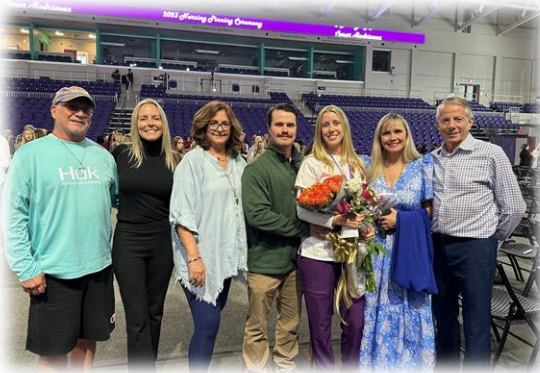




FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

WORKFORCE EDUCATION

2024, Issue 1



Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter, celebrating Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. We are eager to share that as we enter 2024, FSW is up 9% in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment in workforce education programs. We awarded 1,111 new credentials at the end of the fall semester, 70% of which were in workforce programs. Pictured to the left are photos of recent graduates at their pinning ceremonies as they transition from student to professional. We are proud of what our graduates will accomplish across the region.



This edition is brimming with exciting content from the introduction of a new Dean and team members, a noteworthy grant, recognition of exceptional faculty achievements, and more. Let's celebrate CTE month as we continue to foster excellence and innovation in workforce education.



Whitney Rhyne
Assistant Vice President
Workforce Education
Whitney.Rhyne@fsw.edu

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Dr. Brian Page Announced as Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences



Dr. Brian Page

Dean

School of Arts, Humanities, and Social
Sciences

Dr. Brian Page, a distinguished professional with over 20 years of experience in higher education has devoted the last 14 years to the academic community at FSW. His extensive background in education includes roles as a Professor of History and Chair of the Social Science Department before transitioning into administrative responsibilities. His leadership and remarkable work led him to serve as the Associate Dean, and we are thrilled to announce his recent selection as the Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Page holds a Ph.D. in History from The Ohio State University, a M.A. in History from University of Memphis, and a B.A. in History and Music from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

His wealth of experience and commitment to academic excellence position Dr. Brian Page as a dynamic leader ready to guide the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences into a new era of growth and innovation.

Presently, within the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, a diverse range of academic pathways awaits students. Among these offerings are three College Credit Certificates in Audio Technology, Digital Media, and Stage Technology. Additionally, students can pursue three Associate Degrees, namely the Associate in Arts, along with two Associate in Science programs focusing on Digital Arts and Music Production. Excitingly, the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences is set to introduce a fourth College Credit Certificate in Social Media Communication in the upcoming fall of 2024, expanding the array of educational opportunities available to students.



“Dr. Page was the unanimous choice of the selection committee for the position of Dean and we are beyond thrilled to have him join our four other Deans in providing academic leadership to FSW.”

Dr. Judith Bilsky
Vice President of Academic Affairs



Enhancing Opportunities: Grand Opening Events Shine a Spotlight on FSW's New Career Connection Centers Across Southwest Florida

FSW's Division of Workforce Education started 2024 with enthusiasm celebrating the grand opening of our newly located and branded Career Connection Centers at each FSW service location across Southwest Florida.

FSW's Career Connection Center is dedicated to supporting students in career exploration, development, and connection. They provide an array of programming, such as workshops, Career Connection Lecture Series, networking events, career and internship fairs and more.

The kick-off events featured engaging activities like career trivia, networking opportunities, and even a tie-the-tie station.



www.fsw.edu/careers



Networking



Tie-the-Tie



FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

Career Connections: FSW's Career Connection Lecture Series Illuminates Pathways to Success

FSW's Career Connection Lecture Series provides an invaluable platform for students to engage with prominent local leaders and gain insights into diverse career opportunities within southwest Florida. Throughout this spring, over 400 students actively participated in the series, delving into enriching sessions on law and leadership, health professions, local government, and business. This initiative not only fosters knowledge but also serves as a bridge connecting students to the dynamic professional landscape of the region.

Titans of Business: Strategies for Success Panel



Thanks to **John Wright** Executive Vice President, CFO & COO of Sanibel Captiva Bank, **Brain Rist**, Chairman at Rist Family Foundation and **Kelsey Griffin**, Partner at Markham, Norton, Mosteller, Wright & Company P.A. for serving on the Titans of Business: Strategies for Success Panel. Students appreciated learning about the panelists diverse career paths and hearing about their perseverance.

100% of survey participants strongly agreed and agreed that the topic was interesting and informative.

Healing Horizon: Exploring Careers with NCH Healthcare System



"This presentation definitely broadened my horizons on a possible career choice." – Gabriella C.

Law and Leadership with Judge Steinbeck



"I appreciate the presentation; it has heightened my interest in pursuing a career in the legal field. Aspiring to specialize in international law, being able to engage in this lecture was a fantastic opportunity for me." – Isabella B.

FSW Receives \$486,300 Grant to Create Innovative 2-Year Teacher Apprenticeship Program

Florida SouthWestern State College, in partnership with Lee County School District, will develop a no-cost 2-year teacher apprenticeship pathway to the teaching profession, geared toward currently employed paraprofessionals. Apprentices will receive on the job training (OJT) immersive field experience credit while earning their bachelor's degree. The two-year program will begin Summer 2024 with the first cohort of apprentices to complete the program in Spring 2026.

The program will be largely competency based, utilizing a cohort model focused on the apprentice's ability to demonstrate full proficiency in the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices, which outline competencies associated with planning and delivery of instruction, implementation of assessment, and application of differentiation for all learners.



Dr. April Fleming
Dean
School of Education

"The Teacher Apprenticeship Program is an amazing opportunity for paraprofessionals to achieve their dreams of becoming classroom teachers. This career pathway allows the paraprofessionals to receive on the job training from highly qualified mentor teachers, an innovative curriculum delivered by expert college faculty and earn their BS in Elementary education tuition free. The purpose of this career pathway is to address the teacher shortage by allowing districts to train, hire and retain the best educators and ensure every child has a highly qualified educator in their classroom."



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Excellence AWARDS

Excellence Illuminated: Celebrating Outstanding Educators with FSW's Prestigious NISOD Faculty Excellence Awards

Dr. Judith Bilsky, Vice President of Academic Affairs presents the 2024 NISOD Faculty Excellence Awards.

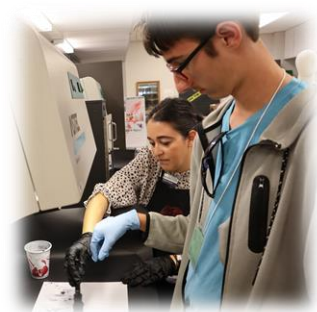
College and Community Service Excellence Award

William Van Glabek, Professor of Accounting

Professor Bill Van Glabek is recognized for the College and Community Service Excellence Award due to his exceptional commitment to both the college and the community. As a tireless advocate for FSW, Bill has gone above and beyond by actively hosting community service initiatives such as the Vita Tax program and, more recently, the Insurance Villages hosted at FSW. The Insurance Villages have been instrumental in securing nearly 7.5 million dollars in settlements for residents affected by Hurricane Ian. Beyond these impactful programs, Bill Van Glabek's influence extends to mentoring numerous students, inspiring them to pursue careers in public service and contribute positively to their communities.

Myra Walters Faculty Teaching and Instruction Excellence Award

Krissy Cabral, Professor of Criminal Justice



Professor Krissy Cabral is being recognized for the Myra Walter's Faculty Teaching and Instruction Excellence Award due to her exceptional passion for teaching, both inside and outside the classroom. Her dedication to student learning is evident through her dynamic teaching style, incorporating numerous in-class activities that enhance understanding and provide students with valuable take-home materials. What sets Professor Cabral apart is her ability to infuse fun into the learning process, creating an engaging atmosphere with ample opportunities for hands-on activities. It is evident that Professor Cabral genuinely cares about the well-being and success of her students, creating a classroom environment that is not only educational but also enjoyable.

Professional Development and Scholarship Award

Dr. Robert Cappetta, Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Bob Cappetta is being recognized for his unwavering commitment to professional development and mentorship within the academic community. As the Mathematics Intensive Committee Chair for the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC), he has played a crucial role in advancing effective teaching methods in math courses. Dr. Cappetta has dedicated significant time to the Professional Development committee. His advocacy for continuous learning has made a lasting impact, inspiring colleagues to strive for excellence in their professional growth.



Welcome Aboard: Introducing Three Dynamic Additions to Our Workforce Education Team!

FSW's Division of Workforce Education is delighted to announce the addition of three team members. We are confident that their contributions will play a crucial role in advancing the mission of FSW, ensuring the success of our students as they navigate their academic and professional journeys.

Kelly Thawley, Assistant Director, Workforce Recruitment and Scholarship



With 18 years of expertise in education, Kelly Thawley assumes the role of Assistant Director for Workforce Recruitment and Scholarships. Graduating summa cum laude from Muskingum University, Ohio, Kelly holds a Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in Psychology. Actively involved in the community, Kelly serves on multiple boards, including:

- Board of Directors for The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee
- Board of Directors for Gemstones in the Making
- Board of Directors for Our Mother's Home

Kelly is a recipient of Gulfshore Business' 40 Under 40 in 2022 and was a member of SWFL Inc.'s Leadership Class of 2020.

Emily Casey, Program Coordinator, Workforce Opportunities



Bringing five years of professional experience, Emily Casey assumes the position of Program Coordinator of Workforce Opportunity. Emily graduated from FSW earning an A.A. degree along with her Honors Certificate. Emily continued her education at FGCU earning a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. Her passion lies in assisting students in pursuing comprehensive opportunities for higher education, actively supporting the division of workforce education.

Jurnie Jacome, Program Specialist, Corporate and Community Education



Jurnie joins us at FSW serving as the Program Specialist for Corporate and Community Education. Jurnie is a recent graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University earning both a Bachelor's of Art in Communications and a Bachelor's in Science in Entrepreneurship.



FSW Hosts Charlotte County Government Day

Charlotte County Government is the top employer in the county employing individuals across 33 departments to include Animal Control, Economic Development, Emergency Management, and more. Charlotte County leaders Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services and Carrie Walsh, Director of Human Resources spoke to FSW students about local government operations and exciting employment opportunities across all fields of study. Additionally, students were able to meet with individual departments to envision their possible future careers.



Empathy in Action: FSW Nursing Students Shine at Sunlight Mission Health Fair in Charlotte County

Flor Gaspar (Charlotte, Level 3, EW) and Elizabeth Garcia Bello (Charlotte, Level 4, EW) joined Nursing Advisor Sarah Hamula for the Sunlight Mission Health Fair at Charlotte Library. The trio passionately connected with individuals facing homelessness or financial challenges in Charlotte County. Additionally, they engaged with various community partners. Demonstrating exceptional empathy and professionalism, the students measured attendees' blood pressure levels and shared insights into their experiences within FSW's Nursing program.






In Full Spring: Collaborative Connections at Twins Spring Training

To Kick off Spring Training FSW participated in a Heartsafe event at the Minnesota Twins Spring Training Complex, where FSW AHA instructors showed participants about life-saving hands-only CPR!

If you want to learn more about CPR use the QR code to sign up for a class



The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce hits a home run in organizing a networking event at a Minnesota Twins Spring Training game. This event provided an engaging venue for fostering connections and collaborations.

FSW is represented well as Matthew Karastamatis (Foundation) and Kelly Thawley (Workforce) serve as Chamber Board Members. They were joined by Whitney Rhyne at the networking event.





Empowering Futures: Workforce Team Engages the Community for Enhanced Awareness and Knowledge



The FSW Workforce Education Recruitment and Scholarship team collaborates closely with the Office of Admissions, forging connections with prospective students and community members to elevate awareness and knowledge regarding educational opportunities at FSW.

Highlighted on this page are snapshots from LaBelle Middle School's Career Fair, showcasing the engagement of FSW Workforce Education team members with every middle schooler in LaBelle, Florida.

In 2024, the Workforce Recruitment and Scholarship team has actively participated in 12 events, potentially impacting 2,030 individuals.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Lee County's Economic Development Office awarded FSW \$1 million providing funding for select credit and non-credit workforce programs. Lee County residents who enroll into ARPA-eligible programs may qualify for funding to cover in-state tuition and fees.

- 11 CCCs and AS programs in FSW's School of Business and Technology
- EMT, CCC offered in FSW's School of Health Professions
- Several programs offered through FSW's Corporate and Community Education



Open Door Grant

FSW received Open Door Grant funding through the Florida Department of Education. These funds will help students fast-track their success in a short-term career and technical education program.

- 45 fundable programs across FSW's five academic schools

See complete list at www.fsw.edu.opendoor



Transforming SWFL 2025

FSW was awarded \$125,000 from the Lee County Industrial Development Authority and \$100,000 from the Elsa and Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation through the FutureMakers Coalition.

Transforming SWFL Supports:

- [GED Pathway Program](#)
- Second Look
- Last Mile & Gap Funding
- Workforce Pathways



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

FSW was awarded \$1.98 million for its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant to expand pathway to multiple in-demand industry certificates. Participants will be supported through enhanced coursework, supplemental certification test prep, and personalized advising.

WIOA Programs

- [Information Technology Support Specialist, CCC](#)
- [Network Security, CCC](#)
- [Cybersecurity, AS](#)
- [Network Systems, AS](#)
- [Architectural Design and Construction Technology, AS](#)



Use the QR codes provided to learn more about each grant or program.
Email Opportunity@fsw.edu with any questions.