



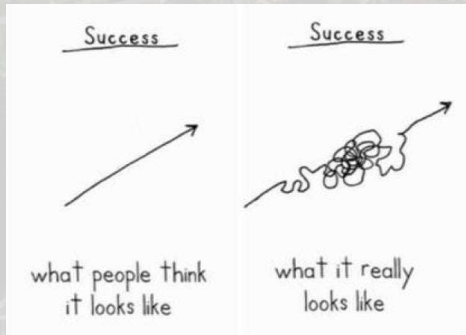
Connect Collaborate Innovate

A Newsletter From The Provost's Office



Dr. Michele Yovanovich,
Vice Provost, Student Affairs

On Spaghetti Plots and Providing Cover For Those Who Need It



Recently I upgraded the weather notifications on my phone to include a Hurricane tracker. When storms are

upgraded from tropical storms to hurricanes, my device buzzes and flashes with excitement! One can find the speed, intensity and directions of just about any storm on the planet. My favorite view is from the NOAA-20 satellite's VIIRS instrument in which it captures the Day/Night Band image of nighttime views of clouds and lights in Florida. The illumination from oil rigs and ships in the Gulf of Mexico sparkle in the dark of night as the storm rages on. Then there's the "spaghetti" model tracker. If you've spent even one Hurricane season in Florida, you are familiar with the "ritual." It includes parking ourselves on the couch with remote control in hand while "glued" to the TV fretting as we watch

the storm "noodles," wobble. This spaghetti plot makes me think of our students (and perhaps my own time) "wobbling" left and then right and sometimes even getting stuck in the same spot for a bit, like storms do. I am reminded that the environment for a weather event impacts the course and strength of the storm, just like it does for students as they persist towards their educational goals. **So many elements have to come together to create conditions for successful goal attainment.** At FSW, we are active in strategic efforts which will improve degree and goal achievement for our students through the workgroups of the Dedicate to Graduate (D2G) and the Florida



Buc the Duck and the Duckaneers gave us something to look forward to as we watched her provide cover over 9 eggs and deliver her ducklings safely to the nearby Taeni Hall pond for their first swim .

Department of Education's Florida Pathways Institute. This exciting redesign focuses on academic and co-curricular value-added experiences for students like a road map would to your destination.

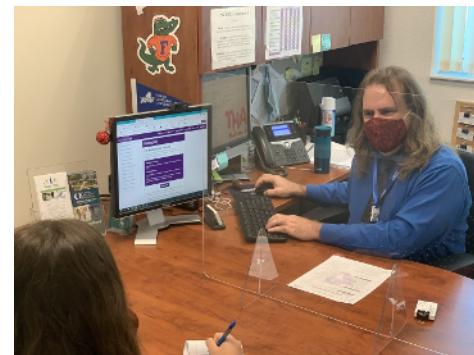
It does not take long to find articles on student success that cite lack of academic preparation, low test scores and various other reasons as to why students are not successful. Sadly, many vulnerable students face that "perfect storm" of unfortunate occurrences that include financial struggles, family illness, or lack of career-focused direction. It takes only one of

these challenges to easily derail progress towards a degree. The "one flat tire away from dropping out," scenario is real.

At FSW, we know a lot about how our students experience the institution as a result of the Associate of Arts Completer Survey developed by the Provost's Office and administered by FSW's Team AASPIRE. With nearly a 22% return rate, students who were scheduled to graduate in spring 2020 rated their overall satisfaction with their experience at FSW with a mean response of **8.4 out of 10**. Over half of them reported they finished their degree on schedule, with 10% reporting the degree took a lot longer than planned **due to personal issues**.

When asked about the length of time it took to complete their degree, **73%** of our students who indicated it took longer than planned, either "a little" or "a lot," indicated this delay was **due to personal reasons**.

As educators, we hope that college is a wonderful and transformational experience for students and we realize that "finding ourselves," is not a linear process. In *Transforming Students, Fulfilling the Promise of Higher Education* (2014) authors Johansson and Felten describe this process in steps. **"The transformative learning process should help students build an identity rooted in their own sense of purpose and meaning in the world, but it is not a uniform path walked by all,"** (p. 15).



Andy Hahn coaches a student through choosing academic coursework that will enhance her career.

Access without support is not opportunity. The Pell Institute

We witness with wonder (and gratitude) all the "wobbles" in our students' lives which often lead to resiliency and transformation.

Here are some recent examples of transformation shared by the Student Affairs team:

From Justin Long- During this past week, a student felt hopeless because of a roommate disagreement. After some mentoring and coaching

with the resident, Casey Skumatz was able to assist in the suite mates further developing a positive relationship that was based on learning from one another.

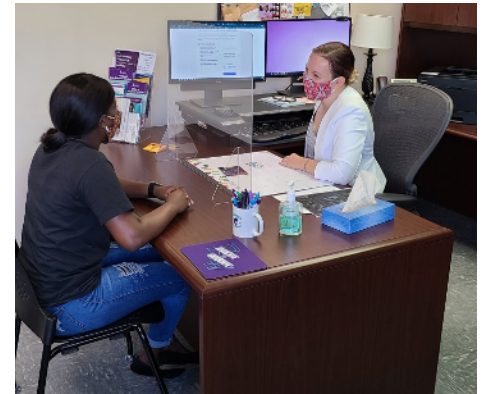
From Amanda Lehrian- This semester, “T” came back to FSW in Hendry/Glades. She had attended in 2009 and challenges resulted in her having a \$3000+ balance. She is very driven to move forward but didn’t see any pathways. Thanks to Herculean efforts from the Financial Aid office we were able to deal with her past debt and secure one semester of funding for Fall 2020. After 11 years, she is back on track! We are also helping to support her with pantry and other items. Additionally, almost all of her faculty have individually sought me out to help make sure she is receiving extra support. This is a student success and a staff/faculty story of functioning at our best level to recognize need and report it even without knowing all the other background actions already being taken.

From Catherine Gorman- Peer Mentor, Coralie Lamour, used her virtual “office hours” to host an activity centered on stereotypes. Participants were asked to share a stereotype others may have about them, based on a characteristic they have or group they identify with (race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, etc.). Participants were asked whether they subscribed to stereotypes that were shared, and a healthy dialogue ensued.



Peer Mentors engage in leadership development with Catherine Gorman. (Picture taken prior to the need for social distancing.)

We know that the path to success is certainly not uniform for all students—herein lies the challenge and joy of our work— but also the motivation for FSW to continue to do what it takes to develop guided paths, appropriate support and safe cover during life’s storms.



Ashleigh Valero provides a guided path to career success on the Hendry/Glades Campus.



I am proud that my credentials include earning an AA degree at a Florida community college.

Thank you to all at FSW who have helped to ensure my first three months at the College were inspiring. I look forward to our continued partnership for student success.

Reach out via email:

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The Taeni Hall Duckaneers

IN THE STORM

Some black ducks
were shrugged up
on the shore.
It was snowing

hard, from the east,
and the sea
was in disorder.
Then some sanderlings,

five inches long
with beaks like wire,
flew in,
snowflakes on their backs,

and settled
in a row
behind the ducks—
whose backs were also

covered with snow—
so close
they were all but touching,
they were all but under

the roof of the ducks' tails,
so the wind, pretty much,
blew over them.
They stayed that way, motionless,

for maybe an hour,
then the sanderlings,
each a handful of feathers,
shifted, and were blown away

out over the water,
which was still raging.
But, somehow,
they came back

and again the ducks,
like a feathered hedge,
let them
stoop there, and live.

If someone you didn't know
told you this,
as I am telling you this,
would you believe it?

Belief isn't always easy.
But this much I have learned,
if not enough else—
to live with my eyes open.

I know what everyone wants
is a miracle.
This wasn't a miracle.
Unless, of course, kindness—

as now and again
some rare person has suggested—
is a miracle.
As surely it is.

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