



# DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES

SUPPORTING THE LEARNING NEEDS OF FLORIDA STUDENTS

## A great meeting and a look ahead to Fall

Our recent Members Council meeting in Orlando was a wonderful opportunity to see everyone and to welcome new members after two years of pandemic restrictions. While we have all kept in touch online, the opportunity to talk face to face and have a dinner conversation was long overdue. Thank you to everyone for a great meeting!

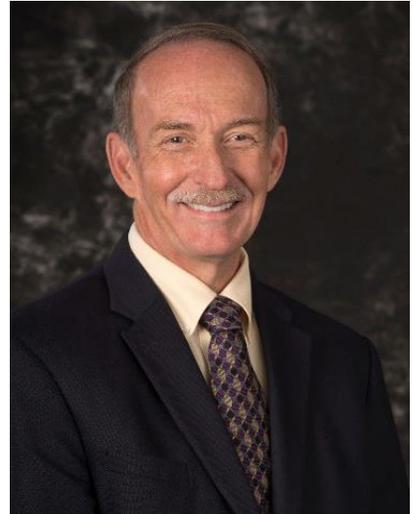
Welcome to the new members of our Executive Committee! As many of you know, Josh Strigle was elected to Chair the DLSS Members Council for 2022-23 and Rob Fuselier was elected as Chair-Elect. Also, our heartfelt thanks to Brian Marchman for his service over the last year. The new executive team takes over on July 1, and there are opportunities to serve in our standing committees which will likely be charged with some assignments very soon based on the discussions last week.

As I alluded to in our meeting, I think that online learning and other forms of flexible delivery will be front and center over the next few years. The COVID experience, economic challenges and high rate of pay in the service

sector will likely keep more students looking for flexible learning options. Despite the desire to return to campus, those factors will probably contribute to less face to face attendance. As a result, a continued focus on improving quality and support for all flexible

learning options would seem warranted. More to come on that front as we continue to scan the learning environment.

Fall seems right around the corner and there is always much to do. As we work our way through summer semester, I hope everyone will have a chance to take some time off. Keep in touch and look for some additional news and reports in the next two month



*John Opper, Ph.D.*

*Executive Director, FLVC Distance Learning & Student Services*

## DLSS team welcomes new staff member



*Sarah Michael Anderson*

The Distance Learning and Student Services team is pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member, Sarah Michael Anderson. As the Statewide Program Coordinator, Anderson will be responsible for managing the post-secondary student services offered by FLVC and FloridaShines.

A seventh-generation Tallahasseean, Anderson holds a Bachelor of Science in Family and Child Sciences, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and a Master of Science in Higher Education from Florida State University.

Anderson said early on during her studies at the university she discovered a passion for higher education and helping students navigate their way through college.

“It’s a very big jump to go from high school to a university, a community college or a state college, and being a part of that wonderful machine that gets them from point A to point B was something I really loved,” she said. “I was really involved in orientation, being a tour guide, some of those typical student services.”

After graduating, Anderson worked at Florida State’s College of Medicine as an admissions officer while at the same time achieving her master’s degree.

After her tenure at Florida State, Anderson decided to diversify her experience and joined Tallahassee Community College as an academic advisor.

Anderson said that work prepared her well for her new role at FLVC to support students wherever they are on their academic journey and help them realize all the possibilities that are available to them.

“What really drew me to FLVC is the opportunity to work with the vast expanse that is Florida higher education, but in way that I think is very direct,” Anderson said.

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## Members Council officers elected, new representatives appointed

Congratulations to Josh Strigle of the College of Central Florida who was elected Chair and Rob Fuselier of Florida State University who was elected Chair Elect of the Members Council at the June meeting.

We also would like to welcome some new members who were appointed to the Members Council since our last newsletter was published. Katie Profeta has been appointed as the primary representative for Indian River State College. Dr. Christina Will has been appointed as the primary and Jack Hall, as the alternate representative from St. Johns River State College. We would also like to welcome Melanie Jackson, who is the new alternate representative at Northwest Florida State College.

## Education news from Florida and Beyond

**Tallahassee Community College is featured in this Inside Higher Ed article about institutions nationwide that aim to expand their nursing programs.** The article talked about TCC's "plans to double the size of its nursing program over the next few years to meet community needs." Read more here: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/06/21/innovative-new-programs-aim-combat-nursing-shortage>

**Broward College is one of 10 finalists for the \$1 million 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.** The Aspen Prize, which is awarded every two years, "honors colleges with outstanding achievement in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds."

Congratulations to Broward College, as well as Seminole State College, South Florida State College and Tallahassee Community College, which were among the 25 semifinalists for the Aspen Prize! Read more here: <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>.

**Read about our team!** Florida State University's Information Technology Services recently spotlighted the DLSS team in its monthly newsletter. Find the article here: <https://its.fsu.edu/article/we-are-it-flvc-distance-learning-student-services>.

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### **RESTrofit project continues to strengthen connections to FloridaShines**

The FLVC is continuing its work on the RESTrofit effort, to connect Florida's public colleges and universities with upgraded technology, moving from older EDI technology to a RESTful API platform.

This effort will allow institutions to maintain and strengthen their connections to FloridaShines.

Seven institutions were already using the API platform Illuminate so they have migrated from Illuminate to connect with FLVC directly through API.

The other 33 colleges and universities will need to be upgraded from EDI to REST technology. Two pilot programs to start this process are already underway with Valencia College and Florida State University. Valencia College is already live with the upgraded technology and Florida State University's upgrade is slated to be completed later this summer.

FLVC is currently onboarding new institutions to upgrade their current connections with FLVC services.

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### **Virtual FL OER Summit held**

The 2022 FL OER Summit was held virtually May 18-19, featuring educators, librarians, instructional designers, students, and others who presented on an array of Open Educational Resources-related topics.

The two-day event featured a keynote panel on exploring Open Educational Resources and their impact on diversity, equity and inclusion as well as sessions on: the history of successful OER initiatives at Florida Southwestern State College, saving time and money through OER and open degree plans, the Zero Textbook Cost Program at Hillsborough Community College, breaking down OER silos through a networked approach, and dismantling barriers to student success through affordable learning materials.

## News from the Florida Instructional Designer Network



### *The FL-IDN Celebrates A Successful Spring*

The FL-IDN successfully wrapped up its Spring 2022 Professional Development Webinar Series on May 11 with 156 community members and friends attending a webinar on online learning assessment. In Spring 2022:

- The IDN webinar series reached 1,281 (based on the webinar registration data) educators from diverse backgrounds in Florida and beyond.
- More than 60 new members joined the IDN community.
- 80 community members earned the Spring 2022 IDN Professional Development Award and digital badge.
- 5 guest speakers earned the Spring 2022 IDN Guest Speaker Award and digital badge.

Visit the IDN website at <https://dls.fvc.org/idn> for resources and webinar recordings. Subscribe to the listserv and receive newsletters and announcements on professional development, career opportunities as well as rich resources shared by the IDN community members.

THANK YOU, FL-IDN Advocates and Supporters! We could not have done it without your support.

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## The IDN Digital Badges & Awards Winners

Congratulations to the Spring 2022 IDN Digital Badges & Awards Winners!



Eighty IDN community members successfully met the required earning criteria and received the IDN Professional Development Digital Badge & Award.



Five guest speakers received the IDN Guest Speaker Award.

The IDN will keep awarding [digital badges](#) in Fall 2022. Participating in at least two IDN webinars/events in Fall 2022 and meet the associated criteria, you will earn an IDN Professional Development Award badge. Digital badges and awards are also available for the IDN guest speakers and partners. IDN Awards recipients can choose to include the award in their performance review or curriculum vitae as evidence of professional development or community service achievement.

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

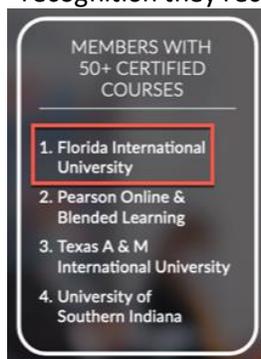


### Online Networking Event for Florida QMCs

On April 5, 2022, the Quality Matters Coordinators (QMCs) at FCS and SUS institutions connected with each other in the online CoLAB Networking event and learned about QM implementation at their institutions as well as best practices for course quality assurance. This event was sponsored by University of Florida – Collaborating with Strangers, Florida Virtual Campus, and the Florida Quality Workgroup.

### Florida Institutions Recognized in the 2021 Quality Matters Annual Report

Please join us in congratulating Florida International University and Miami Dade College of the recognition they received respectively in the 2021 Quality Matters Annual Report!



Florida International University is leading the way with more than 50 online courses being certified by QM in 2021. The university has more than 320 QM-certified online courses to date. The university recognizes each certified course with a shout-out on Twitter, celebrating its faculty's commitment to online course quality.

Miami Dade College was recognized due to the institution's "all-in" on quality matters professional development. Between January and November of 2021, dozens of MDC faculty and staff engaged in multiple QM workshops, including 16 sessions of Applying the Quality Matters Rubric. Team members also took part in TOC workshops, the Designing Your Blended Courses workshop and the New to Online Teaching series. The workshops support MDC's goal of building capacity for internal workshop facilitation and course reviews.

See more details in the "[2021 QM Community In Review Report](#)."

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## Members Council presentation slides and resources

Thank you for attending the June 7-8 DLSS Members Council meeting. We look forward to seeing you in the fall. Here are the links to the [June 7-8 DLSS MC](#) meeting slides.

### ***Follow FloridaShines on Twitter***

*Check out how we are promoting about your institution! Follow us on Twitter at @FLShines!*

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