

Spring has sprung at DLSS and we are very excited about many of the projects that are coming from our team. The 2018 Textbook and Instructional Materials Survey is well underway across Florida's higher education institutions. The goal of this survey is to better understand textbook needs and experiences for Florida's student population. This April, FloridaShines is bringing a new, live, online, interactive webinar series to

Florida's high school juniors and seniors and their parents. The [FloridaShines College Success Series](#) will cover a wide range of topics, and provide the right information and tools to help parents and students understand the college process. In development now, for summer launch, is the Program Catalog Enhancement Project! These updates will include the program expansion for all deliver methods, as well as the inclusion of the Florida Technical Colleges and Centers.

With so many exciting projects in our future, DLSS is pleased with the work we have been providing and look forward to better serving the higher education needs throughout the state of Florida. Be on the lookout for more exciting news from our team over the next few months.

Sincerely,

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

2018 Textbook and Instructional Materials Survey

The 2018 Textbook and Instructional Materials Survey is well underway, with the third iteration of the nationally recognized Student Textbook and Instructional Costs Survey, conducted by Florida Virtual Campus. The survey is open to students **Thursday, March 1 until Monday, April 30**. Each of the institutions will determine the weeks in which the survey will be available on their campus.

The invitations to participate have been emailed to all of Florida's public higher education institutions by the Florida College System and State University System representatives. The goal of the student survey is to learn from our students, through recent personal experiences, regarding acquiring textbooks, the impact of textbook and instructional materials costs have on their success, completion, time to degree, and the study aids they find the most beneficial to their learning. The [2016 report](#) and [infographic](#) are available on the DLSS website. For any questions regarding the Textbook Survey, please contact [Dr. Robin Donaldson](#).

Exciting FloridaShines News



FLVC is working to bring Florida Polytechnic University online with FloridaShines services, starting with the Transient Student Admissions Applications.

- Phase I: Students from Florida POLY, will be able to submit Transient Student Admissions Applications, and take courses at another school.
- Phase II: Florida POLY will be able also to accept Transient Student Admissions Applications, and host students from other institutions in the state.

We are excited to welcome POLY to FloridaShines, to provide these services and support Florida's students.

MyCareerShines PAC Meeting



FLVC hosted the MyCareerShines Project Advisory Council in Tallahassee on March 22, 2018. This council has representation from K-12, colleges, universities and workforce professionals. During the meeting the council will discuss the current progress to date and the next steps of MyCareerShines. We are thankful for the continued commitment to Florida's future workforce and looking forward to what's to come.

Common Prerequisite Manual Enhancement Project

The Florida Virtual Campus is partnering with the State University System, the Florida College System and the Office of Articulation in the Department of Education, to implement user-centered enhancements to the Common Prerequisite Manual. This project addresses the requested enhancements of a legislative mandate:

"Serve as the official statewide repository for the common prerequisite manual, admissions information for transferring programs, foreign language requirements, residency requirements, and statewide articulation agreements." (s. 1006.735 (4) (b) (5)).

- Enhancing the design to provide a **user-friendly interface**
- Adding **search and reporting** functionality for the manuals
- Adding a robust database (and its linkages to other databases of record), which includes the process for converting the current data source to the new database format
- Adding Administrative access and the automation of the approval workflow (which allows for changes within the manual)

Program Catalog Enhancement Update

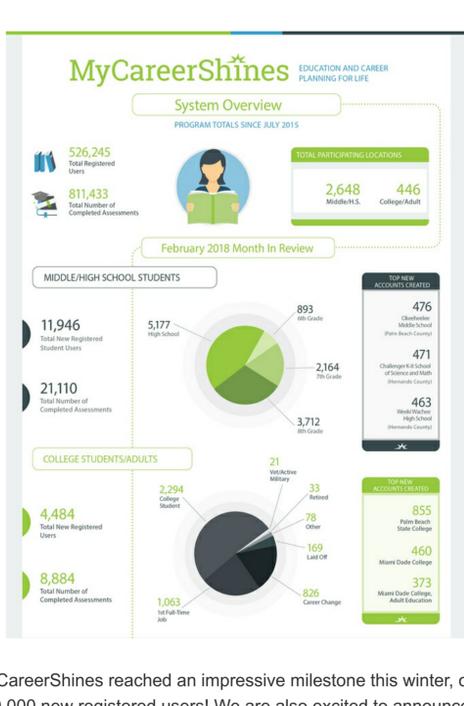
This exciting project is moving along successfully despite its large scope! Sprint 1 development has completed and is in testing. Sprint 1 incorporated the full range of our College and University Programs using the four delivery methods defined by the Florida Board of Governors: All Distance Learning (100%), Primarily Distance Learning (80-99%), Hybrid Blend (50-79%), and Primarily Classroom (<50%).

Sprint 2 is in development now to incorporate the Florida Technical Colleges and Centers as well as their program listings! This new offering will allow students to search for Florida Technical Colleges and Centers similar to the Institution Profile Search currently available for our Florida Colleges and Universities. In addition, there will now be a statewide searchable program listing for the Florida Technical Colleges and Centers! This new service will not only assist students and the Technical Colleges and Centers but also the Division of Career and Adult Education.

Sprint 3 will begin in April to wrap up some of the project scope and update documentation before the updates will move to production and opened for upload.

When all three Sprints are completed, the updates will be moved to production and new program upload can begin, using new program files of all delivery methods. More detailed information on those updates and how we will assist our institutions with the changes will be coming soon!

MyCareerShines Updates



MyCareerShines reached an impressive milestone this winter, over 500,000 new registered users! We are also excited to announce a new partnership and collaboration opportunity with the Florida Career Readiness Research Alliance, to continue to spread the word and make MyCareerShines accessible around the state.

MyCareerShines has incorporated additional Florida-specific resources including:

- Plan for Education: allowing students to learn more about apprenticeships in Florida
- Find a Job: giving users a direct link to a CareerSource near them

MyCareerShines was represented during the State University System Admissions Directors Tour at the University of South Florida, New College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University, University of North Florida, and the University of Central Florida with over 2,500 attendees. MyCareerShines was also represented at the Adult and Community Educators of Florida Fall Conference: A Clear Pathway for Student Success, in Orlando, Florida.

Site Updates

Testing Center Site

The Proctor Testing Website project is targeted for Phase 1 completion by the end of June 2018. Working along with the Proctoring and Resources Workgroup, we are finalizing the specifications list identifying the top priorities for the new website. The new website will be a user-friendly location for Proctoring Resources, FAQs, a Database of Institutional Proctoring Centers, Student Academic Integrity information, Faculty Resources, and Support.

Contracting Site

To meet the needs of our member institutions, FLVC will be creating a Contracting Website to share which statewide agreements, services, and contracts are available. Working with the Contracting and Shared Services Workgroup, FLVC is identifying the resources and needs to be addressed on the site. Phase 1 is scheduled for completion by the end of June 2018.



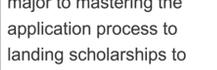
FLVC is excited to host the [FloridaShines College Success Series](#). The Series includes weekly webinars covering a range of topics focused on providing the information and tools your students need to know to get into the college of their dreams. This live, interactive online experience features experts who will help your students navigate college admission - from finding the right college to choosing the right major to mastering the application process to landing scholarships to achieving your degree.

Explore Meta-Majors- April 4th

Find My College- April 11th

Pay for School- April 18th

Discover your Career- April 25th



Training sessions for MyCareerShines now include direct contact with Faculty and Students to help facilitation and registration of the system, and increase direct contact with our users. This approach has now been adopted in south Florida (Broward County).



FLVC Blog

The Florida Virtual Campus is excited to announce the launch of our [new blog!](#) We encourage you to visit the FLVC Blog to explore new ways to think about higher education, technology, leadership, and so much more.

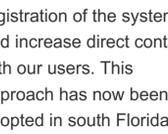
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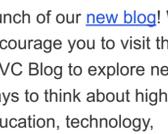


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