

# SPYGLASS

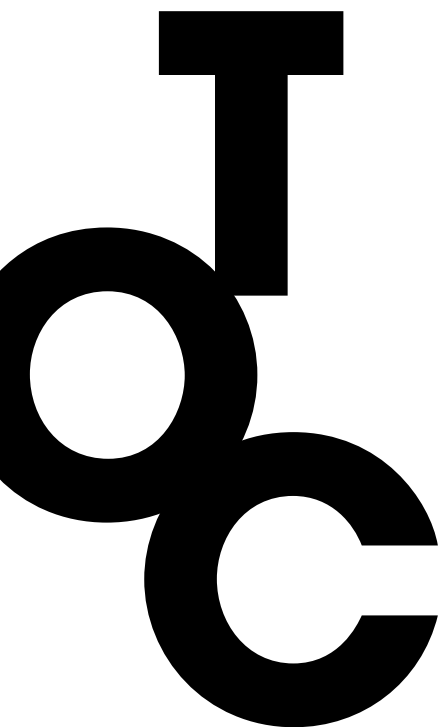
2015 - 2016

The magazine of Florida SouthWestern State College

A group of five diverse college students sitting together and smiling. From left to right: a blonde woman, a Black woman, a white man, a Black man, and a young woman with long dark hair wearing a white patterned sweater. They are all looking towards the camera with pleasant expressions.

## THE EVOLUTION OF FSW

The Buccaneers are Back!



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# The Evolution

## of FSW Continues

**W**ELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE of *Spyglass* magazine. This publication is one of many firsts for Florida SouthWestern State College. Throughout the magazine, you'll read about the many things and accomplishments of this institution. And it all revolves around the opportunities we offer to our students.

The name itself, *Spyglass*, is a look into the future of this institution. First known in 1706, the spyglass is a small telescope that was used by sailors to see further than the naked eye. Historically, this 53 year-old college has helped shape the lives of thousands as students become the professionals we see today.

On July 1, 2014, we changed our name from Edison State College to Florida SouthWestern State College. The name change was the result of a potential trademark infringement with another similarly named college, and since they owned the name outright, we had no choice but to rename our institution. Although this was difficult, we looked at it as an opportunity. Our new name easily lets everyone know the state and region we serve and represent. Not willing to forget our past, we renamed our main campus in Fort Myers as the Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus.

Did you know that we were the first college to have intercollegiate athletics in southwest Florida? We competed as the Edison Buccaneers from 1963 to 1997. And now that we are bringing back athletics, starting with baseball and softball in the fall 2015, we will continue as the Buccaneers. In the fall 2016, we will also have men's and women's basketball. You can read more about our athletics in the pages of this magazine.

With the ability to offer bachelor's degrees in key areas such as education, public safety and management and nursing, our students can graduate fully prepared to enter the workforce. More and more businesses need professionals who have a bachelor's degree. Fulfilling that need helps grow our economy. Part of our evolution is to offer our students the complete college experience, from exceptional academics and hands-on opportunities both here and internationally, to a thriving student life, and now, athletics.

I hope that you enjoy reading *Spyglass* and learning more about FSW and all that we offer the 22,000 students we serve annually. We will continue to evolve to ensure that our students receive the knowledge they need to fulfill their dreams and succeed on their own terms.



*Dr. Jeff S. Allbritten, President*



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## The Evolution of

# FSW



BY TERESA A. MORGENSTERN

**T**HE EVOLUTION CONTINUES. Defined as a gradual, progressive change, Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) is a shining example of how change benefits the over 22,000 students it serves annually, the southwest Florida community, and other states and countries. FSW's mission is to inspire learning; prepare a diverse population for creative and responsible participation in a global society; and serve as a leader for intellectual, economic and cultural awareness. Thousands of students have graduated and accomplished this thanks, in part, to FSW's development of a complete college experience: academics, student life and athletics.

It all began, humbly enough, in 1962 in Fort Myers. Today, it's a state college with three campuses and a regional center that cover five, southwest Florida counties over 5,400 square miles. FSW continues to offer the degrees and certifications needed for students to fulfill their professional goals.

In response to increased demand for graduates with four-year degrees, the college was granted the right to award bachelor's degrees in 2005. Today, FSW offers 10 bachelor's degrees in business, education and nursing.

The FSW evolution continues.

### Five Schools, Honors and International Flair

Enhancing the college experience for students naturally begins with academics. The college now has five schools: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Business and Technology; Education; Health Profession; and Pure and Applied Sciences. Students can earn a Bachelor's degree, an Associate in Arts degree, an Associate in Sciences degree and/or a professional certification. Within these schools, students can take the courses needed to prepare them for a global society.

Students can study to become the professionals that make living in the southwest Florida region all the more attractive. Graduates become the business administrators, nurses, teachers, technology experts, paramedics, public safety administrators, dental hygienists and more.

Students can qualify to participate in the Honors Scholar Program. This program challenges students academically, and gives them the chance to study abroad in a partnership with the Center for International Education.

The FSW evolution continues.

## Student Life: Alive and Well

In addition to the rigors of academics, students can choose from a variety of clubs and activities. They range from student government, honorary fraternities and foreign language to intervarsity Christian fellowship, bowling, scuba and photo and video clubs.

Since 2012, up to 405 students can now live on the Fort Myers campus in LightHouse Commons, the college's residence hall. Complete with two- and four-bedroom suites, volleyball and basketball courts, a recreational lounge and a fitness area, student residents also have plenty of activities to round out college life.

The evolution continues.



## From a Hall to a Stadium and an Arena

In 1986, the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall opened on the Fort Myers campus and quickly became a cultural icon and a point of pride for all of southwest Florida. Hundreds of performances and concerts later, "the Hall" continues to attract world-class performances and concerts.

To the south of the Hall, on the corner of Cypress Lake Drive and Summerlin Road, a second icon is in the making. In 2015, FSW and Suncoast Credit Union leaders broke ground for the Suncoast Credit Union Arena, which will open its doors in the fall 2016. It will be a place for FSW basketball and volleyball games, graduations, concerts, community events and more.

A 15-minute drive north of the campus leads to City of Palms Park, where FSW's baseball and softball teams will compete. Formerly the Spring Training home of the Boston Red Sox, the stadium will be home for FSW, summer camps and other community events.

The FSW evolution continues.

## Athletics

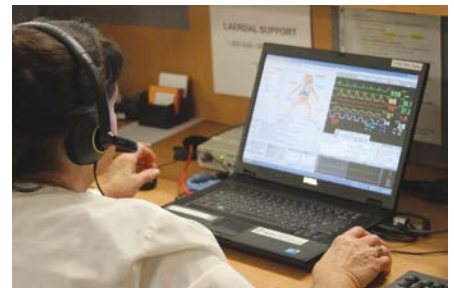
The Edison (now FSW) Buccaneers will return to competition after a 35-year hiatus. Athletics are known as the glue that brings students and the community together. Exhibition softball and baseball games will start in the fall 2015 at City of Palms Park. The FSW men's and women's basketball teams will debut in the Suncoast Credit Union Arena in the fall 2016. Then in 2017, women's volleyball will begin competition.

The evolution continues.

## What's Next?

FSW constantly explores avenues to create additional partnerships with businesses, sister institutions and more. These partnerships benefit students with additional opportunities for real-world experiences. Ultimately as graduates, they take their knowledge skills into the community to make it, and the world, a better place.

The evolution continues.



“ Thousands of students have graduated and accomplished this thanks, in part, to FSW's development of a complete college experience: academics, student life and athletics. ”

# A Lesson in Critical Thinking: The Cornerstone Experience

BY JENNIFER YOUNG

**T**HE FIRST YEAR IN COLLEGE is an exciting time for students. For younger students, it may be their first time living away from home, cooking and cleaning for themselves, and even doing their own laundry, while nontraditional students may be the caregivers to their own families. Paired with the responsibility of attending classes, completing schoolwork, studying and possibly even working a part- or full-time job, the first year in college can be quite challenging.

Florida SouthWestern's Cornerstone Experience was designed to help students become self-reliant learners who use critical thinking to achieve academic and career success. In this course, first-year students acquire skills and habits of mind that they can immediately apply to other college courses.

First-year students focus on topics including time and money management, study skills, active listening, diversity, questioning established ideas and creating new ideas, and using information to solve problems. Throughout the semester-long course, students also participate in a variety of group projects, presentations, and college activities. One required project is the FSW Go Picture Scribe (GPS).

The FSW GPS allows students to learn more about their campus and what it has to offer, but in a fun and creative way. Students must participate in at least 10 campus events, workshops, support services, Student Life activities, First-Year Experience (FYE) programs and Service Saturday volunteer opportunities. Students put together a digital presentation using photos, videos, and portable document formats to chronicle their experiences.

"The GPS helps students engage in campus life and connect with FSW's FYE Programs, academic support programs and support services," Dr. Eileen DeLuca, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs. "The assignment also compels students to attend academic lectures and fine arts events, often times opening their eyes to new ideas and interests."

One of the most important aspects of the Cornerstone Experience course is critical thinking.

"Critical thinking allows us to analyze, synthesize and evaluate information," Dr. DeLuca said. "An example of thinking critically is taking a reasonable and well-informed stance on a topic, while still being able to consider the merits of the counter-stance in an ongoing dialectic leading to the continuous construction of new knowledge about the topic."

As a special focus on critical thinking, FYE Programs host guest speakers who cover a variety of diverse topics.

"Our speakers address timely and, at times, controversial topics related to their area of expertise, allowing students to hear and become more understanding of opinions that may differ from their own," Dr. DeLuca said.

After completing the Cornerstone Experience course, students often see improvements in their critical thinking skills and success strategies. They also become more comfortable working together and forming relationships with their professors and peers.

"In this course, more than any other, students really get to know each other," Dr. DeLuca said. "I've heard many students say that they begin the course as strangers and leave as family."



**C**OMMITMENT TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, intellectual curiosity, intrinsic motivation. These are all characteristics students must demonstrate when they choose to participate in FSW's Honor Scholars Program.

"Our Honors Scholar Program is not about harder content, but moving beyond the classroom," said Dr. Wendy Chase, Honors Program Coordinator. "It's about applying what you learn out into the world."

The Honors Scholar Program accomplishes this by offering a variety of opportunities for students to step out of the classroom and learn through hands-on, real-world experiences.

Study abroad gives students the opportunity to apply what they've learned in the classroom, not only to the real world but to other countries and cultures as well. Prior to their departure, students develop a research project they will focus on in the area they are traveling to. Last year's study abroad took six students to Baja, Mexico, where they worked on their research projects with practicing scientists for 10 days. One of these projects was on green sea turtle conservation, in which the students proposed stronger education for fisherman on the harm of poaching sea turtles. Students then had to finalize their research and present it to their peers at various college conferences in the state.

Previous study abroad groups have traveled to Paris, France, and last year, a group of Honors arts students traveled to Iceland for a four-day intensive field experience in landscape painting and drawing with the University of Iceland and the Iceland Academy of the Arts. Following their return, the students then created art pieces and created an art show that focused on their experiences in Iceland.

"The students see their projects all the way through, collecting, analyzing, and then presenting the knowledge they acquired in a meaningful way," said Dr. Chase. "For some, the presentation might be a science conference and for others an art show, but that diversity is what makes the Honors Scholar Program attainable to students no matter what their talents may be."

Another opportunity FSW's Honors Scholar Program students receive is the chance to represent the college at the Model United Nations conference held every year at Harvard University.

During the Model UN conference, students represent a nation that is assigned to them by the actual United Nations to address global issues that are concerns for everyone. Students write position papers on a topic and must present their resolutions, addressing the issues to convince their committee to pick and adopt their proposed resolution.

"FSW is the only two-year college that participates in the Model UN in the nation," Dr. Chase said. "They go up against students from some of the most prestigious universities in the country and internationally, and they do very well."

These students do so well in fact that at the most recent Model UN conference held in February, two of FSW's students had their resolutions passed.

"Model UN is very rigorous," Dr. Chase said. "They arrive at noon and spend the rest of the afternoon and the entire next day in their conferences," Dr. Chase said. "It takes a great level of maturity and commitment from these students."

"While there are specific requirements a student must meet before entering the Honors Program, there is one important question I ask them to think about," Dr. Chase said. "What is the use you want to make of your talent?"



## Honors Students Learn by Embracing Opportunity

BY JENNIFER YOUNG

# For FSW Students, the Focus is on **Abilities**

BY TERESA A. MORGENSTERN

**A**T FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE, the Office of Adaptive Services offers a wide range of services to help our students not only make the transition to college life, but to have the tools necessary to succeed. The focus is not on their disabilities, but on their abilities.

According to the Census 2000, about 19 percent of the total population over the age of five has reported having some type of a disability. These include: sight, hearing, physical condition that limits basic life activities, learning/remembering/concentrating, along with physical/mental/emotional conditions that makes it difficult for them to function at home. The study found that about 12 percent of the respondents said that their disability also impacted their ability to work. Additionally, nearly half report having more than one disability.

At the college level, it is the responsibility of the student to complete the self-identification process. Through review of sufficient documentation and conversation with the student, an Adaptive Services Specialist deems reasonable accommodations. The first step is to shift the student's mindset from disabilities to abilities, and continues with a series of questions ranging from favorite and least favorite subjects to nutrition and exercise habits. This helps create a plan of action and to identify the resources or the tools to take charge of their educational pursuit. Much of a student's success is dependent on the choice they make. Adaptive Services plays a part in an opportunity which empowers the student with tools necessary to become self-assured and effective learners, strong problem solvers and successful members of the community. These are skills they will need to succeed in life after college.

Students have a variety of technology available to them that helps them to compensate for their disability when it comes to learning. Fall 2014 enrollment included 241 students with a registered disability. This was just over 1.5 percent of the total student population. Most people think of someone who is disabled as a person who uses a cane or a wheelchair – something that is visible. What many individuals don't know is that disabilities are both visible and invisible.

One way to help students visualize things is the analogy of a car. In high school, the student's disability may have been driving the car. At the student's first meeting and throughout each semester, the disability is moved to the passenger seat. As time goes on and they further develop the tools and skills they need, that disability will soon be in the back seat, and then in the trunk.

It's important for students to understand that they can live within their limitations and still be successful. It's just a small piece of them; it does not define who they are or who they can become.



“

Disability is not a brave struggle or 'courage in the face of adversity.' Disability is an art. It is an ingenious way to live.

-Neil Marcus

”





# Veteran's Affairs

at FSW

BY JESSICA CLARK, APR

**F** **LORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE** recognizes and appreciates the sacrifice that our military personnel have made for the freedoms this country enjoys.

As an approved Institution for Veterans Education Benefits, FSW created a Veteran's Services office to assist in meeting the needs and answering the specific questions related to VA services for students who meet the qualifications.

In addition to assisting veterans in the admissions and academic process at FSW, the Veteran Services office also hosts multiple events throughout the year to honor those who have served, and are currently serving. This includes special Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, where veterans, college students, staff, faculty, local dignitaries, and others in the community are invited to recognize the valiant services of our Armed Forces.

Veterans, and those eligible for VA benefits, must meet Florida SouthWestern State College admission requirements in order to be certified by the VA Certifying Official and receive VA Education benefits. Eligible students are to complete the required VA procedures as early as possible.





Join the

# Club!

Student Life Is Good!

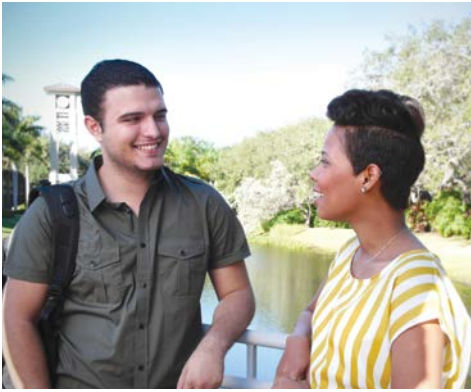
BY JESSICA CLARK, APR



**J**UST AS A STUDENT'S INTEREST is wide and varied, so too are the choices available at FSW. Beyond the classroom, campus life at FSW is designed to help students enhance their personal, social and intellectual growth and development. Florida SouthWestern State college has over 30 student organizations, honor societies, professional organizations and faith-based groups.

Students can join clubs that focus on Civic Engagement and Community Service, Leadership Development, Social Events, Student Organizations, Student Government Association, Student Recreation and Fitness and more!

Students at FSW are also encouraged to sign up for Turbo vote, the new FSW initiative to encourage civic engagement and voting!



# ESW

## Right at Home at

**H**OME AT FSW IS A RESIDENCE HALL called LightHouse Commons on the Fort Myers campus. This building opened in 2012, and features amenities that put to shame the dorms of days gone by. Each student has his/her own bedroom in either a two- or four-bedroom suite. Shared spaces include a kitchen, living room and a washer and dryer.

Residents also have study areas on each floor, a recreational room and a fitness room. For those who enjoy being outdoors, there is a basketball court, a sand volleyball court and a courtyard complete with BBQ grills. There are also plenty of activities that are fun and help students build lifelong friendships.

Not only are residents just steps away from classes, they are also just minutes from what makes southwest Florida a great place to learn and live: the world-famous Gulf Coast beaches, shopping, dining, entertainment and more.



LightHouse Commons features: programming that allows students to continue growing outside the classroom.



# The Buccaneers Are Back!

BY TERESA A. MORGENSTERN



Head Softball Coach Robert Iamurri.



Head Baseball Coach Jamie Corr.

**T**HE ECHOES OF CHEERS PAST will soon fill the air once again as the Buccaneers return to competition. The chant of victory comes from a 35-year tradition that began with basketball in 1962, and over the years, expanded to include tennis, volleyball, baseball, softball, golf and wrestling. Then in 1997, athletics at the college was disbanded. At the time, the average age of students attending the college was hovering near 30 and interest had dwindled.

Fast forward to today and Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), is bringing the Buccaneers back. Baseball and softball begin in the fall 2015, followed by men's and women's basketball in the fall 2016.

"It's part of our goal to give our students the complete college experience, from rigorous and challenging academics to student life and clubs. When we added our first on-campus residence hall, called LightHouse Commons in 2012, it changed the dynamic of the college because we now have 400 students living on campus 24/7. Couple that with the fact that the average age of students attending now is closer to the 18-22 demographic," said President Allbritten. "We already have strong academics and student life activities. Sports are a way to bring students and the community together to cheer for their team."

In order to bring athletics back, one of the first steps taken was to conduct a national search for an Athletic Director. In February 2014, FSW announced the hiring of Carl McAloose, who had built Florida Gulf Coast University's athletics from the ground up, and raising it to a Division I program in record time.

"This is a great opportunity to bring back an athletics program that historically has enjoyed a lot of success," said McAloose. "The coaches we hire need to share our philosophy of developing student athletes whose success starts first in the classroom, and then onto the field or court. Our players will also be out in the community."

Thanks to the true spirit of collaboration and cooperation, FSW and Lee County talked about City of Palms Park. Formerly the Spring Training facility for the Boston Red Sox, the stadium had stood empty for a few years. It became the perfect solution for FSW and Lee County. On May 20, 2014, Lee County Commissioners, City of Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson, along with FSW President Allbritten and McAloose celebrated a 10-year lease agreement. City of Palms Stadium is now home to the FSW Buccaneers baseball and softball teams.

Get ready to cheer for the Bucs!



Aerial view of City of Palms Park, home of the FSW Buccaneers Baseball and Softball teams.



Bringing FSW Basketball back with the groundbreaking of the Suncoast Credit Union Arena: (l-r) Edison College basketball player Quentin Queisser; FSW Men's Head Basketball Coach Marty Richter; Edison College Men's Basketball Coach Hugh Thimler; Edison College Men's Assistant Basketball Coach Bill Geddes; and FSW Head Women's Basketball Coach Kristy Ward.



## Meet the **FSW Coaches**

### **JAMIE CORR** HEAD BASEBALL COACH

He led Lambert High School in Cumming, Georgia to the USA Today and Collegiate Baseball National Championship, plus the 6A State Championship with a 36-2 record. He was named the USA Today National Coach of the Year. He started his baseball career as a utility player for Edison Community College (now FSW) in 1993.

### **ROBERT IAMURRI** HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

His name is synonymous with Florida state championships as the coach from 1986-2014 at Naples High School. He was named National Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. He graduated from Edison Community College (now FSW) with an Associate in Arts degree.

### **MARTY RICHTER** HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Coach Richter brings a history of success on a national level. While at Chipola College, he compiled a 69-4 record and a number one ranking, and played a big role in the success of Florida Gulf Coast University's NCAA tournament run to the Sweet 16 with all the fanfare of "Dunk City". He has also worked as a basketball analyst for ESPN and as a top notch scout for ESPN's Recruiting Nation.

### **KRISTY WARD** HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Coach Ward had three consecutive 20-plus winning seasons while nationally ranked, plus back-to-back Mid-Florida Conference Championships at Florida State College at Jacksonville. She was also named Coach of the Year twice and in three seasons. At Northwest-Shoals Community College, she took her team to the National Championship game while being ranked number one in the country. She was also a five-time Coach of the Year in her region and a four-time Coach of the Year in the Alabama Community College Conference.

On May 20, 2014, FSW signed a 10-year lease agreement to use City of Palms Park for the college's baseball and softball teams. Celebrating that day (l-r): Carl McAloose, FSW Athletic Director; Randy Henderson, Mayor, City of Fort Myers; FSW President Jeff Allbritten; and Larry Kiker, Chairman, Lee County Board of Commissioners.

# Much More Than an Arena

BY TERESA A. MORGENSTERN

**O**N JANUARY 20, 2015, FSW announced a historic partnership with Suncoast Credit Union. The college's sports facility to be built on the Fort Myers campus will be called Suncoast Credit Union Arena. Their gift of \$5 million for this arena is the largest single gift in its history, and also the largest single gift received in FSW's history.

"This is so much more than a generous donation," said Dr. Lou Traina, Vice President, Institutional Advancement of FSW and the Executive Director of the FSW Foundation. "Suncoast and FSW are working together to create a true partnership that will benefit our students. They are working with us to host financial literacy classes for our students to help educate them on making smart financial decisions, plus scholarships and internships."

"For decades, FSW has offered educational opportunities and career paths for thousands of students, many who stay in this region to work, raise families and give back," said Tom Dorety, President & CEO, Suncoast Credit Union. "Education is a key component of that. Our partnership with FSW is much more than having our name on the arena. We will be working together to offer scholarships, plus educational and internship opportunities that lead to solid careers."

Suncoast Credit Union Arena will be a two-story, 75,000 square-foot building that will be home for the FSW Buccaneers basketball and volleyball teams with 3,300 seats for fans. The competition court converts to three courts for student recreational activities. There will also be a weight room, a fitness pavilion, men's and women's locker rooms and a weight training area.

"Suncoast Credit Union Arena will be in use beyond our basketball and volleyball games," added McAloose. "This building is perfect for hosting local, regional and national events, concerts and graduation ceremonies. It's another way to bring our students together, and the community as a whole."

There was a ceremonial groundbreaking event on April 23, 2015. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer with completion in fall 2016.



# Groundbreaking Day

**FSW CELEBRATED THE GROUNDBREAKING** for the new Suncoast Credit Union Arena, which will be home to the FSW basketball and volleyball teams, plus a variety of events. Photos courtesy Reagan Rule Photography



FSW President Allbritton and Suncoast President Tom Dorety.



FSW Trustees Eddie Webb and Eric Loche.



Lee Commissioner Brian Hamman, Dave Miller, FSW Trustee Tristan Chapman.



# FSW Spirit Day

**JULY 1, 2014 MARKED THE FIRST DAY** as Florida SouthWestern State College, which was FSW Spirit Day.



FSW President Jeff Allbritton (third from left), Liz Allbritton and Representative Matt Hudson with FSW students.

# Becoming a Teacher:

## School of Education

BY JESSICA CLARK, APR



**T**HE STUDENTS WHO LEAVE AN APPLE on the teacher's desk will one day be receiving apples from their students. Florida SouthWestern State College's School of Education provides a rigorous learning environment ensuring teacher candidates will achieve their greatest potential through Principles of Excellence.

School of Education programs build on a strong pedagogical, ethical and socially conscious foundation that fosters creativity and innovation. Florida SouthWestern State College's School of Education produces graduates equipped to contribute to the diverse community of life-long learners in Southwest Florida.

- The majority of graduates from Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) School of Education are hired following graduation, and perform as Effective or Highly Effective educators in Florida Public Schools.
- The innovative practices and small class sizes lead to an environment that stimulates learning at all levels.

### Degrees Offered:

Available programs of study in the School of Education at FSW include Field Experience, Service Learning, Reading Endorsement, ESOL endorsement, Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Middle Grades Language Arts, Middle Grades Mathematics Education, and Middle Grades Science Education and Secondary Biology.

For students interested in teaching Science, Florida SouthWestern State College is offering the Middle Grades Science and Secondary Biology Degree's for \$10,000.

Qualifying science students may also be interested in a full paid internship through the COSSEE grant. Throughout the internship, you will engage in action research with local marine biologist.

- BS in Elementary Education
- BS in Middle Grades Language Arts Education
- BS in Middle Grades Mathematics Education
- BS in Middle Grades Science Education
- BS in Secondary Biology Education
- BS in Secondary Mathematics Education
- AS in Early Childhood Education







“FSW graduates consistently perform in the classroom and come not only with the skills and knowledge needed but the most innovative and effective practices.” Christy Kutz, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching, Lee County School District.



# CS

## Florida SouthWestern State College

BY JENNIFER YOUNG

**C**RIME SCENE TAPE SURROUNDS the area where the body was discovered on the FSW Thomas Edison Campus. Investigators swarm the area, digging through the dirt, searching for clues and collecting evidence that could lead them to answers.

In FSW's Crime Scene Technology program offered in the School of Business and Technology, this is just one of the many hands-on learning experiences students receive.

"We want our students to get as close to a realistic experience as possible," said Dr. John Meyer, dean of the School of Business and Technology. "This includes working outside in the Florida heat and dealing with insects and other wildlife, as well as the sights and smells that come along with working with decomposing bodies."

On FSW's Crime Scene Island located on the FSW Thomas Edison Campus, instructors set up the crime scene. A mannequin is wrapped with unsold pork ribs that otherwise would have been disposed of, and is buried. Crime scene tech students then must look for the evidence that leads them to discovering the body. Once they've exhumed the "body", they examine elements of the scene and do forensic analysis on the surrounding dirt as well as the soil on the victim to make sure there is a match or to determine if the crime occurred in a different location.



“ In FSW’s Crime Scene Technology program offered in the School of Business and Technology, this is just one of the many hands-on learning experiences students receive. ”

“Because of generous support from Carol Culliton, Adam Culliton, and the Robert J. Gunterberg Charitable Foundation, we have been able to install fencing and lights around Crime Scene Island to allow our students to train both during the day and at night,” Dr. Meyer said. “This gives students an even more real-world experience, exposing them to situations they will encounter in their professional careers.”

FSW’s Crime Scene Technology program also uses high-tech equipment and tools that many other crime scene programs don’t yet have. FARO is a unique adaptation of a 3D laser scanner used to support crime scene investigations and accident reconstruction. FARO renders a 3D computer generated image of a crime scene. When multiple images are taken, they are put together to form a movie that walks jurors through the scene. FARO also has incredible accuracy, down to 1000th-of-an-inch, enabling crime scene technicians to more accurately determine bullet trajectory, knife angles, and blood splatter.

Another piece of equipment students train on is the AFIX Technologies Inc. Fingerprint Identification System, a computerized fingerprint analysis tool that provides evidence-level fingerprint matching capabilities.

“The technology our program uses is the kind of stuff you see in the movies,” Dr. Meyer said. “Many local law enforcements agencies don’t even have the FARO scanners, so our students are receiving very specialized, high-tech training, giving them an extra boost when they enter their careers.”

“Our instructors are recognized experts and current practitioners in their area, and our students sometimes even have the opportunity to work with local law enforcement at actual crime scenes,” said Dr. Meyer. “All this helps FSW’s Crime Scene Technology program stand out from the rest.”



## School of Business and Technology Fun Facts

The SoBT offers two Bachelor’s degree programs, nine associate in science degree programs and ten certificate programs.

The BAS in Supervision and Management is the most popular Bachelor’s degree program offered at FSW.

The BAS in Supervision and Management will begin offering areas of focus this fall in accounting, retail management and marketing, entrepreneurship, and health services administration.

The SoBT partners with CareerSource Southwest Florida to offer the Xcel-IT Program, providing workforce development training to eligible participants in IT-based careers including Information Technology, Logistics and Distribution, and Small Business Development.

Each term, the SoBT inducts its best Bachelor’s students into the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society.

Two FSW students have received the Sigma Beta Delta International Fellowship award in 2013 and 2014. The fellowship is awarded to only 11 students internationally each year.

Crime Scene Technology currently has three FARO scanners and offers training to local law enforcement agencies not yet using the technology.

# A Healthy Choice

## School of Health Professions

BY JESSICA CLARK, APR



**W**HEN IT COMES TO HEALTHCARE, the demand for trained professionals is only growing.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, occupations related to health care are projected to have the fastest job growth between 2010 and 2020. Education and training in these fields will need some type of postsecondary education for entry in to the occupation.

Florida SouthWestern State College School of Health Professions offers many diverse options for students who want to pursue a career in the rewarding field of healthcare.

Thanks to FSW's key partnerships with area community hospitals and affiliates, students gain additional experiences that complement what they learn in the classroom. FSW also boasts two, state-of-the-art Simulation Education Centers that have obtained global recognition. Faculty, staff, and students in the School of Health Professions are active in community and professional activities at the local, state, national and international level.

Graduates of FSW's programs in the health professions are extremely successful on credentialing examinations and with finding employment after graduation.

“

Thanks to FSW's key partnerships with area community hospitals and affiliates, students gain additional experiences that complement what they learn in the classroom.

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## Degrees and Programs in the School of Health Professions

### Baccalaureate Degrees:

Degree advancement programs for those credentialed in the profession

- Cardiopulmonary Science – for Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology
- Nursing (RN to BSN) – for Nursing

### Associate Degrees:

Preparation for entry into the profession

- Cardiovascular Technology
- Dental Hygiene
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Science Technology
- Health Information Technology
- Human Services
- Nursing
- Opticianry
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Care

### Certificates: Shorter programs of study

- Emergency Medical Technician
- Firefighter
- Paramedic
- Addiction Studies
- Human Services Assistant
- Youth Development

To learn more about the excellent opportunities in FSW's School of Health Professions by visiting our campuses and reviewing program details at [www.FSW.edu/sohp](http://www.FSW.edu/sohp). Those interested can also contact FSW at 239.489.9255 or [sohp@FSW.edu](mailto:sohp@FSW.edu).



# Associate's Degree

## Still Florida SouthWestern's 'Bread and Butter'

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY

**F**LORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE started offering four-year degrees in 2000, yet any student registering for classes will take at least one course from the A.A. in General Studies track.

These include the more traditional “liberal arts” courses ranging from art history and cinema, to sociology and geology, to foreign language instruction and each providing our students well-rounded educational experiences.

Every student graduating with his or her Associates in Arts degree complete 36 of 60 credits in General Education coursework.

“We have four-year degree programs at FSW and may develop more in the future, but the majority of our student’s coursework is done through our A.A. in General Studies program,” said Dr. Emery Alford, dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, which houses nearly all of these courses.

Some students take their two-year degrees and transfer to a state or private university, while others stay at FSW and earn their bachelor’s degree in a highly employable area of study, and not to mention at a fraction of the tuition they would pay at another institution.

General Education courses at FSW ultimately develop a student’s skills and abilities to communicate effectively, think critically, use technology, and apply scientific principles and methods, preparing them for anything that lies ahead.

Besides comprehensive academics, the College offers a number of extracurricular activities: Philosophy Club, Art Club, film and lecture series, musical ensembles, student theatrical productions, and study abroad opportunities to learn a second language. At FSW, there are courses or activities to interest every student.

For more information on the A.A. in General Studies, visit [www.FSW.edu/academics/programs/aageneral](http://www.FSW.edu/academics/programs/aageneral).

“

General Education courses at FSW ultimately develop a student’s skills and abilities to communicate effectively, think critically, use technology, and apply scientific principles and methods, preparing them for anything that lies ahead.

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FSW

# Student Bound for the Ivy League

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY

**G** **OING BACK TO SCHOOL** for a new degree or skill is challenging for any working professional.

Jo-Ann Christina came to Florida SouthWestern State College in 2011 to earn her A.A. in General Studies after last attending school 25 years ago. She worked in the fitness industry for 12 years and has been a practicing licensed massage therapist since 2002.

Three months after graduating from FSW she received a letter in the mail from the University of Pennsylvania accepting her into the College of Liberal and Professional Studies to earn a bachelor's where she hopes to enter the doctorate program in physical therapy.

"I was thrilled when I found out I got accepted," she said. "I struggled and didn't have the emotional or financial support when I went to school for the first time. This is like my life do-over."

Her original intention was to study at FSW to become a physical therapy assistant – being a physical therapist now requires a PhD – but some professors and her advisor encouraged her to go all of the way. On the FSW Collier Campus she took a combination of online and in-person classes, crafting her schedule around her full-time job.

"I'm in a seasonal industry so I tended to do more online work when it was heavier in the season and then put in classroom time after that. Being able to do both is a great advantage," she said, adding that she received great support from FSW staff.

Not only did Christina spend two years preparing for eventual acceptance into the Ivy League, being named one of 124 students in the Florida College System to be nominated for the USA Today and Phi Theta Kappa All Florida Academic Team Award, but she also found a new hobby in creative writing. She published a piece in *Illuminations*, the college's literary magazine, and she's been writing for local magazines.

Christina graduated with honors from FSW and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also a member of the Collier County Medical Reserve Corps, a volunteer group of health professionals who respond to local disasters and public health needs.

"A lot of people are in the same boat, downsized from other companies or looking at what to do next. Schools are making it easier and acknowledging that there is an older population going back to school," she said. "I tell people all of the time that it's never too late."



FSW student Jo-Ann Christina.



**F**OR THE FIRST TIME EVER Florida SouthWestern State College’s student and professional visual and performing arts programs are represented under one umbrella – ARTS@FSW.

The College’s Arts@FSW initiative brings together established institutions like the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall and the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery with talented FSW art students looking to make a name for themselves.

“Arts@FSW is a community resource allowing anyone to learn about the visual and performing arts, humanities, and cultural events presented at Florida SouthWestern State College,” said Dr. Emery Alford, dean of the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. “Everyone knows about the stellar shows at B.B. Mann or exceptional artists at the Rauschenberg Gallery, but do they also know our students are featured talent in FSW sponsored events at minimal to no cost? That’s why we started Arts@FSW.”

B.B. Mann brings off-Broadway shows like *Book of Mormon* and epic musicals like *The Phantom of the Opera* to Southwest Florida, while the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery regularly exhibits internationally-acclaimed artists like Yoko Ono, Dave Muller, and even the late Rauschenberg himself.

Students at FSW have access to outstanding professional programming while completing their own courses in the visual arts, theatre, or music. They work hard every semester and host theatrical productions in the Black Box Theatre, ensemble concerts in B.B. Mann, and art exhibitions in the Rush Collections Gallery. And the public is invited to them all!

Last year the College launched an Arts@FSW webpage ([www.fsw.edu/artsfsw](http://www.fsw.edu/artsfsw)) to provide information about programs, a Calendar of Events, and the opportunity to keep in touch with seasonal and full-time residents.

“This initiative is really from the ground up and we want the community to visit our campuses and experience our galleries and performing arts halls. We are really transforming into a regional center for the arts,” said Alford.



**ABOVE:** FSW Art Professor Dana Roes with student Kirsten Pettifor and her abstract art.

**BELOW:** A Yoko Ono exhibit at the Dave Muller opening in the Bob Rouschenberg Gallery.



## Creative Minds Find A Home in

# ARTS@FSW

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY



**FAR LEFT:** An FSW student abstract piece.

**LEFT:** FSW Theatre Program. Students in the fall 2014 production of *On The Verge*.



# Hall

It's All at the

BY TERESA A. MORGENSTERN



**T WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND** in Southwest Florida, spearheaded by a petite woman named Barbara Mann with a tall vision to create a performing arts center. In 1986, the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall opened on the Fort Myers campus of Edison Community College (now Florida SouthWestern State College).

Hundreds of shows and concerts annually featuring world-class talent ranging from “Phantom of the Opera”, “Jersey Boys”, “Camelot” and “42nd Street” to Blue Man Group, Harry Connick Jr., B.B. King, Trisha Yearwood, Diana Ross, Tony Bennett, Daniel Tosh, Dave Chappelle, Jerry Seinfeld and Steve Martin have graced the stage.

The BB Mann Hall is also the home stage for the college’s own student jazz, choir, symphony and concert band performances in the fall and spring. The Hall, as it’s fondly called, seats just over 1,800 residents, guests and visitors per show.

The Hall was ranked 12th among the 50 top theater venues in tickets sales worldwide for the first quarter of 2015 by *Pollstar* magazine.

The Hall is a successful operation of FSW that continues to keep the spirit of live performance alive and well for audiences from the young to the young-at-heart to enjoy for generations to come.

- 1: FSW Jazz Performance.
- 2: FSW Symphony Performance.
- 3: *Camelot* at the Hall.

# Edison/FSW Alumnus

## 'Reaches for the Stars' at NASA

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY

**E** **DISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (now FSW) graduate Fred Kroeger (80') proved that anything is possible if you set a goal for yourself and work hard.

Kroeger, 64, openly admits that mathematics was his "worst subject" and after high school he dropped out of an automotive technology degree program in Farmingdale, N.Y., to join the U.S. Navy. He was 28 years old when he completed his service and decided to enroll at Edison for an associate's degree with the intention of transferring to a four-year electrical engineering program.

"After I was out for a few years I decided I needed to do something better," he said. "I started thinking: where am I going to be when I'm 65? I wasn't seeing myself going anywhere."

As a student at Edison he took classes in calculus, physics and chemistry, finding that if he paid attention in class and worked hard he could manage high scores. He even worked as a tutor in the College's physics and mathematics labs.

During his last semester his physics professors helped him schedule some interviews with universities, and he was offered a scholarship by the physics department at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

"I ended up with a physics degree when I wanted one in electrical engineering," he said. "Man, it was the hardest thing I've ever done."

Kroeger never considered earning a B.S. in Physics and his life took an even more unexpected turn when he was offered a job with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

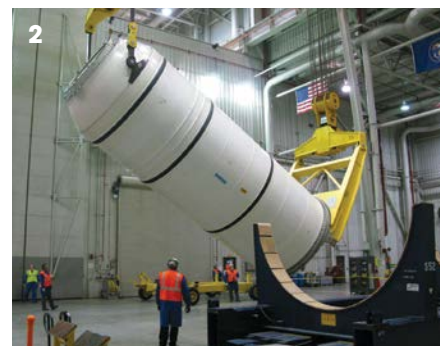
Some of his major accomplishments throughout his career with NASA included developing the control computer for space shuttle telescope missions, a furnace for studying how to process metals and grow crystals in outer space, and a Gamma Ray Burst Monitor on orbiting satellites. Today he's working on a high-definition camera system for a Space Launch System rocket system for deep space missions.

Considering all of the projects in which he has been involved at NASA, his contribution to the Gamma Ray Burst Monitor is his proudest. The device was built to measure deep space gamma rays in supernovas, yet researchers were detecting a burst of this type of radiation on Earth's surface. They later determined that thunderstorms emitted gamma rays – something that was never known before – and Kroeger worked with the researchers on turning the monitor backwards to study storms on Earth.

"We have received so much new information, textbooks have been rewritten and hundreds of people are now earning a Ph.D. based on these findings," he said. "It was real hands on for me because they normally don't like people working on the satellite. I earned a NASA Agency Award for all of the work I did."

For current mathematics and technology students at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), Kroeger said they can also reach for the stars.

"You have to project and look at where you want to go," he said. "You have to set some kind of goal and work your way towards it."



**1:** Fred Kroeger (80') in the Vibration Lab testing a camera unit for the SLS rocket.

**2 & 3:** Testing at the Marshall Space Flight Center. Provided by NASA.gov.

# FSW Foundation Turns Student Aspirations



- 1:** FSW partnered with Suncoast Credit Union to construct a new sports arena on the Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus.
- 2:** A check worth \$10,000 in new student scholarships was presented to the FSW Foundation in spring 2015 by Suncoast Credit Union.
- 3:** The FSW Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on the Collier Campus in Naples.
- 4:** FSW Scholarship recipients had an opportunity to personally thank a donor.

**K**EEPING AN INSTITUTION AS SUCCESSFUL and efficient as Florida SouthWestern State College takes time, energy and funding.

Leading the charge on raising funds for students, programs, technology and facilities since 1966 has been the FSW Foundation. The Foundation is instrumental in supporting the College’s five academic schools and provides over \$1.4 million in student scholarships each year.

“The Foundation’s \$35 million investment in students has consistently returned sufficient surplus to pay for about 1,000 scholarships a year. At most residential private university foundations, more than \$350 million would be needed to award the same number of scholarships and accomplish the same impact on student lives. I like to think of our scholarship gifting as a smart investment, one that maximizes our financial resources and promotes student financial literacy,” said Dr. Louis Traina, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at FSW.

The rising cost of student debt is staggering and while students at FSW receive a top-notch education at affordable rates, the Foundation wants to assist them in every way possible to graduate and begin their life without debt. According to a September 2014 study by Experian Decision Analytics, student loan debt has increased by 84 percent since the 2008 recession. While debt in other major consumer areas has fallen, students now hold an all-time record level of debt worth \$1.2 trillion. Economists forecast a tidal wave of unpaid student loan debt that is not only devastating to the economy, but to the lives of today’s college graduates.

“At a time when our nation is asking the question ‘is college worth it,’ FSW is graduating students who are academically prepared and financially literate. They have little or no debt and 90 percent are employed in local healthcare, education, finance and technological industries” said Dr. Louis Traina, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at FSW.



# into Reality

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY



The Foundation is instrumental in supporting the College's five academic schools and provides over \$1.4 million in student scholarships each year.



A student working towards a B.A. in Nursing or Education at FSW pays a fraction of what a counterpart would pay at a university. The Foundation's \$35 million investment generates enough revenue to accommodate over 1,000 scholarships.

And stacked against other institutions, a degree from FSW is competitive and affords graduates the opportunity to get top jobs throughout Southwest Florida.

Not only is FSW tuition reasonable, but the Foundation has established numerous scholarship programs to assist students even further.

Nursing student Briana Mattera finished her associates at FSW in 2014 and is now pursuing her four-year degree. Like a chain reaction, a scholarship from the Foundation paid for her tuition, which in turn allowed her to live on campus and work her way up to a paid assistant job with the College.

"I never would've gotten my job if I didn't live on campus. I would've had to take out a lot of money for tuition and commute to school," said Mattera, who wants to be a surgery nurse. "My college experience was completely different because I didn't need to worry about financial issues."

Mattera's experience at FSW – being the first in her family to attend college – has been so positive and enriching that she is now assisting her mother and younger brother to apply and register for classes.

"I went to FSW because of the scholarships and now I don't want to leave," she said.

Students like Mattera are earning degrees and getting excellent jobs throughout the region thanks in part to Foundation scholarships, which come from generous community gifts. As a tax exempt, non-profit organization, the Foundation ensures that gifts are an investment in students or technology.

For more information, visit [www.fsw.edu/foundation](http://www.fsw.edu/foundation).



**TOP LEFT:** FSW scholarship recipients at an appreciation luncheon on the Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus.

**ABOVE:** Two of our very first FSW graduates at 2015 Commencement.

# For Dr. Rozalind Jester, it Truly is Better Under the Sea

BY JENNIFER YOUNG

**A**NYONE WHO THINKS SCIENCE is boring has surely never taken a class with FSW Marine Science Professor Dr. Rozalind Jester. “We’ve swum with and measured whale sharks, surveyed coral reefs, and counted families of sea lions,” Dr. Jester said. And that was just for one of her classes.

Dr. Jester provides many opportunities to her students to step outside of the classroom and experience hands-on science projects and research opportunities. Last year, she led a group of six FSW Honors Scholar Program students to study abroad in Baja, Mexico, where they worked with scientists on undergraduate research projects.

“It was one of the best experiences of my life, just being there to watch these six students not only have the best experience of their lives, but to put into practice the ideas and complete the research we’d spent the previous semester talking about,” she said.

Since joining FSW in 2007, Dr. Jester has taught Intro to Oceanography, Marine Biology, and Biological Oceanography, but she’s always had one main goal for all of her students.

“I want them to understand how they relate to science,” she said. “Overfishing, climate change, habitat destruction, and ocean acidification are all of our problems. We have to talk about them and acknowledge what’s happening, but at the same time, as instructors we have to lead by example and give students small projects where they can help change these issues and leave our classes feeling that they have had a positive impact.”

Each semester, Dr. Jester and her students go to the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Lab where they work with researchers collecting data for fish biodiversity studies. She also leads class field trips to locations like Bunche Beach, where they measure the population of periwinkle snails in the mangroves, and Fort Myers Beach, where they collect plankton samples and study them through microscopes right under the pier.

Two to three times a year, Dr. Jester holds environmental cleanups at local beaches and along roads, while for another class project on conservation, her students planted fruit trees in front of LightHouse Commons on the FSW Thomas Edison Campus.

Dr. Jester had not originally planned to be a marine biologist. “I’d always loved the ocean but never really liked science,” she said. “I was studying to be an accountant. Then I took an oceanography class to fill my prerequisites and immediately became fascinated.”

And while Dr. Jester earned her PhD in ocean science from the University of California, Santa Cruz, “Home of the proud Banana Slugs!” she also attended a community college, influencing her decision to teach at FSW.

“I went to a community college, so I knew that the classes are not like traditional university classes,” Dr. Jester said. “I love working with the nontraditional and diverse students at community colleges, and my favorite part is being in the water with them the first time they see life under the sea, or when they complete a project and have pride in the work they have done,” she said.

“I want to remove the stigma with students that science is boring and nerdy,” Dr. Jester said. “We are all connected to the planet through scientific processes, and I want my students to see the connection we have with the ocean, our influence on it and how it impacts all our health and our lives.”



Dr. Rozalind Jester.

**F YOU'VE TURNED ON THE NEWS** or opened a newspaper lately, you have probably noticed an influx of new businesses and well-known national companies that have expanded into Southwest Florida. Along with these new businesses and expansions come new jobs and the need for skilled workers.

Via the Workforce Now research initiative, Florida SouthWestern State College partnered with local universities in an effort to better understand and define what skills these local employers and organizations needed from their workers and how to help meet that need.

“Workforce Now identified that local employers want workers with specific technical skills as well as the ability to apply those skills within the businesses and industries they work,” said Dr. John Meyer, dean of the School of Business and Technology. “Because many workers may not have the time or financial resources to enroll in college-level programs to receive this training, FSW’s Corporate Training and Professional Services department specializes in accelerated, customized, non-credit, skills-based training for organizations all over southwest Florida.”

The department also helps local employers with applications for state assistance to offset training costs. Two specific are Incumbent Worker Training grants (IWT) and Quick Response Training grants (QRT).

“Incumbent worker training allows already employed workers to update their training, helping their organization avoid possible layoffs,” Dr. Meyer said, “while quick response training is customized training designed to meet a specific employers’ needs related to new hires.”

## Corporate Training and Professional Services: **It's Good Business**

BY JENNIFER YOUNG

FSW is the fiscal agent for QRT funds for the region, and over the last four years has secured \$3.9 million of QRT funds, training over 2,300 new hires in Lee and Collier counties.

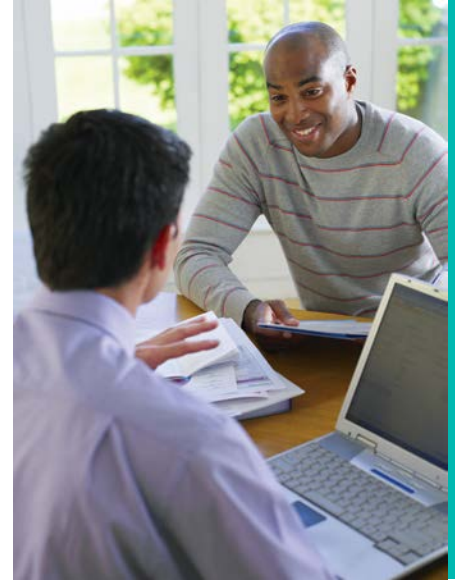
“Depending on the size of the company, we’ve had grants from \$100,000 to over \$1 million. This funding not only benefits the companies receiving the training, it also results in substantial local economic benefit as well,” said Dr. Meyer.

As an even greater benefit, this customized training is available onsite, online, or in the classroom and at a variety of times throughout the day, helping workers receive the training they need as conveniently as possible.

“We work with all kinds of companies – manufacturing, research and development, and service companies for instance, and we can tailor our training to their needs in areas such as management, marketing, operations and manufacturing, and interpersonal and team building skills. We also offer trainings that provide broad coverage in information technology skills,” Dr. Meyer said.

In addition, the department offers a wide variety of inexpensive, short online classes in a variety of business and IT areas, from basic word processing software to community association manager continuing education.

“We view ourselves as instrumental in the continued success of local economic development initiatives. As we continue to establish and grow these local training opportunities at FSW, we help to attract more and more companies to southwest Florida, which creates more jobs and boosts our local economy - enhancing the quality of life for everyone.”



“

FSW is the fiscal agent for QRT funds for the region, and over the last four years has secured \$3.9 million of QRT funds, training over 2,300 new hires in Lee and Collier counties.

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ARTS, HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES



BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY



EDUCATION



HEALTH PROFESSIONS



PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES



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