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Words from the Editor

On behalf of the Florida Academic Advisors Aligning Steering Committee, we are very excited to be publishing this inaugural issue of the FLACADA Sunshine Times. The vision of this newsletter is to not only keep Florida advisors informed of news and events within and outside the state, but to really make this a place where our advisors can contribute and actively participate. I invite all of you to share your thoughts and ideas with us. Additionally, if you are interested in becoming a writer for the FLACADA Sunshine Times, please contact us at FloridaNACADA@gmail.com. Writers will be expected to work on stories and various assignments as needed. We have a lot of exciting things coming, so we are glad that you are joining us on this journey.

Cheers,

Kelly



For the second year in a row, the Florida State Drive-In Conference was a wonderful success. We had 295 attendees from 31 different institutions! 32 presenters and panelists combined for a total of 20 presentations. Our Best in State winner was Dr.

Clifton L. Brown from Florida A&M University. We heard rave reviews about his presentation, "Advisor/Counselor Influence Assisting the Average (or below) Student to Become a Better Student in a College of University Environment." Overall feedback from conference attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

Congratulations, and a huge thank you, to Angela Moore and the planning committee for organizing and hosting such a delightful event.

Check out photos from the conference on our [Facebook page](#)!



2014 NACADA Region IV Conference

including 14 institutions from outside of Region IV. The conference boasted 6 pre-conference workshops, 50 concurrent sessions, and 8 poster presentations. Florida was well represented at this conference as 5 pre-conference workshops, 23 concurrent sessions, and 2 poster presentations came from Florida institutions. Way to represent, Florida advisors! Feedback about the event was positive, as was feedback about the presentations. Congratulations to Jasmine McMillan, Toby Lovelace, and Ian Schonberg from Georgia State University who earned the Best in Region title with their presentation, "Are Their Needs Different? The Struggles & Triumphs of a Graduate Advisor." We look forward to future Region IV Conferences, and we encourage you all to attend.

Compliments go out to the Region IV Conference Planning Committee for putting together a wonderful conference.



Mr. Rivera has been with the USF College of Nursing as an undergraduate advisor since 2011. He has continued to distinguish himself among his peers with his unwavering commitment to the student population he serves, his professional demeanor, and his innovative student success strategies. He carries out all his responsibilities, going above and beyond expectations, to resolve a student issue or to assist a student, staff, or faculty member regardless of the situation.

With the College of Nursing's focus on student success, Mr. Rivera has implemented several unique strategies to further foster this environment. He has taken on the responsibility of assisting with and coordinating the undergraduate student tutoring service, which provides peer tutors to students in some of the more challenging courses. Being an early adopter of technology, he has implemented optional text messaging alerts for his students, reduced costs and made information more easily available via electronic formats for various college events, and has streamlined the DegreeWorks process for the College of Nursing.

Lastly, Mr. Rivera never backs away from a challenge. He has stepped in multiple times during his tenure to assist when staff members have been reassigned to ensure that the students still receive the best service possible. He has served on a variety of committees, conducted numerous workshops across campus, and has been instrumental in the 97% retention and 4-year graduation rate. Mr. Rivera is a pleasure to work with and a true asset to the College of Nursing, USF, and its students.

Recommended by Julie Tierson, Gregory Wance, and Joylynn Williams.

Do you know an advisor, administrator, department, or program who deserves some special recognition? If so, consider nominating them for The Spotlight! Submit nominations, along with an explanation for why this person, department, or program is exceptional, to FloridaNACADA@gmail.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELP Welcomes 2 Mentors from Florida

NACADA's Emerging Leader Program, class of 2014-2016, has selected 2 mentors from the State of Florida.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have you written a paper that you'd like to be featured in the FLACADA Sunshine Times? Or are you interested in writing an article for the newsletter? If so, please contact us at



UPCOMING EVENTS

NACADA Summer Institute

Developing an Action Plan for your institution
July 27-August 1, 2014
St. Petersburg, FL

NACADA Annual

Associate Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services at the University of Central Florida and **Dr. Melissa Johnson**, Associate Director of the Honors Program at the University of Florida.

Florida Advisor voted NACADA Region IV Chair

NACADA Region IV will be welcoming Joshua Johnson from the University of Central Florida as the incoming Region IV Chair. Joshua currently serves as Communication Coordinator for Region IV and is a member of the FLACADA Steering Committee. Please join us in congratulating Josh on this exciting position.

including the following subjects in which Florida advisors have expressed interest:

- Ways to motivate students to come for advising without using holds or negative measures
- Technology & Retention Software
- Students who need developmental coursework but are not successful in their classes
- Working with International Students
- Mental Health and Advising
- Student Development Theory
- Career Advancement Tips
- Best Practices for New and Seasoned Academic Advisors

Explore, Discover, Collaborate, Transform
October 8-11, 2014
Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, MN

Academic Advising Administrators' Institute

February 5-7, 2015
Orlando, FL

Assessment of Academic Advising Institute

February 12-14, 2015
Orlando, FL

Do you want to get involved with FLACADA? Become a writer for the FLACADA Sunshine Times! Sunshine Times writers will be expected to work on stories and various assignments as needed by the editor. If you are interested, or would like more information, contact us at FloridaNACADA@gmail.com.

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