



# Workforce Education



Florida SouthWestern State College is committed to supporting the workforce needs of Southwest Florida. Through relevant and challenging coursework, FSW equips students with the skills and education needed to thrive in today's workforce.

September 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of FSW's Workforce Education Newsletter as we kick off another exciting academic year! Students are back in force, with approximately 14,000 students are enrolled in courses this fall at FSW.

As we welcome new students to campus, we're thrilled to celebrate the successes of our graduates as they strengthen the workforce of southwest Florida. Additionally, we take a moment to celebrate the achievements of students, alums, and program accolades earned over the summer.

Furthermore, we're excited to highlight the growth and development of the Division of Workforce at FSW to include a new structure and the addition of talented employees.

FSW is committed to transforming lives through education and strengthening our community by preparing individuals for meaningful and rewarding careers. Join us on this exciting path toward excellence in workforce education at FSW.

Scholarships Available for Workforce Programs!



See details on page 9

[FSW.edu/Workforce/Funding](https://www.fsw.edu/Workforce/Funding)

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## Strengthening Southwest Florida's Workforce

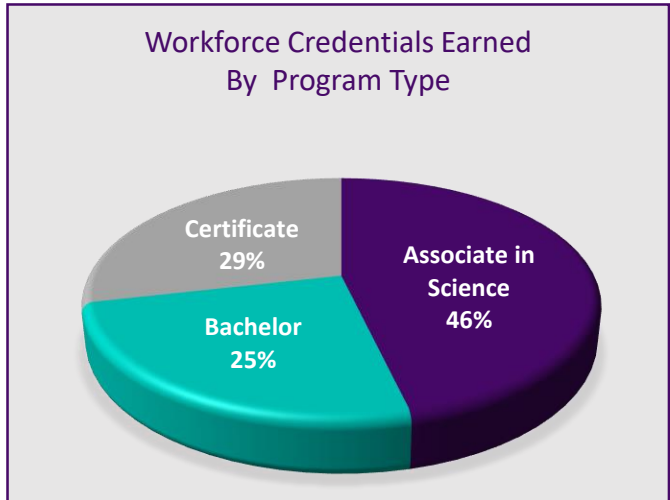
At Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), we take pride in our commitment to educating and empowering thousands of students each academic year. Our profound impact on our local community sets us apart. Remarkably, 90% of FSW graduates choose to remain right here in southwest Florida, becoming the backbone of our region's workforce.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, we celebrated the achievements of over 40% of our graduates who earned in-demand workforce credentials. Among them, 1092 individuals have emerged as key contributors, serving in critical fields, including education, emergency medical services, health, technology, and more. FSW is thrilled to champion these graduates who are not only shaping their own futures but also positively impacting the future of our community.

### Top 5

Workforce Programs With the Highest # Of Graduates

-  Nursing
-  Emergency Medical Technician
-  Supervision & Management
-  Fire Fighter
-  Elementary Education



School of Education graduates earn top honors as Golden Apple and Teacher of the Year award winners in Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties.



FSW's School of Education prepares a legion of dedicated educators for our five-county region, with 96% of this year's Bachelor of Elementary Education graduates choosing to stay and teach in southwest Florida. FSW produces top-performing, award-winning professionals who excel in their craft and demonstrate an abundance of dedication in the region. This year, four of our five counties recognized this excellence by awarding two Golden Apple Awards and two Teacher of the Year Awards to FSW alums. We are proud of each FSW graduate making a difference in the field of education, and we are excited to share in celebrating FSW alums earning top awards this year.

### 2023 Golden Apple & Teacher of the Year Award Winners

#### Collier County Golden Apple Winner



**Michael Gonzalez**

#### Glades County Teacher of the Year



**Shelby Connell**

#### Hendry County Teacher of the Year



**Jennifer Kingman**

#### Lee County Golden Apple Winner



**Lindsay Maxell**

#### Finalists

Sandie Alviar - Eden Park Elementary  
Shannon Foley - Naples Park Elementary  
Danielle Hopkins - Littleton Elementary  
Aileen Volkers - Sabal Palm Elementary

#### Teachers of Distinction

Carly Burch - Tropic Isles Elementary  
Chelsea Chase - Bayshore Elementary  
Trevon Davis - Harns Marsh Elementary  
Ashley Nelson Estrada - Tortuga Preserve Elementary  
Colleen Herman - Oak Hammock Middle  
Brian Santimaw - Oak Hammock Middle  
Robyn Weber - Pelican Elementary



School of Education faculty and staff celebrate award winners and nominees at the Champions of Learning gala.



## A Super Start

On the bright and early morning of the first day of school, our dedicated FSW School of Education students, led by Dr. Rollins, teamed up with United Way to participate in a superhero-inspired welcome at Colonial Elementary School in Fort Myers. Colonial, a school serving a community with significant socio-economic needs, was the perfect setting to uplift and empower these young students, igniting their motivation for a successful start to the school year.

## Championing Cybersecurity: FSW & Lee County School District's Successful Cyber Camp and Competition

In partnership with the Lee County School District, FSW's School of Business and Technology hosted a five-day cyber camp. Students attending the camp were introduced to cybersecurity, ethics related to cybersecurity, Windows, Linux, and Ubuntu. The culminating activity was a national cyber competition. The winning group finished among the top 12% in the nation. The top team was led by Mr. Dan Trembley, a technology teacher at Dunbar High School, and Mr. Joe Goldstein, owner of OCS-IT security. This event was possible due to support from the Rist Cyber Institute and FSW Foundation.



## Honoring Achievement: New Members Join FSW's Lambda Nu Honor Society

This summer, Dr. Lena Scott, Program Director of Cardiovascular Technology, proudly inducted two exceptional individuals, Lindsay Orozco-Diaz and Danielle Wuss, into the ranks of FSW's Zeta Sigma chapter of Lambda Nu. Their devotion to the pursuit of knowledge and commitment to the radiologic and imaging sciences have earned them this honor. The Lambda Nu Honors Society recognizes excellence, shining a light on students whose commitment to exemplary scholarship and academic achievement.



# Celebrating Excellence: FSW's Respiratory Care Program Receives Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award

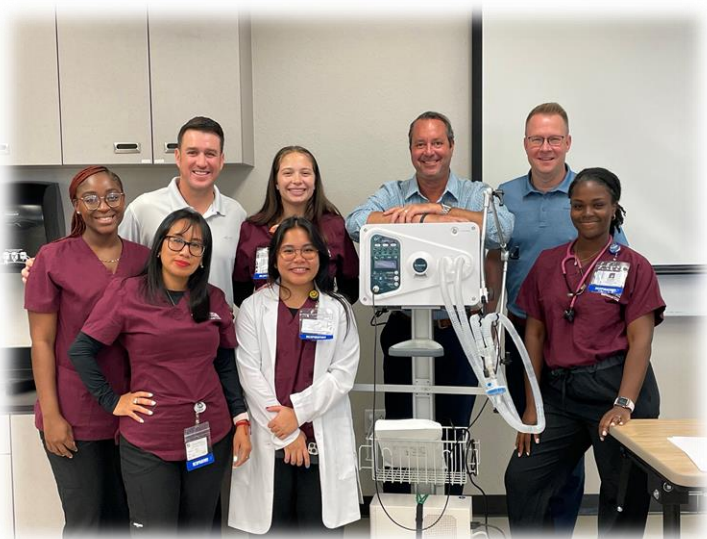
FSW's Respiratory Care AS Program earned top honors by receiving the Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). This prestigious accolade underscores the exceptional quality of FSW's program and the remarkable professional accomplishments of its graduates. Heartfelt congratulations to Program Director Jean Newberry, the committed faculty, and all the accomplished graduates who made this achievement possible.



Program Director Jean Newberry and first year Respiratory Care students with FSW's CoARC award

## A Breath of Opportunity: CorVent Medical's Ventilator Gift to FSW's Respiratory Care Program

CorVent Medical donated a ventilator to FSW's Respiratory Care Program and engaged with both the first and second year students to discuss mechanical ventilation on their first day of class. Thanks to CorVent representatives James Jake, VP of Sales and Marketing, Todd Burke, Area Vice President, and Joe Lewis.



# Elevating Opportunities: FSW's Investment in Workforce Education

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) is committed to transforming lives and strengthening communities through education. Our Division of Workforce Education is at the forefront of this mission, dedicated to equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in today's dynamic job market. The organizational structure for FSW's Division of Workforce Education is below.

## Workforce Education

Organizational Structure



**Dr. Jeff Allbritten**  
President



**Dr. Judith Bilsky**  
Vice President, Academic Affairs



**Whitney Rhyme**  
Assistant Vice President, Workforce Education



**Nikole Wilhide**  
Program Specialist  
Workforce Education



**Amanda Lehrian**  
Director, Planning  
Workforce Programs

Career Coordinator  
Lee & Charlotte  
*Anticipated start October, 2023*



**Kimberly Stilwell**  
Director, Corporate and  
Community Education



**Rachel Bussell**  
Director, Workforce  
Scholarships & Recruitment

Career Coordinator  
Collier & Hendry/Glades  
*Anticipated start October, 2023*



**Joshua Taylor**  
Program Specialist,  
Corporate and  
Community Education



**Adrian Sanchez**  
Workforce Education  
Recruiter  
Lee & Charlotte

Internship Coordinator  
*Anticipated start November, 2023*

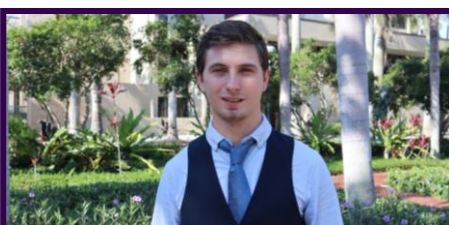
Workforce Education Recruiter  
Collier & Hendry/Glades  
*Anticipated start October, 2023*

## Welcoming Our Newest Team Members to FSW



**Kimberly Stilwell**  
Director  
Corporate and Community  
Education  
[Kimberly.Stilwell@fsw.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Stilwell@fsw.edu)

Kimberly holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master's in Curriculum & Instruction. Kimberly brings twenty years of experience to the position.



**Joshua Taylor**  
Program Specialist  
Corporate and Community  
Education  
[Joshua.Taylor@fsw.edu](mailto:Joshua.Taylor@fsw.edu)

Joshua earned his AA degree from FSW and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from FGCU.



**Nikole Wilhide**  
Program Specialist  
Workforce Education  
[Nikole.Wilhide@fsw.edu](mailto:Nikole.Wilhide@fsw.edu)

Nikole holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Psychology and Criminology from the University of South Florida. Nikole brings five years of experience in education to the position.

# FSW Launches New Career Connection Lecture Series

The Career Connection Lecture Series at FSW connects students with local professions, business, and community leaders. The schedule for the fall semester is below and features experts from numerous industries, including forensic science, business, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, criminal justice, health, science, and education. The series is free and open to students and community members.

FSW's Division of Workforce Education  
Presents the Fall 2023

## Career Connection Lecture Series



### Tackling Challenges in Forensic Science

Monday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m.  
Lee Campus: Building AA Room 177



#### Priscilla Doyle

Senior Forensic Death Investigator  
District 21 Medical Examiner's Office

### Vision to Venture: Gaining Entrepreneurial Insights

Wednesday, September 27 at Noon  
Lee Campus: Building AA Room 177



#### Susan Frantz

Founder & CEO  
Frantz Marketing  
Solutions



#### Lafe Flynn

Owner  
1923 Trading Co.



#### Stefani Gutierrez

CEO & President  
Spot On Performance

### Guardians of the Byte:

#### Insights From Cybersecurity Experts

Wednesday, October 4 at 4:30 p.m.  
Lee Campus: Building U Room 102



#### Jason Dudley

CIO & Vice President  
IT and Digital  
Strategies FSW



#### Lee Noriega

COO & Co-Founder  
Inceptus

### Inspired Insights From FSW President

Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m.  
Lee Campus: Building U Room 102



#### Dr. Jeffery Allbritten

FSW President

### Behind the Badge: Career Connections with Lee County Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, October 18 at 1:30 p.m.  
Lee Campus: Building U Room 102



#### Jean Neal

Sergeant



#### Heather Turco

Crime Prevention

### Healing Horizons: Exploring Careers with Lee Health

Wednesday, November 1 at 10:00 a.m.  
Lee Campus: Building U Room 102



#### Michael Wukitsch

Chief People Officer



#### Jennifer Thayer

Workforce Planning

### Crafting Scientific Success:

#### Inside the Lab with NeoGenomics

Tuesday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m.  
Lee Campus: Building U Room 102  
Ben Sylvia, NeoGenomics



# FSW Launches New Stackable Credentials, Funding Opportunities, and Career Connection Center Webpages

## Stackable Credentials Webpage

Students at FSW can stack credentials, embedding industry certifications and courses which support state licensure or skill development into their program of study. The stackable credential webpage features badges and shows stackable credential pathways featured in previous workforce education newsletters. Visit <https://www.fsw.edu/workforce/stackable> for detailed information.



## Workforce Education Funding Opportunities

Students and community members are encouraged to apply for the many workforce funding opportunities available at FSW. These grants and scholarships support students in gaining skills and credentials to enhance their employment prospects. Details are available at <https://www.fsw.edu/workforce/funding>.



## Career Connection Center



The Career Connection Center is where you'll find the support and tools to turn your aspirations into reality. Visit our webpage at [www.fsw.edu/careers](http://www.fsw.edu/careers) for resources on career exploration, career development, and opportunities to connect to careers. We look forward to our official grand opening and ribbon cutting later this fall.



FSW Career Connection Center



# Student Scholarship Opportunities for Workforce Programs

Students and community members are encouraged to apply for these grants and opportunities.

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



Lee County's Economic Development Office awarded FSW \$1 million providing funding for select credit and non-credit workforce programs offered at FSW. Lee County residents who enroll into ARPA-eligible programs may qualify for funding to cover in-state tuition and fees.

## Open Door Grant



FSW received Open Door Grant funding through the Florida Department of Education. These funds will help students fast-track their success in a short-term career and technical education program.

## Transforming SWFL 2025 Grant



FSW was awarded \$125,000 from the Lee County Industrial Development Authority and \$100,000 from the Elsa and Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation. These funds support residents in earning postsecondary credentials to enhance their skillsets and meet the workforce needs of Southwest Florida.

## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)



FSW was awarded \$1.98 million for its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant proposal to provide residents of Southwest Florida an expanded pathway to multiple in-demand industry certificates. Certificates include AutoCAD, Microsoft Office Word, PowerPoint, and Excel Associate, Microsoft Excel Expert, CompTIA A+, CompTIA A++, CompTIA Linux +, CompTIA Network+, and CompTIA Security+. Participants will be supported through enhanced coursework, supplemental certification boot camps, and personalized advising.

### ARPA Programs

- 11 CCCs and AS programs in FSW's School of Business and Technology
- EMT, CCC offered in FSW's School of Health Professions
- Several programs offered through FSW's Corporate and Community Education Office

Visit [www.fsw.edu/arpa](http://www.fsw.edu/arpa) for complete list and details

### Open Door Programs

Visit [www.fsw.edu/opendoor](http://www.fsw.edu/opendoor) for details

### Transforming SWFL Supports:

- [GED Pathway Program](#)
- Second Look
- Last Mile & Gap Funding
- Workforce Pathways

### WIOA Programs

- [Information Technology Support Specialist, CCC](#)
- [Network Security, CCC](#)
- [Cybersecurity, AS](#)
- [Network Systems AS](#)
- [Architectural Design and Construction Technology, AS](#)

[www.fsw.edu/WIOA](http://www.fsw.edu/WIOA)

Use the URLs provided to learn more about each grant or program.

Email [Opportunity@fsw.edu](mailto:Opportunity@fsw.edu) with any questions.