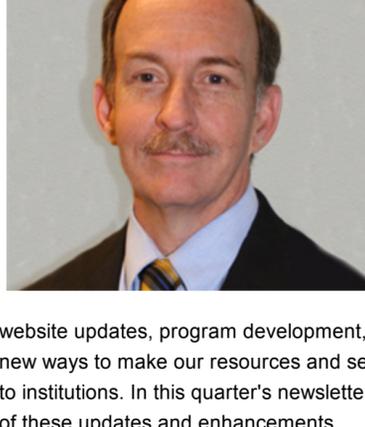


From the Desk of the Executive Director

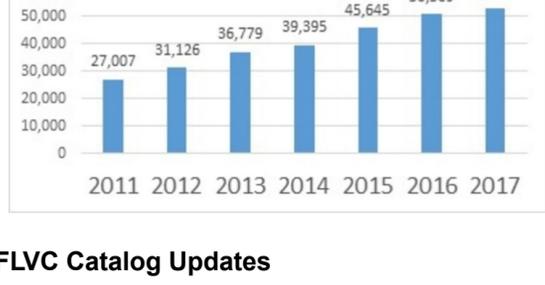


As the year is coming to a close, our office is still hard at work making the most of 2017. Our aim at DLSS has been to make our services and tools more accessible to all. Distance Learning and Student Services has seen several

website updates, program development, and we are finding new ways to make our resources and services more available to institutions. In this quarter's newsletter, we touch on a few of these updates and enhancements.

Sincerely,
John H Opper, Jr.
Executive Director, Distance Learning & Student Services
Florida Virtual Campus

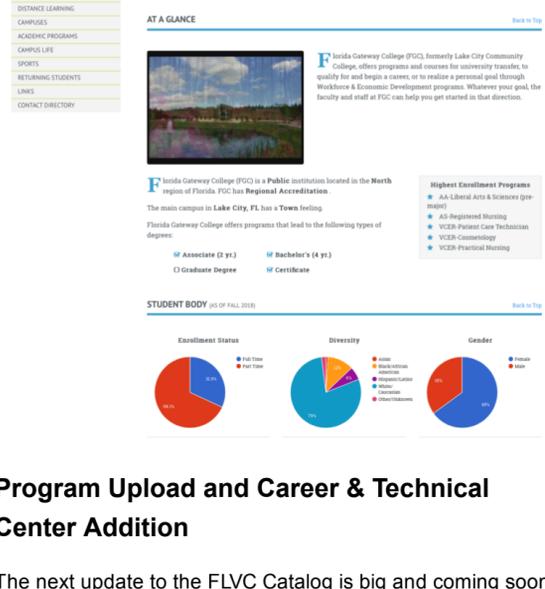
FLVC Updates



FLVC Catalog Updates

The FLVC Catalog, started many years ago, has now grown to include courses, programs, and institution profiles. With institutions continuing to update their offerings the Course Catalog is growing and recently opened for spring 2018. The spring 2018 course catalog currently offers more than 19,500 courses, the Program catalog lists 732 online programs offered by Florida's colleges and universities, and the Institution Profiles have all been updated.

The personal page, located in the Course Catalog, was recently enhanced to include a branded personalized dashboard that includes the institution branding and student information, such as name, major, completed courses, test scores, etc. using existing student services CourseList functionality. Enhancements were based on user and staff requests.



Program Upload and Career & Technical Center Addition

The next update to the FLVC Catalog is big and coming soon! This update will incorporate ALL programs to the Catalog removing the restriction of distance learning. The update will allow students to search all programs that are offered throughout Florida's Colleges and Universities. In addition, we are adding the Career & Technical Centers and their Programs. We will continue to work with the Department of Education Division of Colleges and Board of Governors on terminology and data throughout this project. To provide further input on the new features and functions, we will be forming a workgroup. Please contact Heather Thompson, hthompson@flvc.org, if you are interested.

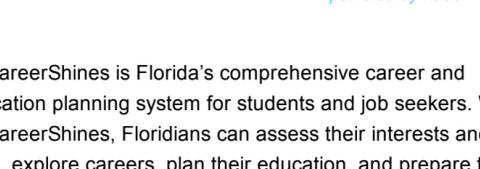
Contracting Site

The Distance Learning and Student Services Members Council will have a contracting site with features similar to FALSCs. The contracting site will include a database for finding state contracts procured, procurement documents, state statistics (e.g. FTE, etc.) utilized for contract procurement, and many other needed functions. The site is scheduled to be updated by summer 2018, although some features will be completed before then.

Research

Florida's 2018 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey will be conducted in March and April of 2018. The Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey was conducted by FLVC's office of Distance Learning and Student Services to assist education leaders and policymakers in understanding how textbook and course material costs are impacting student perceptions, academic decisions, progress, and perceived value of educational resources. The previous iteration of the survey, [Student Textbook and Course Material Survey - Results and Findings \(PDF\)](#) was conducted in 2016.

What's New



MyCareerShines is Florida's comprehensive career and education 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. This fall, MyCareerShines hosted a meeting with the members of the Project Advisory Council (PAC).

During the PAC meeting, the members learned about the progress of MyCareerShines, including its recent milestone of reaching 450,000 registered users, as well as marketing and outreach efforts. Furthermore, the PAC members discussed the future of MyCareerShines to support career and education pathways, serve additional Floridians, and support long-term district implementations and performance goals.

All PAC members will be receiving monthly communication with information related to progress, updates, and new partnerships. To learn more about the progress of MyCareerShines, and its implementation, please visit the [timeline](#), and subscribe to the [MyCareerShines Newsletter](#).

FloridaShines Dual Enrollment Automated System

The FloridaShines Dual Enrollment Automated System continues to make significant progress towards the finalization of its concept, for the opt-in service. Since the summer, the workgroup has been gathering feedback from the Florida College Registrars and Admissions Officers annual meeting, Council of Student Affairs, Council of Instructional Affairs, FLVC Members Council and the Florida Association of Educational Data Systems. The workgroup also met with representatives from a number of counties and colleges across the state.

In the upcoming months, the workgroup will focus on:

- Addressing security questions and concerns
- Ensuring students are presented with relevant information related to advising, articulation agreements, program requirements and course options
- Simplifying the workflow and business process, to ensure this service is making it easier for staff, students, and parents
- Communicating to partner institutions and stakeholders this is an *opt-in system*, and its use or adoption is entirely voluntary for high school districts and post-secondary institutions.

We are closer to a final version of the concept, and we continue to make strides to ensure the system will meet the needs of those who choose to use it and implement it at their institution.

Transient Student Admissions Application

The Transient Student Admissions Application Agents can now benefit from the latest enhancements to the system. Agents are now able to **filter** and **sort** by letters of the alphabet to find their student applications quickly and easily. **Sorting** will help Agents work with specific applications, while **filtering** will help Agents see only the application they wish to know. These enhancements to the system will help Agents provide better assistance to students and help the application process go smoothly. For questions regarding these and future enhancements, contact Nashla Dawahre, ndawahre@flvc.org.

Academic Advisor	
BOC Students	Submitted
last, first	2014-10-19
StudentOne, FLVC Test	2017-03-10
StudentOne, FLVC Test	2017-05-18
StudentTwo, FLVC Test	2017-05-18

OER Summit

Due to Hurricane Irma, the Open Educational Resources (OER) Summit has been rescheduled for February 7-8, 2018. The new venue for the OER Summit is the Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Miramar Beach. The OER Summit speakers are available and excited to see us in February! A few highlights include, OER legislation and policy, successful OER models used to support implementation, support and sustaining of OER programs at higher education institutions across the country. More information will be coming soon to the [OER Summit website](#).



Virtual College Week

FloridaShines hosted another successful Virtual College Week, October 24-26, 2017. The purpose of the event was to provide an accessible statewide resource to learn about topics related to college and career exploration. The three-day event was filled with **11 sessions** connecting students, counselors, parents, and education administrators with **13 higher-education presenters** sharing their expertise. Representatives from the **Florida State University System, Florida College System, Career and Adult Education, Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Department of Education, Florida's Colleges and Universities.**

This year Virtual College Week had a record number attendees, with more than **200** schools, districts, counties, institutions, and state organizations represented. The event has more than doubled since its origination in Fall 2016. Recordings, all presentation materials, and handouts are available on the [FloridaShines website](#).

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to your participation in next year's event. To learn more about how you can be a part of the next event, email Ashley Thimmies at athimmies@flvc.org.



College & Career Planner

The 2017-2018 FloridaShines College and Career Planner is now available. Created to help students make informed decisions about their educational options, and find what best fits their needs. The College and Career Planner helps keep students on track by walking them through the many opportunities available and lays out the key information needed to make a great college and career plan.

To learn more about the College and Career Planner, and to see the new design, visit [FloridaShines.org](#).

Connect With Us on Social Media



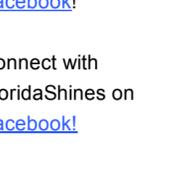
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