

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Our office is making the most of 2017! We are off to a busy start finding ways to make our services easier for you to use and even more useful. In this newsletter, you will find information on new surveys designed to improve the use of Open Educational Resources, website enhancements focused on user experience and usability and finding

opportunities to meet and discuss new, exciting topics.

Sincerely,

John H. Oppen, Jr.

*Executive Director, Distance Learning & Student Services
Florida Virtual Campus*

Website Enhancements

Catalog Program Enhancement

FLVC is in the process of updating the Catalog Program feature on the FloridaShines website. Features of this enhancement will provide students with a single, robust degree and program search with filtering capabilities for the new instruction definitions (fully distance learning, primarily distance learning, hybrid and primarily classroom); updated validation, reporting, administrative functions and documentation; and the degree and program search will use the same data element names and definitions as defined by the Board of Governors and Department of Education.

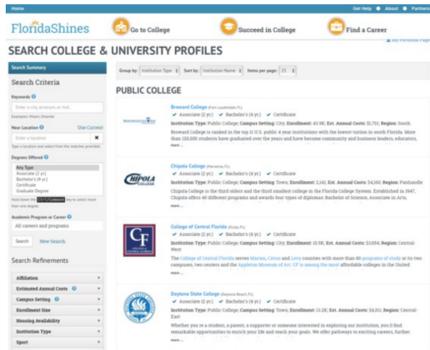
Personalized Page Enhancements

FloridaShines is excited to release a new personalized dashboard that will include: institution branding; a personalized welcome; and student information (name, completed courses, test scores, progress towards graduation, and core competencies met). Best of all, the new enhancement will allow for mobile access. The new features are scheduled to be released this summer.



Career and Technical Search Feature

The Career & Technical Institutional Profile and Program enhancements will add searching for the career and technical centers to the institution profiles as well as the ability to search for the career and technical center programs. Updated validation, reporting, administrative functions, and documentation, as well as marketing and training materials, will also be included in this enhancement.



What's New

MyCareerShines

A service of FloridaShines

MyCareerShines is Florida's comprehensive education and career planning system for students and job seekers. With MyCareerShines, Floridians can assess their interests and skills, explore careers, plan their education and prepare for work. MyCareerShines is currently being used in middle schools, high schools, and post-secondary institutions across the state. Recently, we updated the system so that it is fully available in Spanish.

The next phase of enhancements for MyCareerShines will include:

- The Student Services team is working closely with the Florida College System to incorporate Florida's meta-majors in the MyCareerShines system for postsecondary students. This will provide students with personalized recommended meta-majors based on their assessment results.
- MyCareerShines will expand its reach to K-5 students next year with Galaxy. We have partnered with TEQGames at Universal to design the system specifically for the audience.

Training for MyCareerShines is available through the [training center](#). The [MyCareerShines Partner Portal](#) offers several resources with the latest [informational materials](#), a [learning center](#) filled with training videos and FAQs, and even a way to request training through the [Training Portal](#). You can also join any of the live virtual training sessions offered by the system, the calendar of training events is located [here](#).

Residency Validation & Dual Enrollment Statewide Systems

By leveraging the lessons learned through the automated transient student admissions process and extending the existing technological infrastructure, FLVC is committed to providing 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. Currently, the FloridaShines Statewide Dual Enrollment team has been working to gather feedback from high schools, colleges, and universities, to draft a report outlining the concept for this statewide project.

FLVC would also like to leverage existing web-based submission procedures and further streamline the dual enrollment process in support of both students and institutions by linking to state level databases to validate Florida residency for a majority of students. The FloridaShines Statewide Residency Validation team has been working for the past few months to gather feedback from colleges, and universities, to draft a report outlining the concept to streamline the dual enrollment process in Florida. 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 inquiries, a reduction in the workload of college and university staff and the opportunity to speed the admissions decision process.

To get a copy of the FloridaShines Statewide Dual Enrollment draft report or the FloridaShines Statewide Residency Validation draft report, learn more, or join the effort, please e-mail Nashla Dawahre at ndawahre@flvc.org

Transient Student Admissions Application

FloridaShines provides a fully online Transient Student Admissions Application (TSAA) process, making it is easier than ever for Florida students to mix and match courses from across the state. Students can request approval to take a course at another institution, and transfer those credits back, to stay on track with graduation. It is easy to see the TSAA activity picking up, in January we had 3,630 applications create and by the end of April we had received 15,471 applications. It is great to see so many Florida students taking advantage of all their resource and staying on track with their education!



OER Summit

We are excited to host Florida's first Open Educational Resources Summit, Spetember 7 - 8 in beautiful Daytona Beach! Hear from Cable Green, director of Open Education and other national and campus leaders involved in defining and driving OER strategy and initiatives. Join OER thought leaders to discover the answers to:

What are the components of a sustainable OER program?

What are the elements of a successful faculty driven OER program?

What are the key concerns about the quality of open textbooks, and how to address them?

What is the return on investment for students and institutions?

For more information, visit www.flvc.org/OERSummit.



Library Open Educational Resources Survey

The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) recently conducting a survey of Library Members Council Representatives. The survey is designed to obtain information on current library initiatives and activities that support or promote the use of OER in online courses and librarians' perceptions of the effectiveness of those activities and their suggestions for future library involvement. The survey closed on April 28, 2017.

Survey results will support our work in promoting OER proliferation. Survey results will be included in our article in The Reference Librarian's special issue on OER, to be released later this year.



Virtual College Week

This past April, FloridaShines hosted a successful Virtual College Week. This series of college and career readiness webinars were similar to our Virtual College Night last fall, featured presentations from experts in the area of college preparation, admissions, financial aid and more. Representatives from the Florida College System, State University System, Florida Department of Education and others participated during the three-night event.

Overall, the event registered close to 1,000 participants and was sponsored by ACT, Kaltura, and Kuder.

FloridaShines will host a second Virtual College Night this fall, and it's not too early to submit your institution representatives as speakers for this event. Presentations from the 2017 Virtual College Week and 2016 Virtual College Night can be found online, <https://www.floridashines.org>.

For more information on how your institution can become involved, please e-mail us at collegenight@flvc.org.

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