

March 12, 2018

Follow us for more news and updates



FIU
Survey Coming Soon

Let's make it happen!

March 12- April 6, 2018

Only 600 faculty and staff have been randomly selected to take The Chronicle of Higher Education's "Great Colleges to Work For" survey released this past weekend. Beginning TODAY, March 12th, please be on the lookout to receive the survey invitation. We encourage you to represent our university and share why FIU is A Great Place to Work! We were the only university recognized in the country last year in all [12 categories of distinction](#) – let's make it happen again! For questions about the program, please contact Trudy Fernandez, Director, HR Relations, at (305) 348-0101.

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



Ready for a day full of adventures? Join us Saturday, April 14th, as we gather to celebrate your accomplishments at the 2018 FIU Faculty, Staff & Family Picnic at our beautiful Biscayne Bay Campus. You will have the opportunity to enjoy kayaking, waterslides, access to the pool, face painting, beer and wine tasting*, and more activities to come.

Admission & RSVP Information: This is a ticketed event. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please [click here to RSVP](#) for this fun-filled day.

- Faculty, staff, and retirees will receive a free admission ticket (excludes wine tasting seminar).
- Tickets for guests (ages 5 and up) are \$5.00.
- Ticket distribution starts Friday, March 23rd from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in PC-209C at MMC and HL-320 at BBC.

Should you have any questions, please contact Trudy Fernandez, Director of HR Relations, at (305) 348-0101.

*Wine tasting tickets will be sold separately. Must be 21+ to participate. Space is limited and advanced registration is required.

Faculty/Staff Receive Exclusive Discount for Torch Awards Gala- Saturday, April 14th



In honor of FIU's founding in 1965, we invite all faculty/staff to enjoy the Torch Awards for just \$165 (original price: \$400), inclusive of dinner, open bar, and entertainment!

The Torch Award is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni and faculty by the FIU Alumni Association, and recognizes their outstanding achievements. These FIU supporters are making positive impacts on their profession, the community, and our university.

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate these extraordinary alumni and faculty. Indulge in a delicious, three-course meal and dance the night away.

All net proceeds will benefit the FIU Alumni Center and the First Generation Scholarship Fund.

[Reserve Your Exclusive Offer Here!](#)

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.

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's 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 solely 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 PantherSoft 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.

State Employee Adoption Benefit – [State Employees and other eligible applicants](#) who adopt a child from Florida's child welfare system will receive a one-time lump sum of \$10,000 for a special needs child and \$5,000 for a non-special needs child. A qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School may retroactively apply for the adoption benefit. The employee must meet all eligibility criteria in order to receive the benefit. The funding for this program varies each year and the amount of the annual appropriation affects how many applications will receive the benefit.

The Office of Child Welfare will accept applications during the annual open enrollment period, [concluding on the last business day of April](#). To be considered for benefits, applicants must submit a completed Application for Adoption Benefits. It is the employee's responsibility to obtain all necessary signatures prior to submission of the application. Employees who apply and are determined to be qualified but are not awarded a benefit must re-apply the next year.

Please contact the Adoption Information Center at 800-96-ADOPT, or stateemployee.adoption@myflfamilies.com for additional information regarding the State Employee Adoption Benefit Program.

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.

Prepare for Your Future at the Financial Future Workshops!



The Division of Human Resources is pleased to announce this year's Financial Future Workshops, **designed to help prepare you for your financial future and retirement options. For a complete list of dates and times and how to register for the Financial Future Workshops, 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:

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

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

[Register Today!](#)

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.

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

Wednesday, March 28th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., CSC-1123 | MMC

Wednesday, April 4th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-156 | MMC

Friday, April 6th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., HL-319 | BBC

Wednesday, April 18th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-482 | MMC

Wednesday, April 25th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., CSC-1123 | MMC

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

Inaugural Faculty Mini Conference



The Office of Equal Opportunity Programs & Diversity is pleased to announce the inaugural Faculty Mini Conference: Anti-Discrimination Laws. This conference is open to all faculty members. For more information, please click [here](#). To sign up for the dates below, please click [here](#).

Tuesday, March 20th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC
Thursday, March 22nd, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., CSC-1144A | MMC
Wednesday, March 28th, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC
Thursday, March 29th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC



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

Couch to 5K – Get off the couch and put on your running shoes! The Couch to 5K program has started, but it's not too late to sign up! Interested in participating? To sign up, please click [here](#), or contact Nathan Burandt, Wellness Manager, at pawswellness@fiu.edu. To stay up to date with all things PAWS, please click [here](#) to join the mailing list.

FIU Run Club – It's time to get active! Lace up your sneakers and join the FIU Run Club. Meeting every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in front of the Ocean Bank Convocation Center, this run club is designed for beginners and avid runners alike. Trained runners are also on site to help guide and train participants. To join, please contact Nathan Burandt, Wellness Manager at pawswellness@fiu.edu. Next week is the last week to sign up.

PAWScast – 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](#). Deadline to register is Wednesday, March 21st. For more information, contact Nathan Burandt, Wellness Manager, at pawswellness@fiu.edu.



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](#).

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.

Connect with FIU Online! Join their Virtual Open House



Connect with FIU Online from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15th for a Virtual Open House. Discover the different ways to set your future in motion. Make a change for the better with a degree from FIU online. As an FIU staff member, did you know that you qualify for a tuition waiver and FIU Online scholarships? Register and log on to get your questions answered. Begin your program as soon as next term! Click [here](#) to RSVP. For more information, please contact FIU Online at (305) 348-3630.

The College of Arts, Sciences & Education Camps at MMC



Searching for a fun, adventurous, and exciting camp for kids during 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.

Rocks 'N' Enrolls with Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School



Have a child entering Kindergarten? Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School invites you to “Rocks ‘N’ Enrolls” Kindergarten Orientation. Join them in getting you and your child ready for Kindergarten on Thursday, March 15th at 2:00 p.m. in the Library at Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School (851 SW 117th Avenue). School is adjacent to FIU. For more information, please contact Elena Octala, Assistant Principal at eoctala@dadeschools.net or (305) 552-7122.

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