



# DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES

SUPPORTING THE LEARNING NEEDS OF FLORIDA STUDENTS

## A Golden Fall

Another Fall begins! Some have referred to the fall semester as a “golden fall” – which suggests the fun and happiness of a new year, football, cooler weather, and the early beginnings of the holiday season. And while many of us were, I am sure, hoping we would find ourselves a bit further beyond the COVID 19 scenarios we have been living with these past 18 months, it seems that we have a little farther to go before we can take that relaxing breath. In the meantime, we hope all are safe and well.

Distance Learning and Student Services enters the fall semester with a refreshed Florida Shines site thanks to the contributions of updated information from our colleges and universities as well as some new initiatives to spotlight that you can read about below. This will be a busy year with new regulations and legislation taking hold and perhaps some evolutionary steps in instruction and student support at the campus level. Certainly, two of the larger initiatives we are assisting involve the creation of a new workforce portal and a credential registry for

Florida. In addition, we are pleased to announce the addition of some new staff to our mix as a result of both filling some open positions and some internal FLVC reorganization. Look for additional information and a chance to meet them down the road a bit.



*John Opper, Ph.D.*

*Executive Director, FLVC Distance Learning & Student Services*

The DLSS Members Council Executive Committee just met to sketch out plans for upcoming meetings. Our first members council meeting will be virtual in the fall. Dates and tentative agenda topics will be sent out as soon.

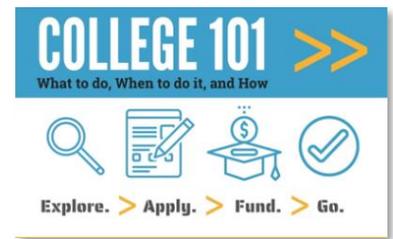
Please let us know of any specific issues or needs that you have in terms of services or information. We are always happy to assist in any way possible.

Welcome back!

Connect with the [Florida Virtual Campus](#) and [FloridaShines](#) on Facebook!  
Connect with the [Florida Virtual Campus](#), the [DLSS Members Council](#), and [FloridaShines](#) on Twitter!  
Connect with the o [Florida Virtual Campus](#) on LinkedIn!

## College 101 event scheduled for Sept. 20-23

**College 101: What to do, when to do it, and how**, a free series that will give students all the information they need to apply, pay for, and go to college will be held virtually Sept. 20-23. This statewide collaboration will feature four sessions held over four nights where students will learn about the multiple pathways to success in college, how to put their best foot forward on their college application, the three main ways to pay for college, and the steps they need to take in the summer so they can start the fall semester off strong. Each session will begin at 6 p.m. ET.

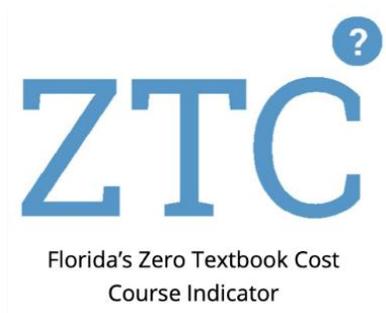


Event partners: AVID, Broward County Public Schools, Broward College, College UnMazed, FASFAA, Florida College Access Network, Florida Department of Education, Florida PTA, Florida School Counselor Association, FL TRIO, FloridaShines, Osceola County School District, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Path to College Fellowship, Polk County Public Schools, Take Stock in Children and Valencia College.

For more information on the schedule for College 101 and to register for this event, go to <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/get-ready-for-college/college-101-event>.

## Zero Textbook Cost Course Indicator Launches Statewide This Fall

Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) is launching the [Zero Textbook Cost \(ZTC\)](#) course indicator statewide in FloridaShines this fall. Students will be able to find this new ZTC indicator in the catalog letting them know that there are no textbook costs required with the associated course.



The Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course indicator will be a visible symbol within the catalog when the course section requires textbooks and other materials that have zero costs for students.

Each semester colleges and universities are invited to upload their online course offerings to the [FloridaShines Course Catalog](#). During the upload process, each institution may add the indicator to the sections that meet the state defined criteria for ZTC course indicators. While participation is voluntary, all public colleges and universities are encouraged to use the ZTC course indicator with any applicable course section.

Institutions that would like to know more about the addition of the ZTC course indicator are asked to contact the FLVC help desk at [help@flvc.org](mailto:help@flvc.org).

## ITN Awards Announced

The ITN 6224-6 for *FSU-FLVC Closed Captioning Services* Public Award Decision Meeting was held on August 23, 2021. The ITN committee met and agreed unanimously to award the following three providers:

- ACS AI-Media
- 3 Play Media
- Verbit

The contracts are being finalized through Florida State University and will be available as soon as the contracts are signed (all legal review is already complete).

## News from Florida Academic Success and Quality (FLASQ) Initiative

The [FLASQ](#) supports high quality design in courses and academic programs by providing access to resources, training and best practices as well as encouraging collaboration among faculty and staff for maximum student success.



## Florida Quality Matters Consortium (FLQMC)

Florida QM Consortium

[The Florida Quality Matters Consortium \(FLQMC\)](#) provides faculty and staff from participating institutions information and resources to promote quality course design and to build collaborative relationships and shared expertise through statewide collaboration.

According to a recent Quality Matters™ press release, educational leaders around the country confirmed that collaborative, collegial engagement and institutional culture of quality is key to achieving quality and access at-scale at QM's inaugural Presidents Summit on Learning Quality, which was held online in June.

The organization also observed an elevated commitment to online learning quality assurance goals and faculty professional development as well as the largest yearly increases ever in educational technology investment in 2020 and 2021 across all sectors of higher education, according to its recently released research report, [The Changing Landscape of Online Education \(CHLOE\) 2021](#).

## Next DLSS Members Council meeting scheduled

The DLSS Members Council will hold its next meeting on Oct. 12 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. ET. Connection details and a draft agenda will be coming soon.

# Florida Instructional Designer Network (FL-IDN)

Thanks to the support and partnership of the [Florida College System](#) (FCS), the [State University System of Florida](#) (SUS) and the [Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida](#) (ICUF), FLVC launched the [Florida Instructional Designer Network](#) in June. The IDN is a statewide professional development network and community of practice which supports instructional/learning designers, instructional/learning technologists, learning engineers and educators in Florida. The IDN sponsors professional development events and other collaborative opportunities to help the instructional design and technology professionals to:



- share research and best practices;
- gain the knowledge and skills to support faculty; and
- support student success.

Please join us in welcoming the IDN Advisory Committee members and thanking them for their willingness to serve!

Visit the [FL-IDN](#) website for resources and webinar recordings.



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