



COURTESY PHOTO

South Florida State College's Take Stock in Children program was recently awarded a Luminary Award. Pictured are: (from l) Ben Carter, TSIC student service coordinator; Dolores Breedlove, college success coach; and Jamie Bateman, executive director of institutional advancement

Take Stock in Children Garners Luminary Award And Gold Level of Excellence

Special To The Herald-Advocate

South Florida State College's (SFSC) Take Stock in Children (TSIC) program has garnered the Take Stock Luminary Award and Gold Level of Excellence. The honor marks the ninth consecutive year the local TSIC program has received the Gold Level.

The Excellence Award and service honor were announced at the annual Take Stock Leadership Conference. Local TSIC programs that provide college readiness and mentoring supports to middle and high school students vie for the awards each year.

To earn the Gold Level recognition, local TSIC programs must meet or exceed 10 key performance indicators on the state organization's Balanced Scorecard. The Balanced Scorecard is an internal measure of a TSIC program's performance and adherence to the requirements of the Florida Department of Education.

TSIC must meet these rig-

orous criteria that include a data reporting system that measures student readiness, the number of students recruited, mentor matching rates, and mentor contacts. Luminary Awards are presented to local TSIC programs that exceed the state organization's targeted goals.

"The main thing that has motivated me since I've sat in this seat is to maintain or exceed the level of achievement our local Take Stock program has attained over the years," said Ben Carter, TSIC student services coordinator. "Those awards have been an annual achievement for us. We want to maintain that standard of performance. The bar is high. It reflects that our Take Stock students are receiving the mentoring and college success content that are required, and those are two of the parameters of reaching the Luminary and Gold Level for the program."

The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for TSIC in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. TSIC serves students who are at-risk for

dropping out of school. Students are matched with a mentor, receive in-school support, and college readiness services provided by TSIC college success coaches. Upon high school graduation, students earn a college tuition scholarship. Currently, SFSC's TSIC program has 98 students, including 34 graduating seniors.

TSIC mentors meet with their assigned students each week during the school year, offering encouragement, advice, and a sympathetic ear. A TSIC college success coach provides support and guidance to the mentor and the mentee.

Donations toward TSIC scholarships are accepted throughout the year and mentors are always being recruited for students. Anyone interested in donating toward TSIC scholarships should contact the SFSC Foundation at 863-453-3133 or foundation@southflorida.edu. To become a volunteer mentor, contact Ben Carter at 863-784-7221 or carterb@southflorida.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anthony Record, the new curator of the Museum of Florida Art and Culture at SFSC, in the gallery hall.

Anthony Record Joins SFSC Museum Of Florida Art And Culture As Curator

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

Special To The Herald-Advocate

Anthony Record recently joined South Florida State College (SFSC) as curator of the Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC).

MOFAC provides an exhibition venue for contemporary Florida regional artists and preserves Florida's history and heritage through art. The Museum also serves as a repository for the historical artifacts unearthed by members of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

Prior to joining MOFAC, Record was studio programs coordinator at the Tampa Museum of Art from 2018-2022. At the Tampa Museum of Art, he developed and taught a wide range of art education programs for children, teens, and adults. In Tampa, he co-founded QUAIID Gallery, an artist-run exhibition space, in collaboration with several other local artists. He served as director and curator at QUAIID Gallery from 2014-2022, curating exhibitions of local and emerging contemporary artists. From 2009 to 2018, he taught studio art and art history at several colleges and universities, including Pasco-Hernando State College, Hillsborough Community College, and the University of South Florida.

Originally from Tampa, Record grew up in Spring Hill, Fla. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of South Florida and an M.F.A with an emphasis in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute.

"I am incredibly excited for my new role at MOFAC," Record said. "As a native Floridian, I'm honored by the opportunity to work with an institution and collection that has such strong ties to local

artists, in a space that uniquely combines exhibitions of contemporary art with collections of ancient material culture that have been excavated locally. I look forward to collaborating with collectors and artists living and working in Florida, continuing my work of building connections between different artistic communities in the region, and organizing exhibitions that show the wildly diverse perspectives and approaches of our artists in Florida for the benefit of our students and audiences within Highlands County and throughout the state."

Cindy Garren, director of cultural programs at SFSC, said Record has a strong artistic vision.

"Not only is Anthony an educator and mentor having taught at several state colleges, but he is an accomplished artist with a strong artistic vision," Garren said. "I am confident that with his leadership, MOFAC will enhance its reputation as the leading museum in Highlands County and beyond."

As an artist, Record's paintings have been exhibited internationally in New York, Miami, Vancouver, Kanazawa (Japan), and elsewhere. Collections of his drawings have been published by various publishing houses throughout Europe.

"I've considered myself a serious painter for many years, so my work has evolved pretty radically over time," Record said. "Typically, what I do is very fast, spontaneous, abstract painting with brush and ink on paper, and I use the materials of traditional Chinese landscape painting. My abstract style has been heavily informed by the Florida landscape, but by a specific aspect — driving down the highway, those tall walls of pine forests on the

sides of the highways that are covered with kudzu. They create shadowy, ambiguous, and otherworldly forms. Those images got me into Chinese traditional landscape painting from the Song and Yuan dynasties, because the way they painted mountains in this abstract manner is similar to the ambiguous forms that the kudzu makes."

Continued Record: "In my art, I always want things to be on the edge of recognition, meaning that when you first encounter the painting, you don't know if you're supposed to recognize images in it. Your initial reaction is an uncertainty — whether or not you're supposed to recognize things. I like that tension. That's my painting practice in a nutshell."

MOFAC is located adjacent to the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC at 600 W. College Dr. in Avon Park. The Museum is open to the public Wednesday through Friday, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. or by appointment for group tours. Patrons of the Wildstein Center may visit the museum one hour prior to matinee and evening performances.

For information about MOFAC and its programs or to request a museum tour, contact Record at 863-784-7240 or email Anthony.Record@south-florida.edu.

Deborah Bell Latter is the coordinator of internal communications at South Florida State College and can be reached at 863-784-7251 or Deborah.Latter@south-florida.edu.



Brewer speaks about her career, commitment to her community

Special to the Highlands News-Sun

PROVIDED BY SFSC

AVON PARK — Judge Danielle Brewer, an alumna of South Florida State College (SFSC) through its Dual Enrollment program, became DeSoto County Judge in 2016. She spoke about her career in law and the importance of serving her community.

SFSC: Where are you originally from?

DB: I was born and raised in DeSoto County. My family settled here in the late 1800s.

SFSC: Did you graduate from DeSoto High School?

DB: I graduated from DeSoto High School in 2005. Go Bulldogs!

SFSC: Why did you decide to attend SFSC?

DB: I attended SFSC through DeSoto High School's Dual Enrollment Program. After graduating from high school, I transferred my credits from SFSC to the University of Florida.

SFSC: What was your major at the University of Florida?

DB: At the University of Florida, I majored in Animal Sciences with minors in Plant Sciences, Food and Resource Economics, and International Studies in Agricultural and Life Sciences.

SFSC: What made you decide to attend law school?

DB: I decided to attend law school during my junior year at the University of Florida. I made this decision because I looked at all of the things I loved



BREWER

to do and was passionate about—reading, writing, and advocacy for the agricultural industry nationally and internationally—and decided that becoming an attorney would allow me to pursue all of these interests in my career.

SFSC: Where did you practice law? In what area of law did you concentrate your practice and why did you choose that concentration?

DB: I practiced law at Swaine & Harris, P.A. (now Swaine, Harris & Wohl, P.A.) in Lake Placid, Fla. I focused my practice in the areas of commercial civil litigation and transactions, with an emphasis in agricultural matters. I chose this area because of my background in the agricultural field and because I enjoyed civil litigation and transactional issues while in law school.

SFSC: How is it that you were appointed DeSoto County Judge?

DB: I was appointed by Governor Rick Scott as DeSoto County Judge in 2016. I made the decision to apply for appointment because I wanted to give the governor an opportunity to select a DeSoto County native to serve DeSoto County. At the time, no other applicants were from DeSoto County. I felt that it was extremely important for a person living in DeSoto County to have the responsibility of the

County Judge, rather than someone who was not from here.

SFSC: In what ways do you feel that it's served your community?

DB: I have been actively involved in Twelfth Judicial Circuit and branch-wide committees that foster and enhance access to justice. Specifically, since 2019, I have served on the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Technology Committee and, from 2020-2021, on the Florida Commission for Access to Civil Justice. Both committees focused on allowing litigants access to the courts. These efforts were imperative when faced with the various challenges beginning March 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, since 2016, I have spearheaded the implementation of the following court programs for DeSoto County:

- DeSoto's Comprehensive Case Management Court (including Drug Court, Veterans Court, DUI Court, and Mental Health Court) – Resulting in significant benefits to the community by reducing recidivism and jail population, saving tax dollars associated with recurrent jail stays and health and family issues, and encouraging participants to be accountable to their community

- DeSoto County Pretrial Services – Resulting in additional supervision for defendants released on bond, fewer bench warrants issued for failure to

- appear and more information provided at First Appearances for the judiciary to make better-advised decisions as to a defendant's release
- DeSoto County Truancy Court – Resulting in a significant increase in school attendance for habitually truant children
- DeSoto County Driving While License Suspended (DWLS) Court – Resulting in hundreds of defendants obtaining their driver's licenses, ensuring more insured drivers on the road and payment of past-due court costs, traffic fines, and child support

I also participate in the DeSoto County Clerk's Office hosted "Operation Green Light" annually.

SFSC: You created DeSoto's Comprehensive Case Management Court. What is it and why did you feel it was necessary?

DB: The Comprehensive Case Management Court is a problem-solving court, permitted by Florida Statutes, that serves defendants that suffer from addiction and/or mental health disorders. I wanted to begin this program in DeSoto County to address recidivism amongst criminal defendants by addressing two of the principal underlying causes of recidivism—addiction and mental health. This Court results in significant benefits to the community by reducing recidivism and jail population, saving tax dollars associated with recurrent jail stays and health and family issues, and

encourages participants to be accountable to their community.

SFSC: You serve as a faculty member for the Florida Judicial College. What is the Florida Judicial College?

DB: Florida Judicial College is often referred to as "New Judges School." All new judges are required to attend during their first year on the bench. I teach in the County Court Civil Track.

SFSC: You've served on South Florida State College's Foundation Board. Why was that important to you?

DB: Serving on the Foundation was important to me because I believe that deserving local students should be able to affordably attend college or learn a trade—if they choose to—while being able to continue living and working in DeSoto County.

SFSC: What local organizations or associations do you regularly participate in that serve your community in some way?

- Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo, Inc. – Board of Directors — January 2020-present;
- Member — 2017-Present
- Jim Crews Playground Foundation, Inc. – Board of Directors — December 2013-present
- Arcadia Rotary Club – Member — 2018-present
- Interact Club Sponsor — 2018-2019
- Arcadia Mainstreet Program, Inc. – Board of Directors — 2018-present
- DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce – Member — 2018-present

- Take Stock in Children – Mentor — 2021-present

SFSC: Why do you feel that it's important to serve the community?

DB: I believe that it is important to serve your community because it makes the place a better place to live for everyone. If every person utilized just one of their personal strengths to better their community, there would be countless opportunities created and benefits enjoyed. I love living in DeSoto County and I want people to be able to share this sentiment for years to come.

SFSC: Would you encourage prospective students to attend SFSC?

DB: Absolutely! SFSC provides countless opportunities for local students. Whether you are a Dual Enrollment student or a person who has decided to attend college after some life experience, SFSC has an opportunity for you to fulfill your goals and do so affordably. SFSC is an invaluable resource for our community!

SFSC: Is there anything else you'd like people to know about you?

DB: I count myself very fortunate to serve the citizens of DeSoto County. Some may consider a judicial position to be one of power. I firmly disagree and believe that it is one of responsibility—responsibility to the law and to the people we are tasked to serve. I am proud to have been entrusted with this responsibility and am honored and privileged to serve DeSoto County as County Judge.

SFSC instructor earns infection prevention and control certification



COURTESY PHOTO

Terra Tippie earned certification in infection prevention and control.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Special to Highlands News-Sun

COURTESY SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

AVON PARK — Terra Tippie, South Florida State College (SFSC) Dental Assisting instructor, is among the first group of oral health professionals to earn the Dental Infection Prevention and Control (CDIPC) certification. The CDIPC was developed by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) in conjunction with the Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention (OSAP).

According to DANB, the CDIPC certification is the first clinically focused dental infection control certification in the United States. The

exam is rigorous and requires demonstrating not only knowledge of infection control guidelines and standards, but also the analytical and critical-thinking skills to apply them in a variety of scenarios.

"Infection control is one of the most important things we teach our students at SFSC," Tippie said. "If I were a patient going into a dental office, I would want assurance that the assistant or hygienist that's working with me knows what they're doing and that I'm not going to pick anything up in that dental office."

Tippie said that it's equally important that students understand why dental professionals follow infection prevention

protocols. "When the students go out to practice in the real world and know why they follow infection control protocols, they'll continue to use them every day. In class and clinicals, it protects our students, their classmates, and our patients. In a dental office, it protects the patients and the dental team. And it helps to protect our entire communities."

An example of using infection control protocol is when the patient leaves the dental operatory. The patient is dismissed and, in a safe manner, the dental personnel gather the instruments used on that patient. A long process of cleaning those instruments and getting them ready to sterilize

follows. Dental assistants must then return to the operatory and disinfect all of the surfaces to get the area ready for the next patient.

Along with her certification in dental assisting, Tippie will maintain her CDIPC by taking continuing education credits. "It means that I'm refreshed every year with our guidelines, and there have been a lot of changes in infection control protocols in the past couple of years."

COVID-19 has been a major factor in those changes. In dentistry, many procedures produce an aerosol, and COVID-19 is an airborne pathogen. "So, in our

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situation, if we didn't follow guidelines, especially for our personal protective equipment, we would be more likely to get something like COVID-19, flu, or the common cold," Tippie said. "Because we follow guidelines, the dental office or our classrooms are the last places you're going to pick up an airborne pathogen."

Tippie indicated that one of the first classes taught in SFSC's Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs is infection control and

it is incorporated into almost every other class that students take within those programs.

"From talking to the people at dental offices where our students have their internships, the students are complimented all the time on knowing infection control and that they're following the correct procedures," Tippie said. "I've even had some assistants at those dental offices say that they learned some things from our students."

SFSC currently offers an 11-month Dental Assistant Career Certificate and a two-year Dental Hygiene Associate in Science. Both

programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). For more information on SFSC Dental Education programs, contact Danielle Ochoa, Health Sciences advisor, at 863-784-7027 or by email at healthsciences@southflorida.edu.

DANB is the national certification board for dental assistants, with more than 37,000 dental assistants currently DANB certified across the country. OSAP is the only nonprofit membership association for oral healthcare professionals that focuses on infection prevention and patient and provider safety.

Aspen Institute names SFSC a semifinalist for Aspen Prize

Special to the Highlands News-Sun

PROVIDED BY SFSC

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Aspen Institute announced Wednesday that South Florida State College was among the 25 semifinalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, adding a milestone in the award selection process. The \$1 million Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of community colleges that are improving and achieving equitable outcomes for students. In years past, only 10 finalists have been named on the road to the winner, and this change is designed to highlight the increased number of colleges across the country doing excellent work.

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. The winner

will be announced in the spring of 2023.

"We are thrilled to see America's community colleges making meaningful and measurable progress, educating people from all backgrounds and preparing them for good jobs," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. He cited graduation rates that have risen more than 6% for all students since 2015, and 5% for students of color. "These 25 colleges represent our dreams for a better country and a reinvigorated democracy."

"The recognition from The Aspen Institute affirms that SFSC is a top-performing college due to quality learning initiatives led by a stellar faculty," said Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president. "By analyzing the data Aspen collects, SFSC far exceeds performance indicators in such areas as number of credentials awarded, graduation rates, and overall student success."

The Prize selection process began this past October, when The Aspen Institute invited 150 community colleges to apply, based on data showing

strong and improving student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity. Applications went to a diverse selection committee of 16 higher education experts who reviewed extensive data and application narratives. Next, the committee will review interviews with leadership teams and narrow this selection of 25 semifinalists to 10 finalists, to be announced in early June 2022.

After 10 finalists are announced, next steps include:

Fall 2022: Multiday site visits to each of the 10 finalists, when teams of experts collect even more student outcome data and gather insights about effective practices

Winter of 2023: A distinguished jury decides who wins the Aspen Prize, based on quantitative data and qualitative information from each of the 10 finalists

Late spring 2023: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner

The Aspen Prize is generously funded by Ascendium, the Joyce Foundation, JPMorgan, and the Kresge Foundation.

Two SFSC students named to 2022 All-Florida Academic Team

Special to Highlands News-Sun Courtesy SFSC

Apr 28, 2022

AVON PARK — The Florida College System (FCS) has named two South Florida State College (SFSC) students to the 2022 All-Florida Academic Team.

Each year, the FCS names a Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Florida Academic Team to honor students enrolled at Florida's public state and community colleges for their academic achievement, leadership, and service to the community.

The SFSC students earning this recognition are Carol Mitchell and Alyson Smyth. They join 144 of their peers from the 28-member FCS in being named to the academic team.

This year's team of students were recognized at the annual college awards Thursday, March 31, and during an induction ceremony held at the Florida College System Chancellor's Celebration in Orlando on Friday, April 1.

Mitchell, of Sebring, is a student in the Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse (LPN to RN) program. She anticipates graduating from SFSC in May 2023. Her plans are to continue her nursing education through the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at SFSC and, ultimately, become a nurse practitioner. She is the first person in her family to attend college, works as a lab tutor for the College's Anatomy & Physiology classes, and is vice president of the Tau Epsilon chapter of PTK. Mitchell has also presented her undergraduate research on "Myxomatous Mitral Valve Degeneration with Secondary Congestive Heart Failure" at various professional and student scientific conferences across the country.

Smyth, of Sebring, will graduate from SFSC with her Associate in Arts at Commencement on Tuesday, May 10. She plans to continue her studies in biology at Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall and would like to, eventually, attend medical school. Smyth has also been involved in undergraduate research at SFSC and has made presentations on "Platelet-Rich Plasma Therapy: An Underutilized Option for Healing Collegiate Athletes" at professional and student scientific conferences across the country.

Students named to the All-Florida Academic Team were drawn from SFSC's Honors Program and the College's Tau Epsilon chapter of PTK. In nominating students for the All-Florida Academic Team, colleges consider participation in academic honors programs, membership in and awards from collegiate societies, and academic enrichment gained from internships and special projects.

PTK is an honor society that recognizes the academic achievements of community and state college students and helps them to grow as scholars and leaders. The society is made up of over 3.5 million members in the United States and 10 additional nations. For more on PTK, visit ptk.org.

For more information about SFSC's PTK chapter, contact Rene LaDue, PTK advisor, at 863-784-7327.