

SFSC Recognizes Students For Academic Excellence

South Florida State College recognizes those students who have pursued and achieved academic excellence during the course of study at the college. Students are named to the President's List for receiving a semester grade point average between 3.8 and 4.0

Bowling Green students named to the spring 2017 President's List were: Jeremy Aguilar, Jose E. Aleman, Hollyann Brown, Ivan Chavez, Mckenna N. Cobb, Stephanie A. Escobedo, Ileana Flores, Jose A. Garza, Angelina M. Gordon, Alexis U. Lopez, Jenny Lopez, Basilia Lozano, Raquel Maldonado, Alexis M. McBride, Emily D. Rhodes and Litzzy Vargas.

An Ona student named to the spring 2017 President's List is Ana V. Villa.

Wauchula students named to the spring 2017 President's List were: Luc S. Alfred, Gabrielle R. Allen, Ahlam A. Alqabsi, Erica Apolarin, Lindsey K. Barqick, Taylor L. Bone, Priscilla F. Bowes, Avery C. Bunch, Ashja A. Camel, Liseta M. Castro, Abby L. Clark, Braddock B. Collom, Charles T. Cowart, Arianna J. Delarosa, Byridiana DeSantiago, Daisy S. Escoto, Darby M. Farr, Sarah P. Farr, Maria R. Fimbres, Wilney T. Francois, Shelby L. Gibson, Breanna N. Godwin, Rosaura Guido, Logan N. Gunnoe, Thalia A. Hartley, Odalis Hernandez, Faith H. Hodges, Cory

W. Jones, Zoo Kue, Hayden K. Lindsey, Jennifer M. Lopez, Leydi Y. Lopez Gapi, April M. Lozano and Wyatt A. Maddox. Also, Kathy A. Marcial-Palacios, Giselle X. Mendex, Adna Metayer, Yisselle Mier, Selena Miranda, Jonathan A. Mondragon, Gabriela Montoya, Marcella Narciso, Ellie Palmer, Carlos D. Perez, George Perez Gomez, Erica D. Roberts, Nancy Rodriguez, Alicia Ruiz, Jose A. Sanchez, Adelina G. Servin, Holly D. Smith, Cody A. Spencer, Danny Sustaita, Noah D. Valletutti, Azucena Venegas, Genouchy T. Vue, Susan B. Watson, Sarah L. Welch, Brooke A. White, Larry A. Wingate, Summer Xiong, Judith M. Zamora, Wyatt L. Zeigler and Maria I. Zuniga.

Zolfo Springs students named to the spring 2017 President's List were: Brittany N. Deen, Yailene Del Rio, Thalia L. Duran, Walter L. McCrary, Benjamin G. Norris, Alexi A. Ozuna, Maribel Rodriguez, Sarai Santana, Genesis D. Torres, Pajehouablai L. Vue and Amber N. Westberry.

Students are named to the Vice President's List for receiving a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.79.

Bowling Green students named to the spring 2017 Vice President's List were: Ricardo Aleman, Irma I. Alvarado-Lugo, Tiffany A. Clanton, Margarita S. Flores, Adam K. Khang, Isaura Lucatero

Zamora, Madison B. Marple, Brenda Pascual and Graciela Silvan Macedo.

Ona student Celeste Limon was named to the spring 2017 Vice President's List.

Wauchula students named to the spring 2017 Vice President's List were: German Arzate, Mason Block, Sarah E. Bonds, Soraya Castillo, Tammy M. Chapman, Connor A. Crawford, Jordan P. Currier, Erika P. De La Cruz Camarillo, Adson Delhomme, Nubia Gomez, Melissa Hernandez, Brandon K. Holton, Maricruz Jaimes-Ramos and Julie M. Lopez.

Also, Lydia Mejia, Jakayla M. Mosley, Selena M. Olmos, Alex Paulino, Jacqueline Perez, Deisy Piedad, Aubrey S. Rigney, Jacqueline M. Rivera, Berenice Roblero, Sylvia V. Rodriguez, Vanette S. See, Lidenia I. Servin, Priscilla Villazana, Shirley A. Walker, Morgan T. Walters and Jacob L. Willis.

Zolfo Springs students named to the spring 2017 Vice President's List were: Ana Toledo, Vanessa L. Brooker, Yolanda Carbajal, Valentina M. Cardoza, Maria E. Diego-Macedo, Kelly M. Jung, Claudia G. Kein, Houston R. Kulig, Alexis S. Neel, Susana Ramirez, Mariah N. Rivera, Miranda L. Smith, Katrina A. Swindle, Aissatou M. Tavarez, Pagou Vue, Christopher L. Wingate, Terry R. Yanes and Ricardo Zuniga.

Real Estate course being offered at SFSC

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College (SFSC) will hold a Florida Real Estate Principles, Practices and Law course at the Highlands Campus, 600 W. College Dr., University Center Room 109. This is an eight week course for 64 credit hours.

Tuesdays Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 from 6-10 p.m.

Saturdays Sept. 9 & 23, Oct. 7 & 21 from 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m.

CRN 10844. Course is \$299, cost of course book is not included. "Florida Real Estate Principles, Practices & Law 39th Edition" course book required. ISBN 978-1475430011

To register, call 863-784-7405.

For more information, contact the Corporate and Community Education Department and Lorrie Key at 863-784-7033 or CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu.

Firefighter class funded at SFSC

But volunteers, paid personnel must serve one year

By **GARY PINNELL**

STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Highlands County Commissioners voted to spend \$20,000 to fund a firefighter II class at South Florida State College, but it was after a long conversation about whether volunteers should serve the county for a year.

"This is an ongoing effort to continue training

for our firefighters," said County Administrator June Fisher.

"How are we assured we will get our money back if they don't complete the training," Commissioner Ron Handley asked.

Volunteer firefighters have to serve one year or refund the money, County Administrator June Fisher said.

"Do we get a judgment

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FIREFIGHTER

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if they don't pay?" Handley asked.

"The board would have to take action on enforcing the contract," County Attorney Ross Macbeth said.

"What if they don't pass the class?" Commissioner Greg Harris asked.

"They have to reimburse us," Fisher said. A few were not able to complete the 3.5-month course.

"They are volunteers, not paid employees," Commissioner Jim Brooks pointed out.

"They are going to provide a valuable service to the county in a short time," Commissioner Don Elwell said. "I don't want to be too strict about it."

Firefighters have saved the county and property owners millions of dollars in services like three months after the class ends.

Community Safety Director Scott Canaday was asked his opinion by Brooks.

"If we are paying for the class, I think it should be equitable across the board," Canaday said; paid firefighters or volunteers should serve the same contracted time.

In other agenda items: About \$380,000 funding was transferred from the Animal Services department to the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Paul Blackman is now in full financial and operational control.

The county administrator and county clerk were designated the custodian of public records.

LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

SFSC Summer Volleyball Camps

The South Florida State College Panthers volleyball program will be holding three camps this summer. Cost is \$80 and camps are for those ages 6 to 16 and run Monday through Thursday between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Camps take place June 12 to June 15, June 26 to June 29 and July 31 to Aug. 3. Players who register by May 26 will be guaranteed shirt size. Applications may be found online at www.southflorida.edu/athletics/volleyball or call coach Kim Crawford at

863-835-2377 (cell) or 863-784-7037 (office) or at kim.crawford@southflorida.edu for more information.

SFSC Baseball Summer Camp

The South Florida State College baseball program is holding its annual summer camp June 12 to June 15. The camp is for players ages 5 to 13 and is \$85 for the week. Camp runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The camp includes all aspects of baseball fundamentals; technique, fielding, hitting and running for all ability levels. Game experience each day. Contact Rick Hitt at hittr@southflorida.edu or (863) 453-6661 or (863) 465-5300 for more information.

Diamond fundamentals



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Christopher Garrison shows good form while fielding this ground ball during the Panther Baseball camp on Monday. The camp runs through Thursday.

Panther baseball camp helps youngsters improve

By MARK PINSON
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Learning to field, throw and hit the right way is the focus of the popular Panther Baseball Camp.

This year's 19th annual camp, which began Monday and runs through Thursday, attracted 30 eager youngsters ages 5-13 to Panther Field.

Long-time South Florida State College baseball coach Rick Hitt, who oversees the camp with help from a number of his former and current players, makes sure the youngsters have fun while learning the fundamentals of the sport.

"We had the first camp 19 years ago when we were putting the baseball program back together," said Hitt. "We have them during the summer and sometimes at Christmas. We had a good turnout this week and it looks like the weather is going to cooperate with us. We're thrilled to host this camp and be able to work with the kids on the basics and fundamentals of the game. We have all kinds of drills we put the kids through and we make it as much fun as possible. I've got current and former players helping out and they do a great job with the kids and get a lot out of it as well."



MARK PINSON/STAFF

Seven-year-old Dominic Delstfer throws a pitch during Monday's Panther Baseball Camp as South Florida sophomore Gerig Blackman looks on.

CAMP

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The campers worked on their hitting, fielding and throwing while rotating to different stations on the field.

"We have several stations including hitting off a tee," said Hitt. "Some kids don't hit off a tee as they get older, but it's an important drill that a lot of major league players utilize. We also have a game that helps with hand and eye coordination that uses a whiffle stick and a couple of different kind of balls. It helps with the swing and the kids really enjoy playing it. We try to focus on numerous aspects of the game during the week and that includes running the bases, agility drills, sliding and defense."

Hitt has had a number of campers come back to play baseball for the Panthers.

"It's great to see these kids grow up and develop their games and then have them play at South Florida," Hitt said. "I've had seven campers end up playing for me over the years and it's neat to see how life evolves."



MARK PINSON/STAFF

South Florida State College baseball coach Rick Hitt,visor, gives instructions to the campers during the Panther Baseball Camp on Monday.

Hitt loves baseball, but the Panther coach thinks kids should play multiple sports growing up.

"I have a passion for baseball, but I don't think you should just put all of your eggs on one sport," he said. "Playing other sports helps to develop your body and muscles in different ways which is good and it gives you other options."

Learning to play sports at an early age is always an advantage.

"Baseball is a sport that requires a lot of consistency," Hitt said. "The younger you learn the basics and the proper way to do things, the easier it is to get better. We love teaching kids about the

game and some of the older kids are making the transition to older leagues and trying to see if it's the sport for them."

Giving the youngsters some things to work on over the summer helps to reinforce the instruction they received from Hitt and his staff during the camp.

"We give the campers some drills they can do on their own over the summer," the Panther coach said. "They are all eager to learn and these are some things that will help them improve. This baseball camp is a part of our partnership with the community that we really look forward to and enjoy doing each year."

'Take Stock' Fetes Grads & Mentors

Family and friends gathered on June 8 at the South Florida State College Highlands Campus to recognize Take Stock in Children adult mentors and to honor 23 student scholars.

The new graduates, including Ricardo Aleman, Rosie Fimbres and Priscilla Villazana from Hardee Senior High School, completed their journey to a diploma with the help of their Take Stock mentors.

Take Stock in Children matches students at-risk of not completing high school with mentors who guide them toward earning their diplomas. College scholarships awaiting those who graduate.

Many of the students began participation in the program when they were in the sev-

enth grade.

"Each year, we come together for our mentor appreciation and mentee recognition ceremony," said Jamie Bateman, who also heads up the SFSC Foundation. The SFSC Foundation serves as the lead agency for Take Stock in children within the college's service district of Hardee, DeSoto and Highlands counties.

"Our mentors are an amazing group of individuals," Bateman said. "They motivate and inspire our students. Thank you for volunteering your time. Our program would not be successful without you. And, Take Stock graduates, everyone here this evening will go with you in your journey ahead. Know that you have an entire com-

munity standing behind you."

Bateman recounted the students' achievements. "The average grade-point average for the 23 graduates was 4.097," she said. "One student graduated with a 5.02 grade-point average."

Collectively, the students earned \$146,707.80 in college scholarships. Bateman also explained that they had earned 492 hours of college credit toward their undergraduate degrees by participating in SFSC's dual-enrollment program.

Graduates approached the stage to introduce themselves to the audience, mention their mentor's name, and say what college they would attend and what they will study. Most of the Take Stock graduates plan to complete their first two

years of college at SFSC.

"It's special to watch the mentors and mentees come together for one final meeting," said Irene Castanon, coordinator for the local Take Stock program. "But some Take Stock graduates come back to us. Our mentors Genesis Castillo, Luzedy Ocasio and Danielle Ochoa are all Take Stock alumni who are paying it forward."

Take Stock mentors typically meet with their assigned students each week during the school year, offering encouragement and advice. A Take Stock college success coach provides support and guidance. To become a Take Stock mentor, contact Castanon at (863) 784-7343 or by e-mailing Irene.Castanon@southflorida.edu.



Mentor Danielle Ochoa and mentee Rosie Fimbres, a recent Hardee Senior High School graduate and winner of a drawing for a laptop computer that took place during the mentor-mentee ceremony.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Take Stock in Children graduates and their mentors were feted last week at South Florida State College.

SFSC to provide fee notices twice a year

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Depending on the course, college fees can range from a few dollars to a few hundred dollars, making them a significant expense for some students who are paying their way through college.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services Sidney Valentine explained that according to a 2016 Florida statute, colleges and universities are required to provide a 30-day notice of their

fees prior to the start of a course.

South Florida State College will start providing notice of its fees twice a year — once in the fall and once in the spring, he said.

“We are now posting all of these fees in July, but going forward, that fee structure is going to either come out in August or September and the end of January or the first of February,” Valentine said. “I am still determining the dates to line up with our registration periods so students will be aware of what those fees are going

forward as they register for classes.”

The SFSC Board of Trustees will vote on fee proposals at its Wednesday meeting.

Among the eight new fees is \$893 for Introduction to Law Enforcement (Auxiliary).

A course's fee may include: materials, lab fees or certification fees, Valentine noted. The state determines the guidelines of a college program and what materials are required. So the fees are “passed through” from the state.

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel noted

a nursing course fee that appeared to be a substantial increase from \$20 to \$119.

Students were required to purchase \$99 software for the course, Health Assessment, Wellness and Prevention, from the campus bookstore, he said. But now the college will purchase the software through the bookstore and then provide it to the students when they get to the lab.

“So it is no extra fee to our students, we are just making it more convenient for them,” Leitzel said.

The federally funded

Pell Grants pay for tuition and fees, he noted.

Valentine said students will now receive the software for the health assessment class on “day one” of the course if they have a Pell Grant, instead of having to pay it out of pocket.

The college's tuition will remain unchanged. For in-state residents, tuition per credit hour is \$104.52 for Advanced and Professional courses, \$119.79 for Baccalaureate coursework and \$87.50 for Post Secondary Adult Vocational courses.



COURTESY PHOTO

Campers made paintings that are being displayed in local businesses.

SFSC Camp Adventure celebrates Week 1 fun

South Florida State College kicked off the first week of its annual Camp Adventure with a focus on art. Campers made paintings that are being displayed in local businesses. The second week of Camp Adventure began Monday with

a weeklong "Mission Impossible" treasure hunt around the Highlands Campus. Camp Adventure is an annual summer camp for children in grades 1-5. For more information, call 784-7388 or visit www.southflorida.edu/campadventure.

X Elks donate to scholarship fund



COURTESY PHOTO

Leading Knight Ron Schilffarth of Sebring Elks Lodge 1529 presented a check for \$1,000 to Jamie Bateman, executive director of Institutional Advancement at South Florida State College. The money will be applied to the Sebring Elks Scholarship Trust Fund.

Pinning Ceremony Honors New Nurses

A traditional pinning ceremony was held last week for the 34 graduates of South Florida State College's Associate Degree in Nursing program.

The event was held Thursday in the Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts on the college's Highlands Campus. It featured nine new Hardee County nurses.

The local graduates are Vanessa Brooker, Karlee Henderson, Zoo Kue, Jennifer Lopez, April Lozano, Lydia Mejia, Adna Metayer, Karen Pilkington and Vanette See.

Guest speaker was Christine Greenwald, a nursing professor who retires at the end of this academic term. Addressing the graduates and guests, she said, "This is how I feel about this whole class: I have no reservations in having any one of these students to be my nurse, or my family's nurse, when the need may arise. This is the greatest compliment one nurse can give to another.

"I want you to never lose sight of the wonder and honor it is to be a nurse at the most vulnerable time of your patient's life," Greenwald continued. "You will see, and some

have already seen, life at its best and at its worst. What is so exciting is that you have the power to make the most out of that person's life at that moment and touch them deeply. You, in turn, will never be the same."

She gave the graduates one last assignment in their journey. "I would like you to embrace change and technology, but hold onto your humanness; take charge of your learning; find a mentor and be a mentor; continue to help each other; and let your words be encouraging, not destructive."

In his farewell, Class President Shea Young said, "I want to thank our incredible faculty who endured two years of our crazy." He then addressed his fellow graduates. "Thank you for being the best group anyone could ask for. I walked into a classroom two years ago, knowing absolutely no one. And today, I will walk out of this theater with another family. As our journey together comes to an end, I take comfort in knowing that a new journey begins. I pray that our paths cross again."

Each year, nursing graduates award the Golden Duck to

someone who has served as a mentor to the students in the program. The D.U.C.K. acronym represents the foundational elements of the mentoring arrangement: Developing, Understanding, Compassion and Knowledge.

During the ceremony, graduate Vanette See presented the 2017 Golden Duck Award to Mary von Mervedt, SFSC director of nursing.

"I, personally, have looked up to her and developed a great respect for how she handles herself, her patients and her students," See said. "She has always treated us with integrity, honesty and respect.

"In classroom lectures, exams and teaching us skills, she has never made us feel inadequate," See continued. "She has always encouraged us with positive reinforcement. She has shown us what a true nursing professional should be."

The practice of pinning new graduates has been a nursing school tradition in the United States since 1916. The pin is worn prominently on their uniforms throughout their careers. One story of the ceremony's beginning goes back to 1883, when Queen Victoria awarded

Florence Nightingale the Royal Rêd Cross on St. George's Day for her service to the sick and injured during the Crimean War.

In turn, Nightingale later extended the honor to her outstanding nursing students by presenting them with a medal of excellence.

Graduates of the Associate Degree in Nursing program become registered nurses by passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. SFSC nursing graduates are usually fully employed in nursing within a few months of graduation.

SFSC's program is the only nationally accredited nursing program in its service district of Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto counties. It is accredited through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc.

SFSC offers two options for students interested in becoming registered nurses: a two-year Generic-RN program and a one-year Transition-LPN to RN program. The college also offers a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing program as well as a one-year practical nursing occupational certificate program.



The 34 new nurses light the candles on their Nightingale lamps.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Golden Duck Award winner Mary von Merveldt (left) and Hardee County nursing graduate Vanette See.

SFSC graduates 22 law enforcement officers

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Twenty-two graduates of South Florida State College's Basic Law Enforcement Academy, Class 252, were recognized at a ceremony on June 13 on the SFSC Highlands campus in Avon Park.

The 22 prospective police officers receiving BLE occupational certificates were Seth T. Abeln, Tyler L. Avery, Steve Benitez Jr., Stella Brakefield, John Caminero, Dwayne T. Council, Nadean S. Crossley, Cody A. Daigneault, Tyler Dawson, Eugenio

DeArce, Toby M. Elam, Aaron Gilliard, Jose Mar, Brandon D. Olsen, Issaih Palacios, Cody Pearlman, Simon Shackelford, Terrance B. Stoute, Benjamin J. Toney, Tevin T. Toney, Juan Valdez-Pinon and James C. Wright.

Before receiving individual awards and certificates, keynote speaker Major Brandon Ball of the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Investigative and Financial Services, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations, addressed the cadets.

"Commit to family and teammates," Ball said.

"Your ultimate goal is to go home at the end of every shift. Remember that your training has helped to save your life. Your training has helped to save your family's and teammate's lives as well."

Ball urged the graduates, "Maintain focus and dedication to your craft. Your communities are counting on you. Keep that service mindset."

Special awards were presented to Pearlman, who earned top honors for his academic excellence, while Abeln scored the Top Firearms award for his work on the shooting range. Council was recognized as the



COURTESY PHOTO

The 22 prospective police officers to recently receive Basic Law Enforcement occupational certificates at South Florida State College.

Class Leader.

SFSC's BLE Academy students are trained to become law enforcement officers in Florida. By

completing the program successfully, graduates are eligible to take the state certification examination to become

certified law enforcement officers. For more information about SFSC's BLE Academy, call 863-784-7285.

SFSC named one of Most Promising Places to Work

SPECIAL TO
HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — For a second time, South Florida State College received recognition as a Most Promising Place to Work in Community Colleges, and the findings for 2017 were published in the May 18 edition of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine. SFSC was initially recognized in 2015.

SFSC joins 11 other colleges across the country to receive top marks for the extent to which diversity and inclusiveness imbue their administrative structures, work environments, and

staffing practices.

"This recognition confirms a strong commitment by college trustees and leadership to ensure diverse employment practices throughout the organization," said Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president.

The Center for Higher Education Enterprise (CHEE) at the Ohio State University conducted the survey and analyzed the results for the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and *Diverse*, a magazine which reports and publishes on diversity, access, and opportunity in higher education. With a focus on workplace

diversity, staffing practices, and work environment, the CHEE research team used a web-based survey to examine categories such as family friendliness, salary/benefits, and professional development opportunities.

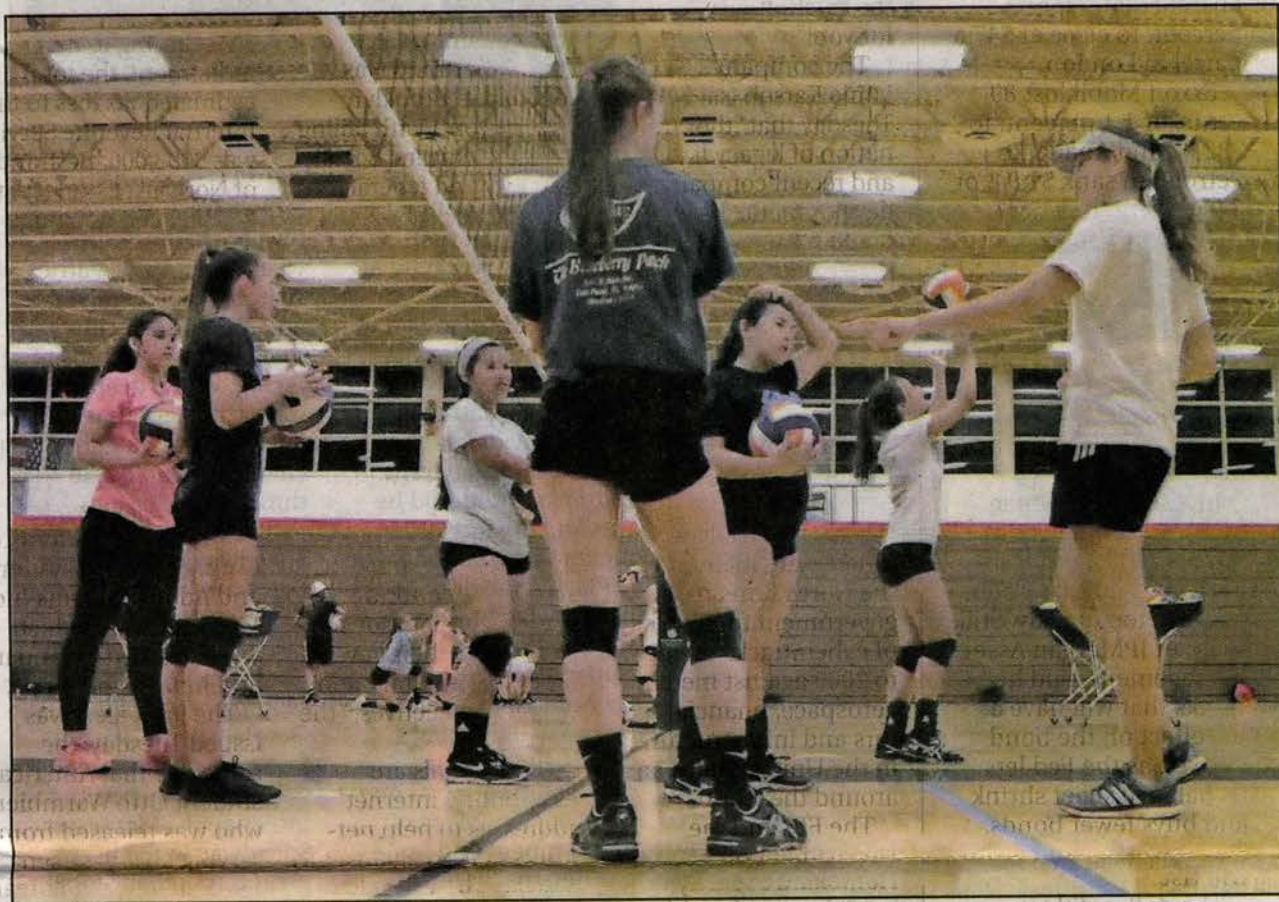
NISOD and *Diverse* commissioned their inaugural study in 2014.

One other member of the 28-member Florida College System, Tallahassee Community College, gained a spot on the list of Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges. Other colleges that received recognition were Blinn College, Texas; El Centro College,

Texas; Montgomery County Community College, Pennsylvania; Mountain View College, Texas; Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Oklahoma; Pierpont Community College, West Virginia; Seward County Community College, Kansas; Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia; and Stella and Charles Guttman Community College, New York.

Award recipients were also provided with a specially designed logo they can use to promote their institutions' commitment to diversity during student and staff recruitment efforts.

Benefiting from basics



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

South Florida State College Volleyball Head Coach Kim Crawford works with XCEL Volleyball players inside the gym on Tuesday.

Fundamentals stressed at SFSC camp

BY JIM TAYLOR
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK – As Kim Crawford heads into her 15th year as the head coach of the South Florida Panther Volleyball team, every summer she holds multiple volleyball camps as she shares her extensive experience and knowledge of the game to the young girls of Highlands County that want to learn how to play the game.

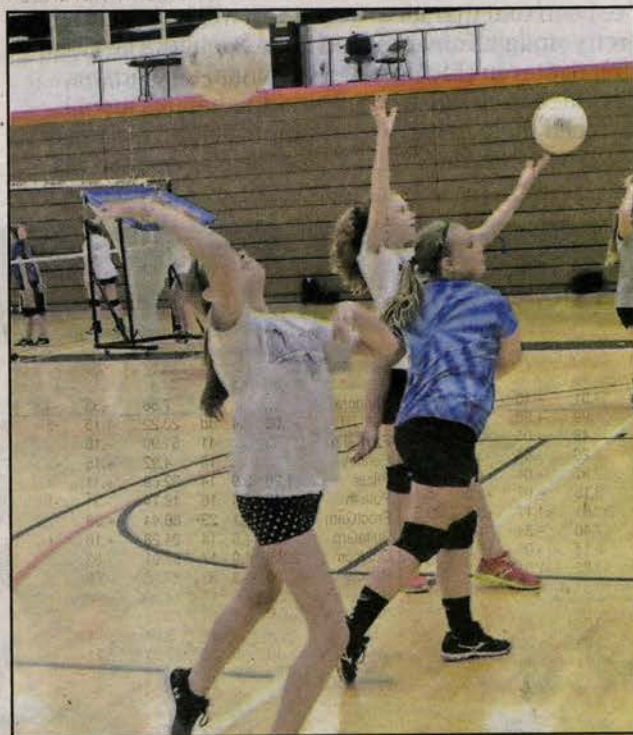
With the first of three scheduled camps this summer already underway, Crawford notes that in the camps, they hit the fundamentals.

“We are always working on the fundamentals,” said Crawford. “Right now we have third graders all the way to ninth grade and

a couple of 10th graders, but you can’t go wrong working on the fundamentals. Setting, passing, serving, defense, all the fundamentals of the game are being touched on everyday.”

Crawford stated that they work hard to generate drills to accommodate the level of the athlete. If an athlete is really good at a particular part of the game such as setting, she will generate a drill in setting that will be tougher than a person who may struggle in that area, then they will keep things simple and basic until they get better.

Crawford encourages any girl that is interested in volleyball to try it; it does not matter if they know how to play or not.



From left; Tori Wilkins, Sidney Porter (blue shirt) and Haley Waltman work on their serve techniques during the SFSC volleyball camp.

"Some kids think that if they come here, they should already know how to play," said Crawford. "That is just not the case. Yes, there are kids here that have played, but there are kids here that have never played."

"Even if you know how to play, still show up, you are always going to get better the more you play, but also the third graders that are watching you may learn from you and it becomes a domino effect. So I always encourage kids to be active and participate."

As for the young lady that may be self-conscious on how she may look in a traditional volleyball uniform, Crawford stated that wearing spandex or tight fitting clothes is not a requirement for the camps.



JIM TAYLOR/CORRESPONDENT

Participants in volleyball camp work on a dig drill. There are two more camps on the summer schedule.

"I always tell parents they can wear whatever they feel comfortable in," said Crawford "I have had kids here in

sweatpants, long shorts, you want them to be comfortable in what they are playing in. I want this to be a fun safe environment where they are not going to be judged on how they look."

Though this first

four-day camp may be over, there are still two more camps during the summer.

The next one is

"Even if you know how to play, still show up, you are always going to get better the more you play..."

Kim Crawford

scheduled for June 26-29 and the last one, which will include the Panther Volleyball team, will start on July 31 and conclude on August 3.

Each four-day camp is \$80 with a start time of 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://www.southflorida.edu/community/athletics/volleyball>.

Crawford also owns and operates the XCEL Volleyball Club in Sebring and is currently conducting Sand Volleyball training twice a week at the South Florida State College's sand courts.

For more information, call Kim Crawford at 863-835-2377.

SFSC offers prospective teachers prep course

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

South Florida State College is offering preparatory courses in mathematics and language arts to aspiring teachers for the required General Knowledge Test portion of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination.

SFSC offers a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree that prepares students to work with children in kindergarten through grade six. Graduates are eligible for Florida

certification in K-6 with English for Speakers of Other Languages and Reading endorsements. One of the prerequisites for entering the program is a mastery of general knowledge, including the ability to read, write, and compute, by passing the GKT of the FTCE.

The GKT is one of three tests that compose the FTCE. Florida law requires that teachers demonstrate mastery of basic skills, professional knowledge, and a content area of specialization. Testing requirements for teacher candidates

seeking certification are described in 6A-4.0021 Florida Administrative Code.

The FTCE-GKT Mathematics Test Prep (EDF 1963, CRN 30811) course will meet July 10, 12, 17, and 19 from 2-4 p.m. Students will have access to online course components June 19-31.

The FTCE-GKT Language Arts Test Prep (EDF 1968, CRN 30810) course meets July 24-26, 1-3 p.m. Students will have access to online course components June 19-31.

They are one credit hour transfer courses, and the cost of each course is

approximately \$100.

Students currently enrolled at SFSC, should register for the FTCE-GKT Mathematics Test Prep course or the FTCE-GKT Language Arts Test Prep course in Building B on the Highlands Campus or at any SFSC campus or center. Those who are not currently enrolled with SFSC will need to apply and be accepted to the college. It is advised that prospective students contact Dr. Maday Leon at 863-784-7154 or Michele DeVane at 863-784-7174 for further information:

SFSC to offer new performing arts Kaleidoscope Series

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A new Kaleidoscope Series at South Florida State College will offer five free family-friendly and culturally based performances in September in the college's University Center Auditorium.

SFSC Director of Cultural Programs Cindy Garren said years ago the college had a Kaleidoscope Series that started with chamber music and later included bluegrass and folk artists, but the ticket sales and attendance was low.

The name is being resurrected for a new series of performances. "We liked the name because a kaleidoscope is like many images and variety, but it is not the same thing," as the previous series, Garren noted.

Garren addressed the Avon Park City Council on Monday seeking \$5,000 to be a sponsor for the series.

Highlighting the 2015-16 economic impact of the college's cultural programs, Garren said, 52,000 residents and

tourists visited one of the many cultural programs at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts or the 250-seat University Center Auditorium.

"The South Florida State College Performing Arts Program is a strong contributor to the local economy," she said. The total dollars spent by the program and the audiences was estimated at \$2.07 million.

Garren noted that the college received its first National Endowment for the Arts Grant for \$10,000 for the Kaleidoscope Series.

"It's a free program; it's for families and it is folkloric," meaning the performances will celebrate cultures and traditions, she said. Each show will have pre-show arts oriented workshops for kids conducted by the artists.

The City Council voted 4-0 (Councilman Jim Barnard was absent) to provide \$5,000 to be a sponsor of the community service series.

On the City Council's agenda, City Manger Julian Deleon noted



COURTESY PHOTO

Caribeno Tropicale, a Latin heritage band, will be among the performers in the new Kaleidoscope Series at South Florida State College.

that the college is the city's largest utility and sanitation customer. In a 12-month period, the city invoiced the college \$182,067 for services.

"This joint community venture is a good way to continue to enhance and foster a benefit to the community," he stated.

Following is a listing of the performances with a description provided

by South Florida State College:

- Florida Treasures/Fun Family Night — 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sept. 9 — when two tourists discover a treasure chest full of historical artifacts, they are magically transported back in time in a fun-filled journey through Florida's history.

- Orquesta Caribeno Tropicale/Caribbean &

- Latin America Heritage — 7 p.m., Sept. 16 — A Latin heritage band playing the rich sounds of Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru.

- Sitar and Tabla Concert/with Partha Bose and Indranil Mallick — 7 p.m., Sept. 23 — Shri Partha Bose is a widely recognized

- sitar player and a highly respected artist in the arena of contemporary Hindustani Classical Music.

- Nicole Henry/2013 Soul Train Award for Best Traditional Jazz Performance — 7 p.m., Sept. 30 — Since her debut in 2004, Henry has established herself as one of the jazz world's most acclaimed vocalists.

TAG offers series of summer workshops

SPECIAL TO THE
HIGHLANDS SUN

AVON PARK — The Artists' Group, or TAG, Studio will be offering painting workshops this summer under the direction of artists Betty McCarthy, Betty Heim, Nancy Adams, Louise Weis and Jackie Andrews.

The first class will be "Florida Sunshine," an acrylic piece of oranges taught by Louise Weis. The class is from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, July 19.

"A Good Day at the Beach" full of seagulls is an oil workshop taught by Nancy Adams. It is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Louise Weis will lead an acrylic workshop from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16. The work piece will be "Early Riser," a beautiful rooster.

"Sunflowers" will be the subject of the oil workshop offered from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30. The workshop will be taught by Nancy Adams.

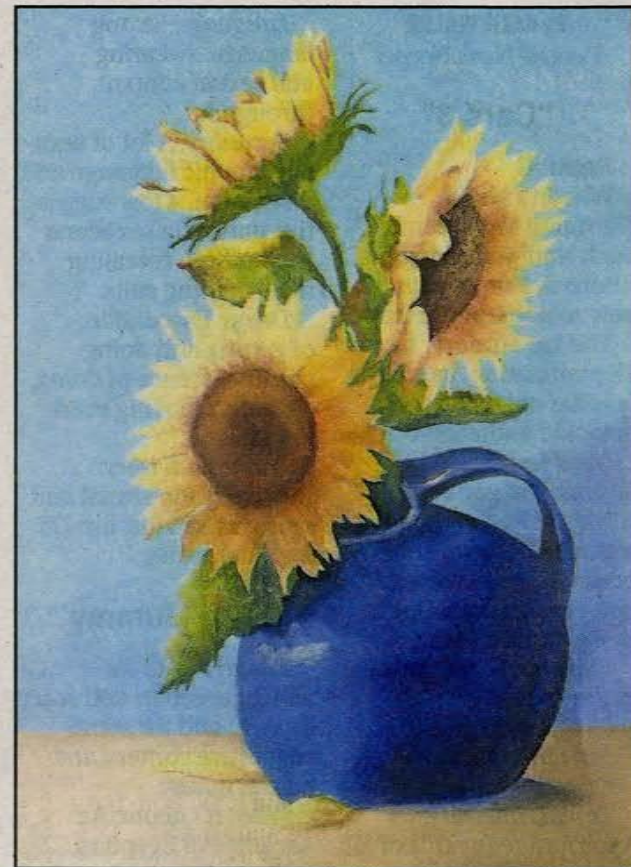
The cost per class is \$35, which includes all supplies and canvases needed for the painting.



Above: TAG students of a recent oil painting workshop with their finished pieces of art.

Light refreshments will be served. All workshops will be held in the Artists' Group studio inside the Hotel Jacaranda in downtown Avon Park. For more information or to register, all 863-784-7346.

Right Seagulls will be the subject of an oil workshop taught by Nancy Adams in August.



COURTESY PHOTOS

'Florida Sunshine' will be offered by Louise Weis on July 19.



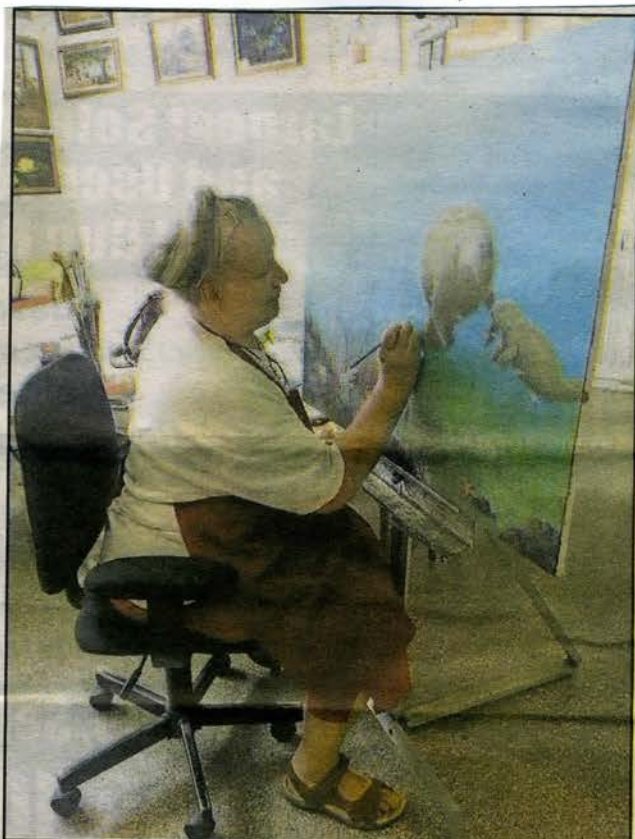
'Florida Sunshine' is an acrylic workshop to be offered in July by Louise Weis.



'Early Riser' is an acrylic workshop that will be taught by Louise Weis.



An earlier painting class of hummingbirds.



Louise Weis instructs the painting of a manatee for an earlier class.



Nancy Adams taught a recent class of flowers and hummingbirds. This summer, she will instruct workshops in oil on seagulls and sunflowers.

Left: A group of students learn the art of painting in oils.



State colleges facing year of 'stagnation' and 'lost opportunity'

By **LLOYD DUNKELBERGER**
THE NEWS SERVICE
OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE — While state universities are starting the new academic year in July with a major financial boost, Florida's 28 state colleges will face a budget cut.

The 12 universities will see an increase of more than \$250 million in state support in the 2017-18 academic year, including a \$20 million increase in performance funding and \$121 million in new programs to help schools hire top-level professors and to reward top-performing business, law and medical schools.

But the new budget left the 28 state colleges with \$25 million less than they received in the prior year — and that doesn't include Gov. Rick Scott's vetoes, which eliminated more than \$13 million in projects and spending for the schools.

Embedded in the cut is a \$30.2 million reduction in funding for remedial education for the colleges.

David Armstrong, president of Broward College, the second-largest school in the system, said the new budget sets up a year of "lost opportunity" and "stagnation" at the state colleges, which serve

about 800,000 full- and part-time students across the state.

Armstrong, a former state college system chancellor, said while the university budget increase will allow schools like the University of Florida to launch an ambitious plan to hire 500 new faculty members and reduce class sizes, it will be a different story at the state colleges.

"My guess is at a number of our colleges, class sizes will possibly increase this year because of budget cuts and vacant positions will be held open in some cases," Armstrong said. "Our students deserve better."

Despite the cut in remedial education funding, the colleges will still have to provide tutoring and other academic support for students needing help in college-level math and English classes, said Thomas Lobasso, president of Daytona State College and the new chairman of the college system's council of presidents.

"The thing that hasn't changed is our mission. Our mission is open access," Lobasso said. "Those students still come to us."

Senate President Joe Negron, R-Stuart, pushed the higher-education

package this year in an effort to help elevate state universities to an "elite" level, arguing they are critical to the growth in Florida's economy.

The state colleges provide an equally critical economic role in training and graduating "skilled workers in health care, information technology and other areas where there are great jobs needing to be filled in our communities across the state," Armstrong said.

"We shouldn't have policies and budgets that divide us and create elite universities and underfunded state colleges," he said. "When we go to a hospital for health care, it is just as important to have sufficient quality nurses and technicians from our state colleges as it is a qualified doctor."

State college leaders drew some solace from Scott's veto of a higher-education bill (SB 374), with the governor arguing policy improvements for the universities were coming "at the expense" of the state college system. Among its provisions, the bill would have capped enrollment in baccalaureate-degree programs at the colleges, something also pushed by Negron.

Scott, who noted he and his wife are graduates

of a community college system, said while state support for the colleges has increased by about 32 percent since he took office in 2011, he will support a budget increase for the system when the Legislature meets next year.

"It's important to continue to fund them," Scott said earlier this month. "They have great results. We have a session starting in January and in my budget I will be proposing more funding for them."

The state college system budget cuts will be offset by some degree when the state Board of Education later this summer distributes about \$30 million in performance-based funding to the schools, which will also be eligible to use another \$30 million in institutional performance funding.

Armstrong said he expects his school to receive about \$2.5 million in performance funding, but Broward College will still face a \$2 million reduction in its operating budget, which also has to cover increases in utilities, health insurance and other business costs.

Additionally, because state college enrollment is countercyclical to the economy, fewer students tend to enroll when the

job market is strong, resulting in a decrease in tuition revenue for some schools. In March, state economists estimated about a 4,000-student decline in enrollment statewide, a 1.2 percent reduction.

On the positive side, the state colleges will benefit from a record increase in need-based aid in the new academic year that will help more students cover tuition and fee costs.

The move to cover full tuition and fees for the top-performing Bright Futures students, known as academic scholars, will have minimal impact in the state college system, where few of those students are enrolled.

But the \$121 million increase in the Florida student-assistance grants, the state's largest need-based aid program, will help lower-income students attend both colleges and state universities.

Additionally, Congress has approved an extension of federal Pell grants, the largest federal aid program, to summer courses, which could help students next summer.

"Our Legislature deserves kudos for the increase in need-based financial aid," Armstrong said.