



EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VOL 6, ISSUE 3

A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2026

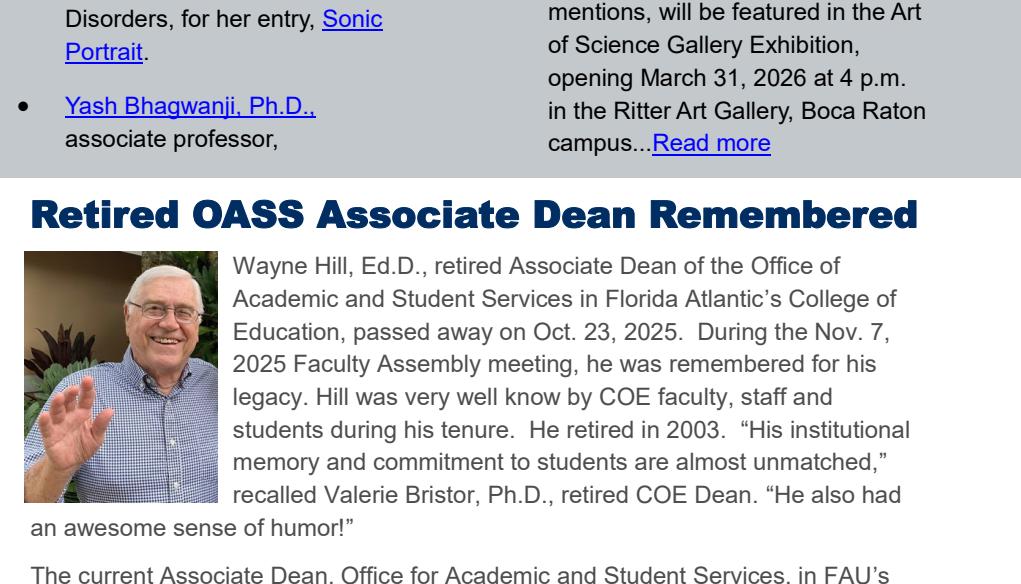
Garner Grant Writing Skills in 2026

Looking to gain or improve grant writing skills? Joseph C. Gagnon, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Special Education, offers a Grant Writing course for Florida Atlantic doctoral students seeking to write effective grant proposals to fund their research. Learn how to craft a Letter of Intent and grant proposal in a manner that will garner the attention of organizations and increase the likelihood of funding your project.



The distance-learning course, EEX 7526, Grant Writing, is scheduled for Mondays from 5:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m., beginning Jan. 12 during the spring 2026 semester for students who have been admitted to a graduate program or by permission of the instructor. The course examines the grant writing process involved in obtaining funds in local, national, foundation, corporate, and state funding environments. Students explore funding in their individual areas of focus, including topics from across the FAU campuses (e.g., Education, Nursing, Engineering, Psychology and Counseling, Computer Science, Neuroscience, Social Work, and Criminology).

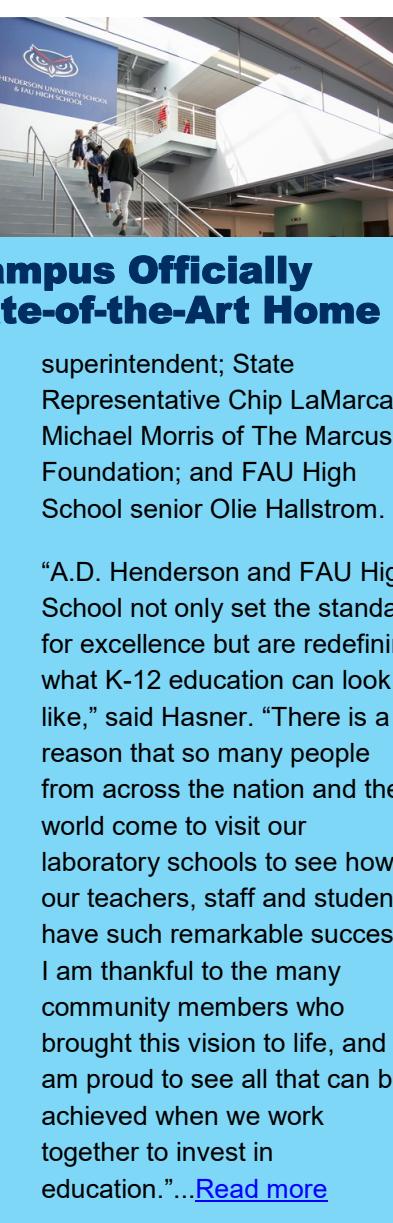
There is still time to register for this class. Last day to drop/add a class is Friday, Jan. 16, 2026. ... [Read more](#)



Faculty Member Honored with Talon Award

Florida Atlantic College of Education faculty member, [Deborah L. Floyd, Ph.D.](#), received the Faculty Talon Award at the Talon Leadership and Service Awards Ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 at the Recreation and Fitness Center, MAC Gym, on the Boca Raton Campus. She was one of four awardees.

A professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, Floyd has served Florida Atlantic for over 25 years. Throughout her tenure, she has guided the next generation of higher education leaders through her teaching, mentorship and scholarship, supervising more than 50 dissertations and leading the University's [Ph.D. Program in Educational Leadership with specialization in Higher Education Leaders](#), which prepares individuals in leadership positions in community colleges, state colleges, universities, agencies and proprietary colleges and universities. Floyd is dedicated to the success of students in



this program, having established in 2024 the [Deborah L. Floyd Scholars Fund](#), which supports Higher Education doctoral students in their pursuit of scholarly and leadership success by providing mentorship opportunities.

FAU 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](#)

COE Study: Small Group Counseling Helps Children Thrive at School



Many students experience anxiety, stress or disconnection at school, which can hinder both their academic and social-emotional growth. While school counselors provide support, traditional programs often lack structured, evidence-based approaches to help students manage emotions, build peer relationships, and develop essential skills.

Addressing this critical need, researchers from [Florida Atlantic University's Department of Counselor Education](#) within the [College of Education](#) conducted a qualitative study to explore how participation in Student Success Skills (SSS) small group counseling intervention influences middle school students' sense of connectedness to their school environment, guided by the Advocating Student-Within-Environment (ASE) theory.

The results of the study, published in the [Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling](#), identified four key outcomes: improved anger management and conflict resolution, the development of academic and life skills, increased feelings of connectedness and safety, and more positive perceptions of the overall school environment. Students learned practical emotional regulation strategies, such as positive self-talk and seeking peer support, and engaged in role-playing exercises to practice conflict resolution and goal setting.

"Interventions grounded in ASE not only support students' emotional growth but transform how they experience their school environments," said [Elizabeth Villares Sacks, Ph.D.](#), co-author, chair and professor, Department of Counselor Education within FAU College of Education. "When students feel connected and understood, they become more engaged learners and more compassionate peers."

Study co-authors are Kadeem Campbell, Ph.D., senior author who received his Ph.D. in Counseling from Florida Atlantic in 2023; [Hannah Bowers, Ph.D.](#), associate professor of school counseling; and Greg Brigman, Ph.D., professor emeritus, all within the COE Department of Counselor Education at FAU. ... [Read more](#)

Two COE Faculty Receive Research Excellence Awards in Art of Science

[Florida Atlantic University's Division of Research](#) announced its "Art of Science" competition winners on

Curriculum and Instruction, for his entry, [Hatchet](#).

Nov. 7, 2025. Among the 10 recipients of the Research

This year's competition drew a record-breaking 200 entries across disciplines. The 31 winning

Excellence awards are two faculty members in the College of Education:

photographs, which included first, second and third place awardees, two from field work, two from

• [Anne L. van Zelst, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, for her entry, [Sonic Portrait](#).

laboratory research, top postdoc, top staff, 10 research excellence awards and 12 honorable

• [Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D.](#), associate professor,

mentions, will be featured in the Art of Science Gallery Exhibition, opening March 31, 2026 at 4 p.m. in the Ritter Art Gallery, Boca Raton campus... [Read more](#)

Retired OASS Associate Dean Remembered



Wayne Hill, Ed.D., retired Associate Dean of the Office of Academic and Student Services in Florida Atlantic's College of Education, passed away on Oct. 23, 2025. During the Nov. 7, 2025 Faculty Assembly meeting, he was remembered for his legacy. Hill was very well known by COE faculty, staff and students during his tenure. He retired in 2003. "His institutional memory and commitment to students are almost unmatched," recalled Valerie Bristor, Ph.D., retired COE Dean. "He also had an awesome sense of humor!"

The current Associate Dean, Office for Academic and Student Services, in FAU's COE, Deborah Shepherd, Ed.D., recalls having the privilege of working with Hill for many years. "He was a mentor and friend; one of the finest people I have had the honor to work with," said Shepherd. "He was not only an exceptional leader and colleague, but also one of the greatest advocates and supporters of students. His commitment to helping others and his belief in the potential of every student have left a lasting impact on all of us who had the opportunity to work with him." [Obituary](#)

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