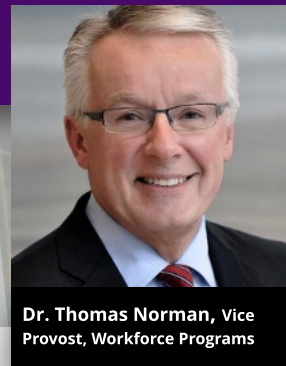




Connect Collaborate Innovate

A Newsletter From The Provost's Office

Engagement



**Dr. Thomas Norman, Vice
Provost, Workforce Programs**

"If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."— **African Proverb**

One of the exciting factors in our collective success is our ability to be engaged in the community. It is a pleasure to work with an organization that has so many active and vibrant associations including business and industry, healthcare organizations,

educational institutions and numerous other public and private entities. These associations are critical community engagements and greatly assist FSW grads enter their chosen fields.

In previous editions of this newsletter I have highlighted FSW's "superpower's. Engagement is one such superpower and is a

key attribute of institutional success in higher education. The range of partnerships and associations which span multiple college disciplines has been uniquely effective in helping our students achieve their educational and career goals.

Without the active and ongoing engagement of our entire team, our students would find it far

more difficult for students to achieve the next steps in entering the work world or in continuing their educational journeys.

Engagement is key to who we are and is alive and well at FSW.

Engaging the Future

As FSW's School of Health Professions continues to provide cutting edge educational tools for its programs and students, we proudly introduce "Colleen."

Colleen represents the latest technology in health profession simulation manikins. She is one of many tools that are being jointly developed with a partnership between

FSW's School of Health Professions and Echo Health, Sarasota; Lifecast Body Simulation, London; and ISimulate, New York.

This project was made possible by Southwest Florida Children's Charities.

Colleen will assist in facilitating simulations far beyond the scope of existing technologies. Her life-like appearance envelops students in the simulation experience by providing the much needed "suspension of disbelief."

This experience is made possible due to the human qualities of the newly created manikins.

As FSW's School of Health Professions continues to grow, the need to assist

our partners in the community is paramount. Colleen, and simulation tools like her, will assist in addressing the educational and training needs within FSW and in our community.

She will be available to all programs within the health professions umbrella and available for use by our community partners. She is also a tangible part of our vision to build our engagement with the area healthcare community.

Like Colleen, other manikins under development will soon populate the 8,000 sq. ft. simulation area within

the School of Health Professions. By capitalizing on our internal and external resources we will continue to educate and place the most highly skilled and qualified nursing and health care professionals possible.

By leveraging existing assets such as our



Simulation Center, we can continue to create new avenues for student and community success.

Education-

Early Childhood Education

prepares FSW Students from across the region through CCC's or an AS in Early Childhood Education, (ECE). Provided online, this program conveys valuable knowledge and experience in working with children. Significant collaboration is required to complete field experiences, which are required in most ECE courses.

The School of Education works closely with Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades, and Lee County schools, as well as many private and charter educational services to ensure that students have experiences rooted in our local educational sector, while

considering best practices through course work which includes diverse perspectives and resources.

The School of Education's Early Childhood program also collaborates extensively to ensure that FSW grads. are meeting the needs of employers across our area.

We are active within the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida. We have offered a cohort model for early childhood educators at their work sites to support students and employers in maintaining a highly qualified workforce. Congratulations to the School of Education for their vision in engaging the community.

The Dental Hygiene Program

partners with Florida WIC, Good Nutrition for Women, Infants & Children. The purpose of the WIC program serves to safeguard the



health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.

The Dental Hygiene students also design and present videos, pamphlets as well as present oral health programs at the WIC North Fort Myers and LeHigh locations. The topics that are addressed include oral care and nutrition during pregnancy for the mother as well as how to provide oral care and good nutrition for babies and kids. These presentations are communicated in both Spanish and

English to reach the various families who are served by our local WIC chapters.

Public Service Engagement

The Dental Hygiene Program also partners with Community Cancer Education of Fort Myers. This partnership enables our students to assist community Ear, Nose and Throat specialists perform free head and neck cancer screenings annually. A head and neck cancer diagnosis changes one's life the moment that are informed that they have cancer.

This screening examines lumps, bumps or sore spots on the head and neck region or discomfort in the mouth and throat that may be early symptoms of head and neck cancer. A free head and neck cancer screening may detect early

signs of cancer which can save a life.

Throughout the pandemic, FSW has done an amazing job in dealing with the many challenges of the disease. A new engagement idea was recently surfaced from our Nursing department. Dr. Voelpel and her team have proposed using FSW as a vaccination site for the college and the community. Stay tuned as this terrific idea "germinates."

Engaging the IT World with New Programming.

The School of Business and Technology was recently approved to begin offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems Technology. Congratulations to the SBOT and everyone who worked on the development of this winning



proposal.

Designed to complement our credit certificates, transferring, AS and AA students can pursue this degree to add to their career potential. Pursuing this degree and positions FSW to engage in developing Southwest Florida's IT workforce of the future.

In addition, other notable "engagements" pursued by the

SBOT include the following:

Collaboration with the Florida Risk and Insurance Management Society and collaborates with the other 11 state colleges offering specialized risk management programs leading to state licensure.

- Coordination with the Charlotte County Technical College on a new possible pathway for Aviation Management as CCTC is launching a new 18-month certificate starting in fall 2021.
- Leadership on the Paralegal Advisory Board, SOBT Criminal Justice Advisory Board, SOBT Architecture

and Construction Advisory Board, SOBT Computer and Networking Advisory Board, SOBT Risk Management Advisory Council.

Community connections thrive at FSW. The examples cited are only a small example of the many ways FSW is providing leadership through active engagement in service to our students and the community.



Dr. Thomas Norman is the Vice Provost for Workforce Programs. Currently, he is also serving as Interim Dean for the School of Health Professions. He has a doctorate in Educational Policy Administration from the University of Minnesota with an emphasis on academic and industry partnerships. Now that he is living in Florida, he still looking to try deep sea fishing.

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