Are you ready to showcase your Panther Pride? Get ready to Unleash the Spirit and be part of it all! Check out the [2018 Homecoming schedule](#) to festivities starting tomorrow, Saturday, October 6th through Saturday, October 13th.

**The Uncaging: Panthers on the Lawn:** Witness the royal crowning of the 2018 Homecoming Faculty/Staff King and Queen during this new carnival/festival themed event. Invite your family and friends and enjoy an evening filled with cool activities, spirited give-aways, music, food trucks, and even a fireworks display. **Thursday, October 11**th **starting at 5:00 p.m., GC Lawns.** Haven't voted for King and Queen yet? It's not too late. Cast your vote [here](#) before the polls close today, Friday, October 5th!

**Craft: International Food & Spirits:** Delight your taste buds as you sip and sample spirits and food from local eateries. A $15 donation is suggested. Must be 21 or older to enter. **Friday, October 12**th **from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., GC Ballrooms.**

Questions Contact HR Relations at (305) 348-6099, or [hrrel@fiu.edu](mailto:hrrel@fiu.edu).
Open Enrollment: Mark your calendars! Open enrollment for the 2019 plan year starts Monday, October 15th at 8:00 a.m. and ends Friday, November 2nd at 6:00 p.m. We would like to remind you of the following important information:

- “Save the Date” for the 2018 Annual Benefits Fair at MMC and BBC. Join us and learn about the amazing benefits that make FIU a “Great Plan to Work For®”
- Address Review & Update Reminder – In order to receive communication materials regarding your state-sponsored benefits on time, it is very important to keep your address on file up to date in the Panther Soft System. If your address has changed, please update it immediately.
- Fall Benefits Walk-In Sessions schedule can be found here.
- The October Wellness Wire from the Florida Department of Management Services is now available. Discover more information on Open Enrollment.

Seasonal Perks: For a list of new seasonal perks, please click here.

Questions? Contact Benefits Administration at (305) 348-2181, or benefits@fiu.edu.

Scholarship Opportunities

Deadline Application Date: Friday, November 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

Generations Ahead Scholarship – Apply today for the 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. Award is for the
Spring 2019 semester. To apply, dependent applications click here, full-time faculty and staff applicants click here.

**Berta D. Villares Book Scholarship Awards** – Applications are now open for the Berta D. Villares Book Scholarship. This scholarship will provide a one-time $75 cash award to an eligible faculty/staff member currently using the FIU tuition waiver benefit to pursue their own degree. (Limited to faculty and staff only, not dependents. Click here to apply.

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**Professional Development**

**Center for Leadership:** Celebrity Chef Michelle Bernstein dives into how leadership is crucial to succeed in the food industry and personal life. This lecture counts as 2 hours of professional development. Thursday, October 11th from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Doors open at 9:00 a.m.). Click here to RSVP.

Questions? Contact the Center for Leadership at (305) 348-3523, or lead@fiu.edu.

Don’t forget to visit professionaldevelopment.fiu.edu to view upcoming professional development opportunities. Log in with your FIU credentials, and click “Browse By Departments” to see a list of upcoming workshops.

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**Panthers Active Wellness Services News**
Panthers Active Wellness Services (PAWS) wants to bring you the best health education and innovation. See below for updates:

- The Panthers Walking Challenge is still going strong. Click here for more information and instructions on how to sign up.
- The Miami-Dade Walk to End Alzheimer’s will be taking place Saturday, November 3rd at Museum Park in Downtown Miami. Get your team together and register today!
- After the walk, join us for the Alzheimer’s Association: Healthy Living for the Brain and Body workshop on Wednesday, November 7th. Click here and log in with your FIU credentials. Click “Browse By Departments” and select “Benefits Administration” to register.

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**Become a Mentor to FIU Students**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know the FIU offers mentoring programs for students participating in FIU’s Fostering Panther Pride, Golden Scholars, Invitational Scholars, and Wilson Scholars? If you are interested in becoming a mentor to a student, mentoring Kick-Off meetings will take place Tuesday, October 2nd from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in GL-139 for returning mentors and Wednesday, October 10th from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in RB-130 for new mentors.

Questions? Contact Tiffani Tallon, Assistant Director of Students Access & Success at (305) 348-3848, or ttallon@fiu.edu.

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