

February 23, 2018

Follow us for more news and updates



Deadline is Approaching – Submit Your Applications Today for the Berta D. Villares Book Scholarship



Applications are now open for the [Berta D. Villares Book Scholarship](#). This scholarship will provide a one-time cash award to an eligible faculty/staff member currently using the FIU tuition waiver benefit to pursue their degree. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 for consideration. To review the criteria and to apply, please click [here](#).

Prepare for Your Future at the Financial Future Fair & Workshops!



The Division of Human Resources is pleased to announce this year's Financial Future Fair and Workshops, designed to help prepare you for your financial future and retirement options. Join us Wednesday, February 28th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in CBC-232 for ongoing seminars that include credit management, loan forgiveness, and budget and financial planning. Over 30 vendors will also be on site. For more information, please click [here](#). For a complete list of dates and times and how to register for the Financial Future Workshops, please click [here](#).

**Save the Date! FIU Faculty, Staff, & Family Spring Picnic –
April 14, 2018**



Save the date and make plans to join us at the 2018 FIU Faculty, Staff, & Family Spring Picnic! By popular demand, we will be hosting this year's spring picnic at our beautiful Biscayne Bay Campus on **Saturday, April 14, 2018**. To receive updates for this and other events, please click [here](#) and join the mailing list – you'll be the first to know! Should you have any questions, please contact Trudy Fernandez, Director of HR Relations, at (305) 348-0101.

Employee Benefits



Benefits Administration is providing you with these important notifications pertaining to your Benefits.

Dependent Eligibility Verification Audit: Phishing Alert – The Dependent Eligibility Verification Audit begins for all State Universities employees in March 2018. The Health Management Systems, Inc. (HMS) is the contracted party administering the audit process. Please click [here](#) for more information. Please be cautious about disclosing personal information. DSGI has received reports that some employees are receiving spam calls about the dependent eligibility verification audit. The calls are from both in-state and out-of-state area codes. **Fraudulent callers will request Social Security information as part of the audit. HMS employees will not request Social Security numbers to confirm the employee's identity.** Please click here for more information, or contact HMS directly at 877-577-4549.

People First Portal Upgrade & Payment Process Changes – The new and improved People First system is coming March 26, 2018! As a State of Florida employee, you use the People First system to enroll and make changes to your benefit plans. To prepare for the system improvements, the People First system will be temporarily unavailable from 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 16th until 8:00 a.m. Monday, March 26th while People First improvements are implemented. Please note that the People First Service Center will be available during this downtime to take calls at 866-663-4735. Nevertheless, because the People First system will be unavailable, representatives will be limited to answering downtime calls and processing insurance reinstatements. They will not be able to process any changes or enrollment during the downtime. The People First System Upgrade will include the following changes, starting April 2018:

- New benefits suspension process for underpaid premiums
- New benefits underpayment process

Please take the time to review your personal contact information in the HR Panther Soft system to ensure it is up to date. For more information, please click [here](#).

Flexible Spending Accounts for Plan Year 2017

- **Deadline to Use Funds:** The grace period to use or incur services for medical, limited purpose medical, and dependent care reimbursement accounts is Thursday, March 15th.
- The [FSA Store](#) is an e-commerce site exclusively focused on Flexible Spending Account eligible products. In addition to products, the FSA Store offers educational resources to help customers better understand and manage their flexible spending accounts, including an eligibility list, a learning center, FSA Calculators, and much more.

Florida Prepaid Open Enrollment period ends February 28th – Florida Prepaid offers college savings with tax advantages. Since 1988, the Florida Prepaid College Board has been offering Florida families a secure and tax-free method to financially prepare for a child's higher education. The Board, sponsored by the State of Florida, offers two 529 plans: The Florida Prepaid College Plan, a prepaid plan to cover the cost of tuition, required fees and dormitory housing at a Florida College or a state university; and the Florida College Investment Plan. For more information on the plans and how to start saving for college, please click [here](#).

Spring Benefits Walk-In Sessions at PC 411 schedule is [here!](#)

Spring Perks – This spring, discover savings on housing, car rentals, entertainment, and more. Click [here](#) for a complete list of perks.

Save the Date: March 2nd! Employee Appreciation Day Perks



Employee Appreciation Day is Friday, March 2nd. To celebrate you and all you do for our university, shopFIU is pleased to provide free items and savings throughout the day! For a list of perks and participating restaurants and retail services, please click [here](#).

Sign Up Today for the Service Excellence Workshops



The Service Excellence Workshops are back for the spring semester! Brush up on your 'in-person' telephone, and written customer service skills for the spring. The workshops will cover:

- FIU's philosophy on Service Excellence
- Professionalism at work
- Effective service over the telephone
- Managing written correspondence

- Techniques for delivering excellent service, even in difficult situations

Dates and Times:

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

Thursday, March 29, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

[Register Today!](#)

EOPD Spring Training Series



Join the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Diversity for their Spring Training Series. To register for the workshops below, please click [here](#). For more information, please click [here](#).

Dilemmas in Diversity Training

Wednesday, March 21st, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-220 | MMC

Implicit Bias Training

Wednesday, April 18th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., PC-322 (computer lab) | MMC

Mindful Well-Being at Work Sessions



Join the Office of Employee Assistance for the Mindful Well-Being at Work practice sessions. Click [here](#) to sign up for the sessions below.

Friday, March 2nd, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., HL – 319 | BBC

Wednesday, March 7th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL – 482 | MMC

Wednesday, March 21st, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL – 482 | MMC



[Click here to like us on Facebook!](#)

Couch to 5K – Get off the couch and put on your running shoes! Save the date for the Couch to 5K program, starting Monday, March 5th. Click [here](#) for more information. To stay up to date with all things PAWS, please click [here](#) to join the mailing list.

PAWScast – The NEW PAWScast is finally here! Click [here](#) to listen as Nathan and Giselle celebrate America Heart Month, and discuss the benefits of getting a checkup and how knowing your heart number can be beneficial to you. Enjoy!

Mercedes-Benz Corporate Run – Come join team FIU at this year's Miami Mercedes-Benz Corporate Run on Thursday, April 26, 2018. To register, please click [here](#). For more information, contact Nathan Burandt, Wellness Manager, at pawswellness@fiu.edu.

Get Your Tickets Today for the SOBEWFF!



Support hospitality management education at FIU and get your tickets to Miami's premier gourmet gathering, the [Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival!](#) University employees can save 20% with promo code FIU18 on tickets for select events. The Festival will take place February 21 -25, 2018, and will feature internationally renowned talent and leaders of the hospitality industry at uniquely crafted events showcasing world-class wine, spirits, food, and fun. Buy your tickets today and support our FIU!



FIU students, faculty, staff, and family can save 15% with the promo code FIUFAM18 on adult tickets to the new Family Ice Cream Social hosted by Duff Goldman on Sunday, February 25th. [Buy your tickets today!](#)



Parenting can be hard. Don't do it alone! The [Center for Children and Families](#) is hosting a series of **FREE** workshops to help you be the best parent you can be for your child. Parenting doesn't come with an **instruction manual**, but these workshops will give you the tips and tricks you need to make your **24/7 job** more manageable! See below for a list of upcoming workshops. For more information, please click [here](#).

Strategies to Manage Your Young Child's Challenging Behaviors

Wednesday, March 7th, Noon – 1:00 p.m., AHC-1 Room 110

Frustrated Trying to Manage Your Child's Media Devices?

Wednesday, March 21st, Noon – 2:00 p.m., AHC-1 Room 110

Raising a Bilingual Child: Dispelling Myths

Wednesday, March 28th, Noon – 1:00 p.m., AHC-1 Room 110

How to Talk to Your Kids About Sexuality and Teach Them the Skills to Support Sexual Well-Being

Wednesday, April 4th, Noon – 1:00 p.m., AHC-1 Room 110

Join Our Master of Science in Information Systems Cohort this Fall 2018!



FIU Business invites you to explore what a master of science in Information Systems can offer you! As an FIU staff member, you can take advantage of the tuition waiver as well as FIU Employee scholarships the program offers. Join our upcoming information session or webinar to learn more about the program and how to apply.

Thursday, March 15th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., | MMC
Wednesday, March 28th, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Online Webinar

Should you have any questions, please contact FIU Business at 305-348-4347, or at msis@fiu.edu.

The College of Arts, Sciences & Education Camps at MMC



Searching for a fun, adventurous, and exciting camp for kids during Spring Break and the summer? Look no further! The College of Arts, Sciences & Education at MMC is sponsoring enrichment workshops for youth ages 4 and up. For more information or to register online, please click [here](#). Should you have any questions, please contact Ana Jimenez at (305) 348-6545 or email summercamp@fiu.edu.



It's time to focus on yourself with an FIU Online master's degree. Transform your future with an advanced degree. As an FIU staff member, you can take advantage of the tuition waiver and apply for FIU Online

scholarships. Most programs can be completed in 12 to 24 months. Go the next level and become a leader with tools that FIU Online can provide. Explore our online programs [here](#). For more information, please contact FIU Online at (305) 348-3125 or onlineprograms@fiu.edu.

The Leadership Lectures featuring Dr. Christine Porath, Author of *Mastering Civility: A Manifesto of the Workforce*



Join the Center for Leadership on Wednesday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms for The Leadership Lectures, featuring Dr. Christine Porath, author of *Mastering Civility: For the Workplace and Beyond*. In this lecture, Dr. Porath will discuss the varied ways incivility wrecks performance and robs the bottom line. She'll explain what civility buys you and highlight some fundamentals of civility. This lecture counts towards 2 hours of professional development. For more information, and to register, please click [here](#).

To provide feedback on this newsletter, please contact us at hadmin@fiu.edu