



# The First Year Experience Community Update

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## Cornerstone Faculty Feature



**Andrae Jones**

Associate Director,  
Academic Advising, Career, and  
Transfer Services  
and Cornerstone Instructor

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

I enjoy seeing students develop and grow. On the first day of class, the students are very hesitant to interact with each other and through different assignments and think-pair-share activities, students feel comfortable with each other and are willing to share and communicate.

### Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

I chose to teach SLS 1515 because I wanted a chance to interact with the students at the beginning of their educational journey this is an important class in terms of helping to establish what students are going to think of college as they progress through their academics. I wanted the chance to be there right at the beginning to help shape their outlook on college and make sure that they are aware of all the wonderful resources that we have to help them persist.

### How did the course change you?

The course has changed me in two ways: I am routinely reminded that I am as much a student as I am a professor and that it is very important to stay connected to our stakeholders. Learning from my students allows me to draw from and stay connected to their experiences, which allows me to be more effective in and out of the classroom.

## Peer Architects' Perspective



**Gabrielly Cordon**

Cornerstone was one of my favorite classes, I loved the discussions, assignments, and activities. When I saw the Peer Architects in the workshops and office, I immediately realized I wanted to be one, too. I wanted to help students have the same great experience I had.

My favorite part about being a Peer Architect is the relationships I create with my mentees. I love having a special connection with everyone I meet. I value the fact that I can, even in a small way, have an impact on someone's life.

The Cornerstone course and being a Peer Architect have helped me realize that I want to do training and development as a career. The personality part of the Cornerstone course helped me figure out who I am and being a Peer Architect has helped me choose what I want as my career. Being a Peer Architect has improved my interpersonal and teaching skills that I will need in training and development, which I view as the corporate version of being a Peer Architect. I am thrilled to make it my career choice, and I have FYE to thank.

# Critical Thinking Lecture Series



Sara Owens, CEO of Southwest Florida Community Foundation and Eileen Connolly-Kessler, CEO of Community Foundation of Collier County facilitated an excellent session entitled "Philanthropy: a Powerful Agent for Change."

92%

of students "strongly agreed" and "agreed" that the presentation was interesting and informative.



## Student Feedback

"It was very informative, and it shows that philanthropy is the gateway for humanity."

"I loved how engaging and passionate Dr. Collins was when speaking about the health professions. She made sure every student was educated on what they need to do to graduate quickly and successfully."

"I liked the fact that this event helped us understand and develop a different point of view on non-profit work."



97%

of students "strongly agreed" and "agreed" that the presentation was engaging and understandable.

Dr. Marie Collins, Dean of the School of Health Professions, facilitating a session about strategically planning for a career in the health professions.

# FYE Programming



Understanding Plagiarism



Critical Thinking Challenges



Tech Tools

## FYE Programming Student Survey Metrics (Spring 2017 to date)

- 96% of surveyed students “strongly agree” and “agree” that the material covered was interesting.
- 92% of surveyed students would recommend the session to a friend.  
N=532

## Student Feedback

*“This workshop was very useful and gave me a lot of information that I will now use to help me in school.” – Tech Tools*

*“This [workshop] really changed my perspective on expanding my knowledge :)” – Truth-Seeking*

## Cornerstone Photo Contest

Each fall and spring Cornerstone Experience classes are invited to participate in a photo contest. This semester, students were asked to think about and represent the mission and vision of FSW. The students worked to create interesting and creative photos for the contest. Below are a few of the photos [click here](#) to view all the photo submissions for this spring.

