



The First Year Experience Community Update

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Cornerstone Faculty Feature



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Head Coach,
Women's Basketball
& Cornerstone Experience
Instructor

Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

Teaching SLS allows me to be a part of the first steps taken in the amazing journey for new students at FSW! I like assisting in the process of identifying their strengths and weaknesses, their passion for potential careers, while helping them embrace change. During this journey, students realize that through education they have the power to turn their dreams into realities.

What do you enjoy most about teaching the Cornerstone Experience course?

I enjoy teaching SLS because it allows me the opportunity to work with new students during their transition to college. During this time, students enter FSW from all walks of life with a common goal in mind, obtaining higher education. Students often experience so much emotion while transitioning into the college setting and through this course I not only can serve as the professor but a mentor, an academic coach, and motivator to each student.

How did the course change you?

At FSW, this course has been very rewarding for me. Most of my students recently graduated high school and full of excitement about beginning the next chapter in their life. This energy and excitement is contagious not only to other students but to me as well. Also, having the opportunity to work with Peer Architects has been a fun and rewarding experience.

Have you taught this type of course before at any other institution(s)?

I have taught SLS at two previous colleges during my 20 year tenure, both being positive experiences. However, I must say FSW Cornerstone professors and FYE staff do an amazing job! This course allows students to explore, both socially and academically. The SLS professors are provided with an abundance of resources and support, creating a successful learning environment.

Cornerstone Experience Fundraising Campaign

Last fall, Cornerstone students raised over \$3,000 to help eliminate Maternal Neonatal Tetanus. This fall, Cornerstone students are raising money and collecting items to support local animal shelters and clinics in FSW's five-county service area. The Honors Cornerstone class with a focus on Civic Engagement researches and selects a cause to champion. The class then develops and implements a plan of action to make a engage the entire cornerstone community and make a positive impact. Pictured to the right are students at the FSW Farmer's Market, raising awareness of animal shelters in Lee County. Also pictured are students holding an On-campus bake sale to raise money for animal shelters.



The first week of October marked a week of financial literacy for Cornerstone students. In partnership with Suncoast Credit Union, we offered eleven educational sessions across our four FSW service locations.



Collier Campus



Hendry/Glades Center



Charlotte Campus

784 Students Participated

91.8% of student survey respondents that “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the session increased their knowledge of the topic.

“I really enjoyed this lecture. It provided information on how to be financially ready.”
– FSW Student Participant, Collier Campus

“This presentation is very useful because it talked about how to manage money perfectly with a great budget. I learned about ways to save money with sites I really like. There are a lot of ways to save money.” – FSW Student Participant, Lee Campus



Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus

Service Saturday: Surfers For Autism

On Saturday, October 31, 2015, 20 FSW students volunteered roughly 140 hours helping children with autism have a fantastic day surfing and paddling the waves on the Gulf of Mexico at Crescent Beach Park in Fort Myers Beach.



"It was a great experience to be able to help the participants enjoy themselves and do something that helps them so much. We had just as much fun as they did watching them smile and come to life after a few minutes in the water." – FSW Student Participant



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