

October 20, 2017

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Employee Benefits – OPEN ENROLLMENT IS HERE!



Open Enrollment is Here for the 2018 Plan Year! - Open Enrollment will end promptly on Friday, November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Eastern time. All changes to your benefits may be made online in [People First](#).

[What's New for 2018?](#)

[Medical Plan Changes](#)

[Dental Plan Changes](#)

This year is considered an ACTIVE ENROLLMENT year due to several changes in benefits choices. As such, we encourage all faculty, staff, temporary (OPS) employees and adjuncts to:

- Take the time to review your Personalized Benefits Statement carefully as it shows what coverage you currently have, in addition to your options for the next plan year.
- Make changes online in People First or call the People First Service Center, Monday – Friday, from 8:00 am. – 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, at 888-663-4735 or TTY 886-221-0268.
- Feel free to change elections as many times as you would like during the open enrollment period. Elections become final at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, November 3rd, the last day of open enrollment.

If you are eligible for benefits through the State Group Insurance Program, this is your once-a-year window to change your benefits outside of having a [qualifying life event](#). Please review your Open Enrollment package, which will be mailed to you in mid-October. For more information, please click [here](#). If you have questions about this process, please call the People First Service Center at 1-866-663-4735.

Retirement Workshops – Join the Benefits Administration for Benefits Workshops through October 25th. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

FSA and HSA Advantage Accounts – Great News! “Live Chat” now available for your FSA and HSA Advantage with Chard Snyder Benefit Solution. For more information, please click [here](#).

NEW Perks! – The Division of Human Resources is excited to present to you FIU’s fantastic perks! Discover **NEW** savings on restaurants, housing, car rentals, entertainment, and more [here](#).



The Division of Human Resources is pleased to inform you of our “Generations Ahead” Scholarship Program, generously sponsored by the Gabor Agency Inc. This scholarship is designed for dependents of FIU’s benefits-eligible faculty and staff as well as full-time faculty and staff also enrolled as full time students at FIU. For more information and to apply, please click [here](#). The deadline for submitting the application is Monday, November 6th, at 5:00 p.m.



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 Friday, November 10, 2017 for consideration. To review the criteria and to apply, please click [here](#). Should you have any questions, please contact Trudy Fernandez, Director of HR Relations at (305) 348-0101.

Submit Your Nominations for the Service & Recognition Awards Ceremony



The Division of Human Resources invites your nomination(s) for the 2018 Service and Recognition Awards Ceremony, where we will honor and recognize FIU’s distinguished faculty and staff members for their achievements and years of service.

To access the site where you can learn more about all award categories and their criteria, nomination process, and/or to submit nominations, please click [here](#). The deadline to submit is Thursday, November 30, 2017.

Save the Date for FIU Homecoming!



It's time to start dusting off your panther gear because Homecoming is almost here! Join us Saturday, October 28th – Saturday, November 4th for a week of celebrations and exciting events that unite our students, faculty, staff, retirees, alumni, and community. Click [here](#) for fun faculty, staff, and retiree events and click [here](#) for a complete list of activities. Should you have questions about these Homecoming festivities, please contact Trudy Fernandez, Director of HR Relations at (305) 348-0101.

Mindful Practices at Work Workshops



Join the Office of Employee Assistance for the Mindful Practices at Work workshops. To sign up for the workshops below, please click [here](#).

- Wednesday, October 25th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-322 | MMC
- Wednesday, November 1st, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., CSC-1144 | MMC
- Friday, November 10th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., HL-319 | BBC
- Wednesday, November 15th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-322 | MMC
- Wednesday, November 29th, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-482 | MMC

Compassion in the Workplace Workshop



Join the Office of Employee Assistance for the Compassion in the Workplace workshop on Wednesday, November 22nd from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. in GL-220 at MMC. Learn how to practice compassion to combat personal and occupational stress, and how to have meaningful social relations among co-workers and management. To register for the workshops below, please click [here](#).

October is National Depression Awareness Month



One of the more common misconceptions about depression is that depressed people are simply very sad. The truth is that depression runs much deeper than a simple attitude change. If you notice that you or someone in your life is perpetually “down” or “blue,” consider that it might just not be sadness, but more serious depression. Please take or encourage someone to take a free, anonymous [mental health screening](#). If you or someone you know is suffering from depression, please reach out to The Office of Employee Assistance at (305) 348-2469.

Sign Up Today for the Service Excellence Workshops



The Service Excellence workshops are back for the fall! Brush up on your ‘in-person,’ telephone, and written customer service skills. 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, October 25th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

Thursday, November 16th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

Thursday, November 30th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

Wednesday, December 13th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CSC-1144A | MMC

Space is filling up quickly. [Register today!](#)

EOPD Fall Training Series



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

Animals in the Workplace Training

Thursday, October 26th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., GL-220 | MMC

Dilemmas in Diversity Training

Wednesday, October 25th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., WUC-223 | BBC

Wednesday, November 15th, 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m., GL-220 | MMC

Sexual Misconduct Training

Tuesday, October 24th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., WUC-221 | BBC

Wednesday, November 8th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., WUC-223 | BBC

Wednesday, November 29th, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., GL-220 | MMC



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

Lunchtime Workshops – Feeling a little stressed as the year is coming to a close? Join Isabel Alfonsin-Vittoria as she discusses the various ways that we can recognize, handle, and monitor our stress. This workshop will provide a little bit of mindfulness, meditation, and other tidbits to help reduce stress. Click [here](#) to sign up for the workshops below.

Tuesday, November 14th, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m., GC-243 | MMC

Friday, November 17th, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m., HL-319 | BBC

Save the date for our December Lunchtime Workshops as we discuss concerns about money and how it can lead to stress and impact productivity at work. Come listen as the Wells at Work program discusses way to empower you and your financial wellness. Click [here](#) to sign up for the workshops below.

Tuesday, December 12th, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m., GC-243 | MMC
Wednesday, December 13th, 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m., HL-319 | BBC

PAWScast – Episode 2 of our PAWScast is out now! Listen to [“PAWScast: Check up with Alicia”](#) as Nathan and Giselle follow up with Alicia Pena, Benefits Specialist, as she shares with us some updates on her story of breast cancer. Enjoy!

Consortium Connection October Newsletter – This month’s edition of the Consortium Connection newsletter is here! Click [here](#) to learn more about open enrollment for the 2018 plan year, and understand how to protect yourself from the flu.



Join us at the 25th annual Children’s Holiday Celebration on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.! This annual tradition serves as a connecting bridge between underserved children in our local community with programs and services as offered through the Office of Student Access & Success. During this festive occasion, we invite children from Miami-Dade County Title I public schools to experience first-hand the value of higher education. In addition to fun and educational workshops for the children, guests enjoy a holiday spirited luncheon and entertainment, along with an opportunity to make a difference through a fun scholarship fundraising activity.

For ticket information and more details about this event, please click [here](#). For further information, you may contact Mari Vila, Executive Assistant, University Advancement, at (305) 348-2009 or by email at vilame@fiu.edu.

Register Today for Graduate Open House



Thinking about earning an advanced degree? Join us at this year’s Graduate Open House on Saturday, October 28th at 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms at MMC. Hear from faculty and staff from different graduate programs regarding the latest research in your field, job market trends, funding opportunities, as well as the application process and important deadlines. Do not let another year go by without investing in yourself! Click here to [RSVP](#).

Earn Your Degree through FIU Online



It's time to make a change for the better with a degree from FIU Online. As an FIU staff member, you can take **advantage of the tuition waiver and apply for FIU Online scholarships. Begin your program as soon as next term! Earn your advanced degree so we may join the recognition of your forthcoming professional achievements!** Explore our online programs [here](#). For more information, please contact us at (305) 348-3125 or onlineprograms@fiu.edu.

The Worlds Ahead Lecture with Peter L. Scher



Join the Center for Leadership for The Worlds Ahead Lecture with Peter L. Scher, Global Head of Corporate Responsibility at J.P. Morgan Chase on Tuesday, November 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Listen as Peter discusses the Role of Business in Society and how companies can lead in addressing complex societal issues and better serve as a force for progress and opportunity in communities around the world. Click [here](#) to register for this lecture. This lecture counts towards 2 hours of professional development. For more information, please click [here](#).

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