

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Welcome to 2017, we are ready to start off another great year at DLSS! Before we begin a new year, I want to take a minute to say thank you for helping us have such an amazing 2016. As an organization, we achieved many successes, which would not have been possible without your support.

Our first newsletter of 2017 is filled with our successes

from the past year and what you have to look forward to in the coming year. The project I am most excited about is our new [website](#). With its new look and feel, we will be able to keep you up-to-date with the latest information! We have set aside a section of the website just for research and an Administrator Toolkit in the resources area. In January, an ID network will be added to the Colleges and Universities Navigation areas.

I hope you enjoy reading our new quarterly newsletter below.

Best Wishes,

John H. Opper, Jr.

Executive Director, Distance Learning & Student Services

Florida Virtual Campus



The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) is funding the development of the first year of TOPkit.

TOPkit will be a

comprehensive set of resources that contain the essential elements required to build or revise a high quality online faculty development program coupled with an online community of practice for ongoing support from colleagues in the field of online faculty development. TOPkit will be available to Florida higher education institutions.

If you would like to be involved in the process of building this community of practice, sign-up for TOPkit Digest [here](#). Be sure to join TOPkit's first workshop on March 22-23, 2017. The two-day workshop will be held at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The deadline to register is March 15, 2017.

To register or learn more click [here](#).

Residency & Dual Enrollment Statewide Effort

This past May, the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) hosted a *Student Services of the Future Workgroup* in Tallahassee. During this workgroup meeting FLVC discussed ways to serve the needs of its institutions. The two topics that spurred the most interest, were in the development of a residency validation application and automating the processing of dual enrollment student admissions.

By leveraging the lessons learned through the automated transient student admissions process and extending the existing technological infrastructure, FLVC can provide a streamlined, automated process for the admission of high school dual enrollment students. Such a program can clarify the varied requirements across the many institutions involved, streamline the current paper-based process and significantly reduce the workload on secondary and postsecondary advising and admissions staff.

The Florida Virtual Campus can leverage existing web-based submission procedures and further streamline the process in support of both students and institutions by linking to state level databases to validate Florida residency for a majority of students. The results of the automated validation process would be provided to a student's college or university for final review and approval. The automated process envisioned would be able to address the bulk of such submissions thus providing a more immediate response to student queries, a reduction in the workload of college and university staff and the opportunity to speed the admissions decision process.



In an effort to promote The Orange Grove as the definitive statewide shared resource repository for all Florida institutions to exchange content, FLVC is enhancing and

expanding the Online Learning Resource Repository (OG). The update will address the Task Force on Postsecondary Online Education, DLSS Member Council and SUS Chancellor key initiatives and workgroups. This update will create an effective best practices collection, training modules, incorporate Complete Florida Institutions, and much more!

The Florida Virtual Campus is also developing webpages dedicated to Student information, Faculty & Staff information, and Training. The Student information will host definitions of OER, open textbooks, resources, how to locate OER and zero costs resources and an FAQ, and more. The Faculty & Staff information will highlight institutional & Complete Florida OER initiatives, highlight OER in Florida (news success stories, etc.), and Create and populate a best practices collection. Finally, the Trainings will create learning modules for OER & copyright.



Personalized Enhancements

New personalization features are being added to the online catalog (under Succeed in College, Learn Online). The personalization of the FloridaShines website enables a student to receive alerts, see their institution, view competencies for foreign language, Gordon Rule Requirements, and General Education Requirement as well as their status in a checklist. The new features allow for:

- Institution branding;
- A personalized welcome;
- Complete Florida display with logo and program name for participating information; and
- Student information including name, major, complete courses, cumulative GPA, test score and more!

The enhancement of this service is underway now, with an expected implementation scheduled for Spring 2017.

Program Upload Enhancement

This project will enhance the Degree and Program search functionalities in the Institution Profiles and the Online Degree and Program Catalog by providing students with a single, robust degree and program search with filtering capabilities for new data elements, as identified by statute and/or Board of Governors (BOG) and the Florida College System (FCS) (e.g., Online, Blended, OER/Zero-Instructional Cost). Validation, reporting, administrative functions and documentation, and marketing and training materials will also be included in the scope of this project. In addition, the BOG requests that FLVC's degree and program search explore the potential to utilizing "fully online program" and "primarily online program" and to provide a comparison report on institution programs and degrees available in the FLVC application and the BOG for state auditing purposes. The most efficient way to address this BOG request is to provide students with a single, robust degree and program search with filtering capabilities for the new data elements.

The Florida Virtual Campus is currently in discussions with the BOG and the FCS to address any system level enhancements needing to be implemented.



2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey Report

The [2016 Survey Report](#) is the third in a series from 2010 through 2016 that sheds light on the impact high textbook costs have on college affordability, as well as college success and completion. The results of the Report have been analyzed, and the executive summary with key findings, full report, and [infographic](#) are posted online. Survey participation and interest has continued to increase from 14,000 participants in 2010 to over 22,000 participants in 2016. [Feedback](#) says this is some of the best work in years around the cost of textbooks.

We greatly appreciate the assistance and support of the Florida Board of Governors and the Florida College System for this research effort, and Florida's public institutions for taking part in this study.

2017 FLVC Symposium

"Navigation State Authorization: A Florida Workshop"

This year's symposium will provide the latest information on state authorization, operating under SARA, and the procedures that institutions need to understand to move forward in 2017. This information is vital for anyone involved in understanding the regulatory environment or administering educational programs offered across state lines, including Department Chairs, Deans, Provosts, Online Learning Administrators, and General Counselors.

Presenters include:

- **Marshal Hill**, Executive Director, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
- **Mary Larson**, Director, Student Access Programs and Services, Southern Regional Education Board
- **Russ Poulin**, Director for Policy and Analysis, WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
- **Jeannie Yockey-Fine**, Senior Advisor for State Regulatory Services, Cooley LLP

As online programs have grown and reached beyond state boundaries the regulatory environment has become more complex. In many states, traditionally there have been few prohibitions for colleges and universities offering instruction over the Internet however with the increased concern in recent years over state authorization requirements the picture has become quite complex. In order to address the difficulties presented by the complex web of requirements imposed by each state, a national state authorization reciprocity agreement was established. Currently, more than 40 states are members of SARA and Florida is exploring joining this growing body. The Florida Virtual Campus has assembled the best resources available to answer your questions and help you chart a course during 2017 through the state authorization process.

Join us February 2-3, 2017, in St Petersburg for this intensive, practical learning experience with representatives from the National Council, the Southern Regional Education Board, the Western Cooperative for Educational Technology and colleagues from across the state. Register [here](#) to attend the Symposium.



FloridaShines, Florida's student hub of innovative educational services, hosted its first Virtual College Night on Nov. 16 – 17, 2016. Representatives from the Florida College System, State University System, Florida Department of Education and others presented live during the two-day event. By the numbers, this event featured 2 days, 6 sessions and over 15 higher education experts in postsecondary opportunities in Florida. A total of 230 schools, districts, counties, institutions, and state organizations were represented, and over a thousand Florida parents, students and counselors registered for the event. The Virtual College Night hosted presentations on preparing for college, including where to go, what degree to earn, and how to pay for it without breaking the bank. Recordings of the presentations along with materials shared are posted on the [FloridaShines website!](#)

Stay tuned for information on the next Virtual College Week, coming April 2017.

New Statewide Agreements

In 2016, The DLSS Members Council voted to pursue two statewide agreements: Closed Captioning and Proctored Testing. The Proctored Testing agreement is scheduled to be in place for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

In addition, membership to the WCET State Authorization Network is being finalized through June 30, 2017. This will allow participation on monthly coordinator calls and attendance at the fall annual meeting. Access to this information allows member institutions to navigate the state regulations processes more efficiently than working on their own. This membership provides research reports, reciprocity advice, state advocacy, access to training webcasts and collaboration across the country to ensure compliance with authorization regulations.

3D Printing Content

FloridaShines recently hosted a 3-D printing contest, open to any student in Florida, whether in a K-12 school, college or university. Winners will be announced at the Future of Education Technology Conference in late January. For more information, visit <https://www.floridashines.org/3d>.

2016 Outreach

February 25, 2016: Webinar, Exploring Florida Shines – Career & Education Resource Tools

May 17 – 18, 2016: Student Services of the Future Workgroup in Tallahassee, FL

June 19 – 23, 2016: 8th Annual Florida Higher Education Summit in Orlando, FL

July 24 – 27, 2016: Annual FACTE Conference in Orlando, FL

August 30, 2016: SUS Tour at Florida International University

August 31, 2016: SUS Tour at Florida Atlantic University

September 1, 2016: SUS Tour at Florida Gulf Coast University

September 2, 2016: SUS Tour at University of South Florida

September 7, 2016: SUS Tour at Florida State University, Panama City

September 8, 2016: SUS Tour at University of North Florida

September 9, 2016: SUS Tour at University of Central Florida

September 21 – 23, 2016: FCRAO Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach, FL

October 12 – 14, 2016: WCET's 28th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN to share the [2016 Survey Report](#)

October 27 – 29, 2016: Florida School Counselor Association Convention in Orlando, FL

December 7, 2016: Webinar, at OpenU (UK) to share the [2016 Survey Report](#)



FloridaShines will once again attend the Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) in Orlando January 24-27, 2017. Staff will share information about the services available through FloridaShines, placing an emphasis on K12 due to the audience of the FETC attendees.

Be sure to visit our booth, 2035, on the main aisle in the Exhibit Hall!