

April 2017

## WELCOME

Now that the pollen has come and gone and Spring is here we are in the run to the finish line that is, the end of the fiscal year. While some relate spring as the time of year for new beginnings, the situation for us is almost the opposite. Being in education, we move to the beat of the academic calendar. So, the spring can be more of a race to the finish line followed by a short winding down period before planning for the fall kicks in. June will

bring the end of the year close-out for the 2016-17 budget while at the same time development of the legislative budget request for 2018 will be well underway. Planning for the 2017-18 year will already be in place and new products for the beginning of the school year should also be close to fruition. I suppose the point is that things really never seem to stop and there are always new opportunities on the horizon with both challenges and rewards.

During the recent staff development workshop, discussion occurred around some of the projects and areas we are thinking about investigating. While we don't yet know the final outcomes for this year's legislative session, chances are that the services and support of the FLVC will be even more critical over the next year. As Senior Leadership continues to explore ways to better support students and institutions, the important role that every FLVC staff member can play is something I want to emphasize. We have often gained some of our best ideas from a quick hallway conversation, student phone call, white board doodle session or the experience of an employee's relative or child in a secondary or postsecondary setting. You never know where the inspiration for a new service, web page or enhancement might come from. With that in mind, keep your ear to the ground, eyes on the Internet, or search out the coffee grounds in your Starbucks Mocca, Frappe – whatchamacallit. We are always looking for interesting opportunities that make sense for our students and institutions.

Over the horizon of the new academic year there will be some very important projects that only FLVC can tackle. We are looking at the implementation of the new ILS, the development of an automated Florida residency validation system and an automated dual enrollment processing system to name a few. In addition, we will dive more deeply into the use of open educational resources while continuing to support the ongoing operations and needs of our respective member's councils. The ongoing year will be a busy one but try and take a little time to think, dream and breathe. Also, don't underestimate the power of a 15- minute hallway conversation! We are always happy to listen and maybe even explore that rabbit hole with you.

Cheers,

**John**

JOHN OPPER

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