Previously, Volnick served as chief operating officer, in which she provided leadership and administrative oversight of university operations across Florida Atlantic's six campuses.

Florida Atlantic University hosts its annual [Talon Leadership Awards](#) ceremony as part of Homecoming each fall. The awards recognize outstanding faculty, student, alumni, and community leadership. Co-sponsored by the FAU Alumni Association and the Homecoming Committee, the Talon Awards have been presented during Homecoming week since 1997. ...[Read more](#)

STEM Teachers in High-Need Schools Resilient Despite Challenges

The STEM teacher workforce is under acute stress as schools are being tasked to provide more STEM instruction with the least stable segment of the public teacher workforce and increasingly fewer teacher candidates stepping in to help. Research is particularly warranted as demand for STEM content has increased in recent decades while the supply of teacher candidates into the field has simultaneously dwindled.

[David Devraj Kumar](#), Ed.D., a professor of science education and founding director of the STEM Education Laboratory, [Department of Curriculum and Instruction](#), within [Florida Atlantic University's College of Education](#), is co-author of a study published in the Annenberg Institute at Brown University's *EdWorkingPapers* series examining the characteristics and qualifications of the STEM teacher workforce in high-need schools in the United States and how they have evolved over nearly 30 years of national workforce surveys.

The study primarily used high-poverty schools as the lens for examining differences in STEM teacher qualifications and characteristics over time. ...[Read more](#)

CI Establishes Creativity and Innovation Lab

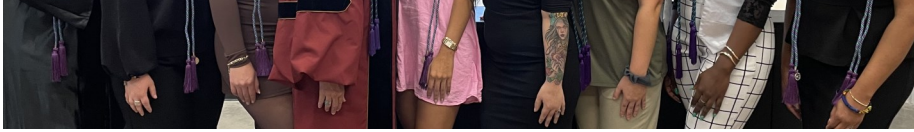
The [Department of Curriculum and Instruction](#) in Florida Atlantic University's College of Education established a Creativity and Innovation Lab in the Education building, ED-118, on the Boca Raton campus. The lab was created by [Susannah Brown](#), Ph.D., and [Jillian Powers](#), Ph.D., in the 2024 spring term with support from the COE. The first event, the *Creativity and Innovation Experience: The Case of the Missing Shells*, was hosted on Nov. 20, 2024. Ten elementary and secondary education majors participated in a hands-on lesson plan that they could adapt for use in their own teaching.

education," explained Brown. "Its mission is to inspire FAU education students to create, explore, and share their skills and ideas about the connections between creativity and technological innovation."

Event participants engaged in activities they could adapt for use in their own teaching about the problem of hermit crabs finding trash instead of shells for homes. Participants crafted an improved hermit crab home with maker-space supplies and explored 3D-printed shell solutions. Dash robots were used to retell the story of the hermit crab using block coding to program the robot to travel around illustrations on the floor with recorded narrations.

"The lab provides a maker's space that encourages students to utilize design thinking strategies and technology and combine this with visual art to learn and share new ideas that can be integrated into instruction and impact the field of

The event was made possible by COE student volunteers Danielle Brown, Robert Bogle, Samantha Lopez, Awele Enwemnw, Riley Wax, and Gianna Williams.



A.D. Henderson and FAU High Rank Among the Best in the State by Niche

Niche ranked Florida Atlantic University's [A.D. Henderson University School](#) at No. 3 as "Best School" among both elementary and middle schools

and [FAU High School](#) at No. 3 in the "Best College Prep Public High School" in the state of Florida for 2025. ...[Read more](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

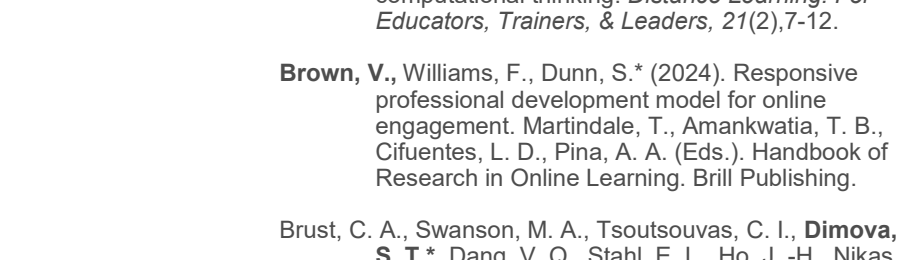
Marlynn Lopez, a doctoral student pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders at FAU College of Education, was inducted into the Parliament of Owls during the 5 p.m. ceremony at the Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center on the Boca Raton Campus on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 during Homecoming 2024. Marlynn was one of 25 students University-wide to receive this distinction. She was selected for her contributions serving as Vice President of the Student Achievement Council (SAC), a registered student organization at Florida Atlantic, for the 2023-2024 academic year.

"Marlynn Lopez is the highest emerging leader in the higher education context," stated Dr. Dilys Schoorman, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, and Faculty Advisor, SAC. She is committed to our collective well-being in her vision, is reliable and responsible in task completion, and has demonstrated the capacity to take on and complex responsibilities and deliver on them with aplomb."

Established in 2000, FAU's [Parliament of OWLs](#) (Older, Wiser, Leaders) recognizes the leadership and academic achievements FAU students have shown during their tenure on campus. Marlynn is also the Director of the Weppner Center for LEAD and Service-Learning in Student Affairs at Florida Atlantic. ...[Read more](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

FAU College of Education [student organizations](#) play a critical role in helping to create a vibrant and robust campus community, as well as leadership/professional development, research and networking opportunities. So consider actively participating in one of the following student organizations:



From left, Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) Rho Omega Chapter Co-Counselor Ann Musgrove, Ed.D.; new chapter members Sophia Alessandri and Aismaray Haro; KDP Rho Omega Chapter Co-Counselor Susannah Brown, Ph.D.; new chapter member Gabrielle Szulc; the chapter's President Danielle Brown; and new chapter members Samantha Lopez, Christine Njeru and Christina Bishop recognize six new members achieving excellence during an Honor Cord and Certificate Ceremony at FAU Boca Raton on Nov. 14, 2024. The chapter's two Co-Counselors, President, Vice President Lopez and Treasurer Njeru presented certificates and graduation honor cords to the new members. In addition to family and friends, Charles Dukas, Ed.D., Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, attended and supported the event.

College Wide
[Kappa Delta Pi \(Rho Omega Chapter\)](#)
(International honor society in education)
President: Danielle Brown
Faculty Counselors: [Susannah Brown, Ph.D.](#) and [Ann Musgrove, Ed.D.](#)

Student Achievement Council (SAC)
(Interdepartmental/interdisciplinary group of College of Education students whose mission is to provide a forum for students to present their scholarly work, meet new people, and learn from each other. Major responsibilities include the organization of an annual college-wide research symposium, and the selection of the COE's Distinguished Teacher of the Year. The 2025 research symposium will be held virtually on April 10 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.)
The COE SAC has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for students to experience and develop team leadership.
President: [Erica Cheva](#)
Faculty Advisor: [Dilys Schoorman, Ph.D.](#)

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (Encourages the academic, professional and advocacy interests of FAU students in the field of communication sciences and disorders)
Faculty Advisor: [Kelly Steele, M.S., CCC-SLP](#)

Pre-Speech & Hearing Association (Pre-SHA) (For undergraduate students who

are interested in pursuing careers in speech-language pathology, audiology, or the field of communication sciences and/or hearing sciences.)
Faculty Advisor: [Kelly Steele, M.S., CCC-SLP](#)

Department of Counselor Education
Chi Sigma Iota (Beta Rho Chi Chapter)
(International honor society for professional counselors, counselor educators and students)
President: [Rachel Saunders](#)
Chapter Faculty Advisor: [Kelly Emelianchik, Key, Ph.D.](#)
Co-Chapter Faculty Advisor: [Ayse Torres, Ph.D.](#)

Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) (For pre-collegiate and collegiate teacher recruitment)
Faculty Advisors: [Robyn Klein, Ed.D.](#) and [Rina Bousalis, Ph.D.](#)

Department of Special Education
IMPACT Autism (Members assist FAU's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities to influence the community through advocacy, professional development, volunteerism, and local activities.)
Faculty Advisor: [Elisa Cruz, Ed.D., BCBA-D](#)

Important Dates
Faculty
Jan. 24—Faculty Assembly
Students
Jan. 24—[Application for Degree](#) due for Spring 2025
Jan. 31—Fall 2025 [Student Teaching Application](#) due
Feb. 17 & 24—Choose FAU

College of Education Graduate, Specialists and Doctoral Programs —[Application submission deadlines](#)

Awards
Barrett, M.* (2024, November). Awarded Florida Education Research Association's (FERA) *Distinguished Teacher Inquiry Award* for her presentation at FERA's annual conference. ...[Read more](#)
*Doctoral Student

Gagnon, J.C. (2024). Appointed the Education/Special Education Expert Consultant in *Handberry v. Thompson*. (Case No. 1:96-cv-06161 (S.D.N.Y.)). Paul, Weiss, Wharton, & Garrison, LLP, and The Legal Aid Society. The case focuses on the provision of education and special education services at Rikers Island Prison in New York.

Larson, C.* (2025, January). Named the *2025 School Counselor of the Year*[®] by the American School Counselor Association. ...[Read more](#)
*WAVES Postdoctoral Fellow

Persin, R. (2024). Selected for life membership in the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. This honor was bestowed on him for his sustained and lasting contribution to IEEE, professional achievements and accomplishments as a long-time educator.

Schoorman, D. (2024, November 16). Nominated for and received the 2024 G. *Pritchey Smith Educator of the Year* award by the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME). ...[Read more](#)

Timm Fulkerson, C. (2025 Spring). Scholarship award for participation in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity Faculty Success Program (FSP).

Publications
Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters
Brown, V., & Kumar, D. (2024). Incorporating HyFlex instructional event for online classes to enhance computational thinking. *Distance Learning: For Educators, Trainers, & Leaders*, 21(2), 7-12.

Brown, V., Williams, F., Dunn, S.* (2024). Responsive professional development model for online engagement. Martindale, T., Amankwatia, T. B., Cifuentes, L. D., Pina, A. A. (Eds.). *Handbook of Research in Online Learning*. Brill Publishing.

Brust, C. A., Swanson, M. A., Tsoutsouvas, C. I., Dimova, S. T.*, Dang, V. Q., Stahl, E. L., Ho, J. -H., Nikas, S. P., Makriyannis, A., & Bohn, L. M. (2024). Comparison of agonist activity between CB1 and CB2 receptors with orthosteric site mutations. *Receptors*, 3(3), 380-396. <https://doi.org/10.3390/receptors3030018>
*FAU High School Student

DeDonno M., Objio B-C, Crowder A. (2024). Observable, but Not Unobservable Health Numbers are Associated With Self-Reported Health: NHANES 2017-2020. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*. 18(6), 720-728.

Dernikos, B. P. (2024). The "ordinary" violence of national fantasy: Otherwise, "out of time" political imaginaries for posthuman literacies and book banning. *Gender and Education*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2024.2409903>

Fallik, S., Branscum, C. C., & Content, C.* (2024). Voluntary victim identity in sexual assault state statutes: A content analysis. *Violence Against Women*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012241292288>
*FAU High School Student

Flanagan, S. M., Miller, K. M., & Lee, J. Y. (2024). Special Education Teachers' Writing Instructional Practices. *Reading & Writing Quarterly*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10573569.2024.2413992>

Friesen, K. L., Teig, T. S., & Painter, C. E. (2024). Are we training the trainers? Leadership educator preparation in student affairs programs. *New Directions for Student Leadership*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/yl.20637>

Gill, C. S., Emelianchik-Key, K., & Torres, A. (2024; October). *Appraisal, Assessment, and Evaluation for Counselors: A Practical Guide*. Springer Publishing Company.

Irvine, T. J. & Labarta, A. C. (2024). Enhancing counselor trainee preparedness for treating eating disorders: Recommendations for counselor educators. *The Professional Counselor*, 14(2), 212-225. <https://tpcjournal.nbcc.org/enhancing-counselor-trainee-preparedness-for-treating-eating-disorders-recommendations-for-counselor-educators/>

Limberg, D., Gonzales, S. K., Hitchcock, D., & Fields, A. M. (2024). School counseling services in international schools: Opportunities for counselors. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 46(4), 335-351. <https://doi.org/10.17744/mehc.46.4.05>

Mulcahy, C., Gagnon, J. C., Atkinson, V., & Miller, J. (2024). Self-regulated strategy development for algebra problem-solving. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 57, 104-114. doi.org/10.1177/00400599231167816

Powers, J., Brown, S., Bogle, R., Musgrove, A., & Wemette, S. (2024). Exploring the impact of integrated STEAM lessons on third-graders' knowledge, identity, and attitudes. *Journal of Interactive Learning Research*, 35(3), 309-351. <https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p1224683/>

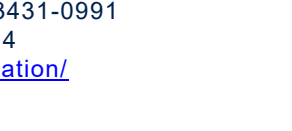
Schoorman, D. (2024). Waking up to the "Anti-Woke" agenda. *Journal of Educational Administration and History*, 56(4), 404-410. DOI: 10.1080/00220620.2024.2364632 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/00220620.2024.2364632?needAccess=true> [This article was available online in summer, but was not assigned a journal volume and page numbers. It is now integrated into the journal as part of the "rapid response" series: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loc/cjeh20/56/4/>]

Steele, K., Porcaro, C., & Gollery, T. (2024, December 5-7) Student Outcome Measures Pre/Post SPEAK OUT!® Therapy Training. American Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.

Su-Keene, E., & Bogotch, I (2024). "I'm a Boomer": An Unlikely Social Justice School Principal in a Politically Hostile Context. *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*. 1-13. DOI: 10.1177/15554589241300090 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/15554589241300090>

FAU Lab Schools Research Newsletters:
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