

INSPIRATIONS

A PUBLICATION OF FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION



FSW and Suncoast Forge Historic Partnership

Earlier this year, the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation received a momentous \$5 million gift from Suncoast Credit Union, whose name will now be on the college's new student activity center.

This gift amounts to the largest ever given by the Tampa-based credit union and the most the FSW Foundation has ever received. Now under construction, the arena is where the college's basketball and volleyball teams will compete starting in the fall of 2016.

Besides hosting national athletic tournaments like the Culligan City of Palms Basketball Classic, it will also create a cultural epicenter next door to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall for concerts, graduations and other local, regional and national events.

The 75,000-square-foot Suncoast Credit Union Arena will host the FSW Buccaneers' basketball and volleyball teams and a student activity center. The arena will seat approximately 3,300 fans and include six skyboxes, a hospitality event center, competition courts that convert into recreational courts, athletic office space and wellness centers for staff, faculty and students.

"When you bring two established institutions together with a common vision that benefits the community, everyone wins," said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, President, FSW. "Suncoast Credit Union is an exceptional company led by individuals who are

passionate about not only providing excellent service to their clients, but also investing in the community. Their belief in Southwest Florida means that we can now begin construction of our Suncoast Credit Union Arena, which will stand proudly on the corner of Summerlin Road and Cypress Lake Drive on our Fort Myers campus."

"For decades, FSW has offered educational opportunities and career paths for thousands of students, many who stay in this region to work, raise families and give back," said Tom Dorety, President & CEO, Suncoast Credit Union. "Education is a key component of that. Our partnership with FSW is much more than having our name on the arena. We will be working together to offer scholarships, plus educational and internship opportunities that lead to solid careers."

The collaboration between the two partners extends beyond constructing the arena. FSW and Suncoast Credit Union are also actively pursuing a community wide initiative bringing financial literacy education to all first year students and creating an exemplary model for philanthropic giving.

"This is so much more than a generous donation" said Dr. Louis Traina, Vice President, Institutional Advancement. "Both organizations have been working together to create a lasting partnership that will benefit our students and alumni for years to come." ■

Is college worth it?

With the student federal loan debt at \$1.3 trillion and growing default rate at 18.4 percent, economists are forecasting a tidal wave of growing unpaid debt and a potential financial crisis. Parents and students are asking the question "is college worth it?" and most disconcerting, recent college graduates are questioning the value of their investment.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article entitled "Recent Grads Doubt College's Worth," reported



Dr. Lou Traina

the results of a Gallop-Purdue Index, which polled over 30,000 millennial graduates. One of the main reasons is massive student debt, which is progressively forcing the more vulnerable segment of our population to postpone their life and career

aspirations. The steep and progressive decline in graduates' belief that their degree is worth the cost is startling. Sadly, only 47 percent of private-school graduates and a shocking 26 percent of private, for-profit graduates agreed that their education is worth the tuition cost. Graduates saddled with loans are forced to postpone buying a car, moving out of their parent's home, buying a house, getting married and starting a family.

The high cost of a private higher education coupled with local and emerging workforce demands has fueled the growth of full-time college-ready freshman seeking undergraduate affordable degrees at FSW.

Our students graduate with little or no federal loan debt and 92% of our graduates are placed in high wage jobs in our local workforce. They are our teachers, business managers, system designers, nurses, nuclear radiologists, respiratory therapists, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Our graduates are not buried with college loan debt, but rather contribute to our economy, educate our children and save lives.

Is college worth it? At Florida SouthWestern State College, the answer is a resounding "yes!" ■

Visit our website: www.FSW.edu/foundation

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the start of another outstanding year at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). As we look forward to the exciting opportunities on the horizon for FSW, I am pleased to share with you the stories and highlights from the College and the Foundation that have paved our current path as featured in the latest edition of the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation's publication, *Inspirations*.

As you browse through this issue, you will note that *Inspirations* serves as a testament to the countless individuals and constituencies that have contributed to the overall success of this great institution. It is truly a team effort at FSW with



vital support from individual and corporate donors, faculty and staff, alumni, executive leadership, FSW College Board of Trustees, FSW Foundation Board of Directors, as well as our state legislative delegation

that enables us to focus on the core mission to provide quality educational opportunities for the outstanding students that we serve throughout our five-county service area.

In my role as the Chairman of the FSW Foundation Board of Directors, I am honored to report that we provide approximately \$2 million in student scholarships and investments in programs, technology and facilities – all to benefit the nearly 22,000 students that we serve annually.

At FSW, we understand that if we provide a strong foundation, our students are prepared to accomplish their goals.

TAMARA SURRATT

Chairman of the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation Board of Directors

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FSW FOUNDATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS
» MEETING DATES FOR 2015-2016

FOUNDATION BOARD MEETINGS 9 a.m.
Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus
Carl & Diana Grissom Community Room, AA-177
November 17, 2015 • March 15, 2016

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS 9 a.m.
Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus
President's Conference Room, I-225
November 10, 2015 • February 18, 2016

** Other meetings called as needed by the Chairs of the Executive and Finance Committees.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC. • YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

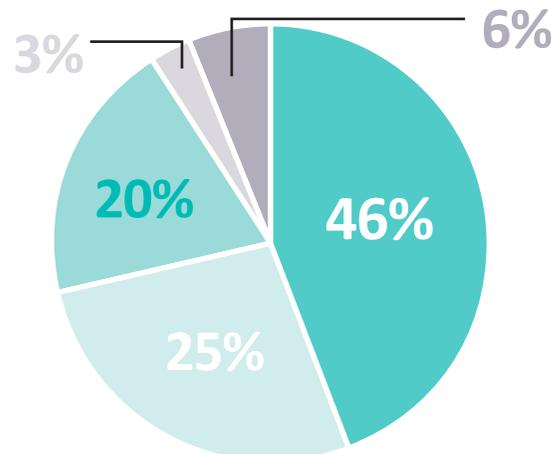
The Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc. operates

on a fiscal year from April 1 to March 31. The annual operating budget is approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors and the books are audited annually by the independent accounting firm of Tuscan & Company, P.A. The firm SEI Investments is retained by the Foundation as an investment advisor. The Foundation currently manages over \$44 million in invested assets.

Income from the investment portfolio is used to fund scholarships, provide support for instructional services and technology, provide for faculty and staff development, endow academic and instructional chairs, and provide support for the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall and the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW.

GIFT AND REVENUE DISBURSEMENT APRIL 1, 2014 - MARCH 31, 2015

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 46% | Student Services | \$1,301,906 |
| 20% | Academic Support | 576,517 |
| 25% | Foundation Operating Support | 701,403 |
| 3% | Institutional Support | 90,984 |
| 6% | Donor Cultivation and Recognition | 171,356 |



ASSETS

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$232,837 |
| Prepaid expenses | 5,205 |
| Unconditional promises to give, net.... | 5,256,661 |
| Investment in marketable securities held at fair value | 44,690,336 |
| Investments held in trust | 2,769,161 |
| Cash surrender value of life insurance | 18,316 |
| Investment - other..... | 1,200,000 |
| Total Assets | \$54,172,516 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Accounts payable | \$179,838 |
| Note payable | 1,100,000 |
| Investments held in trust | 2,769,161 |
| Total Liabilities | \$4,048,999 |

NET POSITION

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Unrestricted-undesignated | \$3,434,377 |
| Temporarily restricted | 27,871,457 |
| Permanently restricted | 18,817,683 |
| Total Net Position | \$50,123,517 |

Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc., in an era of increasing scrutiny of nonprofits, earned an unqualified audit without exception. There was not a single unacceptable or questionable issue in the expert opinion of the auditors.

School of Health Professions receives \$1 million gift from SWFL Children's Charities

On October 19, a \$1 million support pledge was formally signed by SWFL Children's Charities, Inc., and Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) to benefit the School of Health Professions.

The gift, payable in five annual installments of \$200,000 starting June 2016, will be used to purchase new technology, provide advanced training, or to award scholarships to qualifying students. In recognition of the pledge and past donations, the simulation center at FSW will now be called the SWFL Children's Charities Simulation Center.

FSW's School of Health Professions offers simulation education to help students gain skills and confidence for real-world patient care scenarios. With the state increasing the time required for students to spend in clinical training from 25 to 50 percent, and broadening the clinical definition to include simulation, the school is setting the bar for the future of healthcare education.

Previously donated funds from SWFL Children's Charities have gone to purchasing a birthing mother and newborn simulator, a pediatric simulator, a mechanical ventilator for practice skills on pediatric patients and an X-ray machine for pediatric patients treated at the Dental Hygiene Clinic.

"The need for work-ready health care professionals is growing exponentially in the Southwest Florida community, and this contribution from SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. will further enable our college to continue equipping students for success in this industry," said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, President, FSW. "We are grateful to SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. for its dedication to pediatric healthcare. This organization's generosity means our students will have exceptional training so when they graduate, they will make an immediate and positive impact for the medical needs of our region's youth."

To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.



FSW students, faculty, and staff gathered with trustees from SWFL Children's Charities for a recognition event in honor of the naming of the SWFL Children's Charities Simulation Center on the Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus.

FSW dedicates 'The Carl and Diana Grissom Community Room'

One of the largest and frequently used meeting rooms on FSW's Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus was renamed "The Carl and Diana Grissom Community Room" on March 17 after the Sanibel Island couple made a generous donation to benefit the college.

"The FSW Foundation was very proud to accept this gift from the Grissoms to benefit the FSW Faculty Development Center, a place where our faculty can meet and share new ideas," said Dr. Lou Traina, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at FSW.

Formerly referred to as AA-177, the multi-purpose room will serve as workshop space to train and develop the outstanding faculty at FSW.

"This gift will go a long way towards the continued education and development of our faculty. Everybody who comes here will realize how much Carl means to this institution and how his generosity will

go a long way," said FSW President Jeff Allbritten.

Grissom, a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, first moved to Lee County in 1979. Besides having served on the FSW Foundation Board of Directors since 2011, Grissom has consistently given to FSW to benefit various academic programs.

"I have always believed in education," said Grissom. "When you see progress and hear about the needs, you want to give because you know how it helps our community."

He was particularly interested in AA-177 because the space is often used for educational panels, faculty meetings, and campus events. With the community room, he hopes to ensure FSW graduates are highly-trained, creative, and possess the ability to strike up important relationships with others in the community.

"I can't tell you how important those things mean to you in life," said Grissom. ■



FSW President Jeff Allbritten, FSW Foundation Board Chair Tamara Surratt, Carl and Diana Grissom, Carly Schwartzel (daughter) and VP of Institutional Advancement Dr. Lou Traina.

INSPIRATIONS EDITOR » Reba Singleton

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LOCATION » Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation
8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33919

• For more information, please visit our website: www.FSW.edu/foundation

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Florida SouthWestern State College is an equal access, equal opportunity organization.

Message from Joe Turner, Coordinator of the FSW Alumni Network

It is an extreme pleasure for me to join the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation and its remarkable team of professionals. It's a very exciting time at FSW. We're seeing more and more students choosing the institution for their educational goals, the re-energized Buccaneers athletic program, and the new Suncoast Credit Union Arena that is quickly changing the face of the Thomas Edison (Lee) campus.

In the coming months my focus is on creating a consistent plan of communication, beginning with our monthly e-newsletter, and expanding our reach with social media and other emerging technologies.



Joe Turner

We continue to dig into the archives and post some classic pictures of the earlier days on campus.

If you consider that tens of thousands of people have begun their careers on the campuses of this great institution you can see the true scope and reach of FSW. Their successes have contributed greatly to the workforce of Southwest Florida and around the world. I cannot tell you how much that impresses me and how honored I am to engage them.

In my new role as Coordinator of Alumni Relations, I have already met with many alums and have learned about where their personal and professional journeys have taken them. This is indeed a privilege and I invite all alumni to contact me directly to share your FSW story, offer your ideas, and let me know how you'd like to be involved with your alma mater.

The best way for you to stay in touch and up-to-date on all of the events that the Alumni Network is taking part in is by signing up for our newsletter at www.fsw.edu/foundation/alumni. Make sure you like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter as well. We welcome you to join us, alumnus or not, and be part of the vibrant culture we call FSW. Go Bucs! ■

Once a Buccaneer...

ALWAYS A BUCCANEER

The crack of the bat. The smell of fresh-cut grass. The seventh inning stretch.

It's all part of a field of dreams that has played a big share of Jamie Corr's life. He played college baseball for the Edison Community College (now FSW) Buccaneers before his career took a turn to coaching. That led to being named USA Today's National Coach of the Year for high school baseball in 2014.

Last year, he heard about FSW bringing back athletics, starting with baseball. Out of hundreds of applicants, he was named the head baseball coach.

"First and foremost, the amount of dedication the administration

has shown to make this a successful athletics program is impressive," he said. "What makes this easy as far as recruiting is I've lived it. Student-athletes want to know where they'll attend class, eat, sleep, play and spend their free time. FSW knocks it out of the park. City of Palms Park is an incredible place to compete."

As the head coach, Corr wants his team to take away the same tools he did.

"Playing for the Bucs was the best time of my life because my coaches instilled the value of hard work, discipline, togetherness and sportsmanship. That's what I want for this team," he said. "Fans will see this team conduct themselves in a first-class manner, built on hustle and playing the game the right way. The wins and losses will take care of themselves." ■



Jamie Corr

"Playing for the Bucs was the best time of my life because my coaches instilled the value of hard work, discipline, togetherness, and sportsmanship. That's what I want for this team."

— JAMIE CORR

Sign up for the FSW Alumni Newsletter: fsw.edu/foundation/alumni

FSW Alumni Baseball Game 2015

It was a clash between the 90's and 2015 as the Alumni Relations Office joined forces with the FSW Athletics department to host a first-of-its-kind alumni baseball game at the new home of the Buccaneers, City of Palms Park. The alumni players shook off the cobwebs quickly and managed to score a few runs, pitch a few strike outs, turn a double play and genuinely have a great time. Even though no score was kept, the 2015 FSW Buccaneers came away from the game with a new found respect for their alumni brothers. After the last out was called, the players and a select group of alumni spectators made their way to a sky box at the stadium for an after party featuring a fully catered lunch.

Hats off to FSW baseball head coach Jamie Corr (1993 Bucs) who reached out to his fellow alumni brethren to participate in the game. Plans are already in place for a repeat next year, with twice as many alumni players and lots more spectators to enjoy the fun. Stay on top of all of the activities sponsored by the FSW Alumni Network by logging onto www.fsw.edu/foundation/alumni. ■



FSW Athletics & Alumni



From left, FSW Men's Basketball Head Coach Marty Richter, Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman (Class of 2002), and Alumni Relations Coordinator Joe Turner.

GIVE TODAY: Visit our website at FSW.edu/foundation to help a student and support programs at FSW

SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCHEONS



Collier Campus



Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus



Hendry-Glades Center



Charlotte Campus

SPECIAL THANKS & APPRECIATION...

The Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation engages corporations, community groups, and foundations throughout the five-county region to support students, faculty and staff through scholarships, program donations, endowments and partnerships. Most of these generous supporters have given to the College for many years and have formed long-standing relationships.

Thank you for your support!

AAUW Fort Myers-Lee County • Bank of America Charitable Foundation • BB&T Insurance Services, Inc. • Philip Beuth • The Bonita Bay Group • Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre • Muriel Brower • Jay Brown • Bradley Bryant • BSSW Architects • The Mrs. Bunny Foundation • Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Campbell • Julia C. Campbell • Edward G. Caputo • Charlotte County Retired Educators Association • Chico's • Claiborne and Ned Foulds Foundation • Anthony Contino • The Copham Family Foundation • Glenn Cornish • Adam Culliton • Carol Culliton • Mr. and Mrs. Ed Curley • Martha Dean • Delta Health Care Support Systems Foundation Inc. • Barbara Desanzo • Donald W. DiPietro • Enterprise Holdings Foundation • Estate Planning Council of Lee County • Fawcett Memorial Hospital



Dr. Joe Kramp, FSW Foundation, accepts a generous scholarship endowment gift from the Charlotte County Retired Educators Association (CCREA) at the annual scholarship celebration luncheon on the Charlotte Campus.

• Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund • FineMark National Bank & Trust • First Bank • Florida Blue Community Investment Program • Florida College System Foundation • Florida Power and Light Company • Craig R. Folk • Follett Higher Education Group • Muriel S. Freedman • Carl Grissom • The Robert J. Gunterberg Charitable Foundation • Barry Hammond • John E. Hannsz • Hanser Family Foundation • JoAnn Helphenstine • Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. •

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(\$1,000 and above organizational donors from April 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015. If you do not see your organization's name on this list, please notify the FSW Foundation office).

School of Education to build on innovative legacy

The FSW School of Education and Charter Schools spent summer break searching for a new leader.

Dr. Larry Miller, a national expert in education finance and policy research, was officially welcomed as the school's new dean on July 1, 2015, and will now set out managing and developing one of the college's most popular and successful programs.

"We have an excellent School of Education with an award-winning faculty," he said. "They are really passionate about our students' success and make sure they learn what it takes to lead a student-centered classroom."

The School of Education prepares over 200 teacher candidates per year with degree programs, alternative certification options, and field experience opportunities. FSW graduates are in high demand and an overwhelming majority of

them are employed at schools across the five counties comprising Southwest Florida.

Teachers are second to parents in their role in student success. While Southwest Florida and the state have come a long way in sharpening classroom instruction, schools should focus



Dr. Larry Miller

even earlier on making those important gains, explained Miller.

"Florida has witnessed tremendous growth in student achievement by increasing the standards for success, but we don't have a universal full day program for 3- or 4-year-olds," he said.

Psychologists point out that the capacity to learn declines as we age. The State of Oklahoma instituted universal pre-K services for all children in 1998, and according to the National Institute for Early Childhood Research, over 70 percent of 4-year-olds now participate. The state is now ranked third in the nation for Early Childhood Education and Miller would like to see our region capitalize on that success.

To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.

Cardiovascular tech students attend international conference

Ten students from the Cardiovascular Technology program at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) sharpened their skills at an international conference in Orlando this summer.

In June the students met with industry professionals, practiced hands-on activities, conducted simulations, and watched live procedures at the Complex Cardiovascular Catheter Therapeutics International Conference (C3 Conference) in Orlando.

Not only did the conference draw close to 1,200 attendees, but 350 global faculty members participated in creating learning opportunities for everyone.

Professionals in every industry can attest to the importance of networking and developing new skills, and the college wanted to ensure our students experienced the same. For many of our students, this was the first conference they had ever attended in their field of study, explained



FSW Cardiovascular Technology students gather at the C3 Conference in Orlando.

Leslie Yaniga, FSW Cardiovascular Technology Program Clinical Coordinator.

"They were able to see the skills and knowledge they acquire in our program being used first hand by other cardiovascular professionals,

and they received an up-close look into the future of cardiology and tools that will be used to treat cardiovascular diseases," she said.

To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.

FSW scores GOLD

It's the color of success, of achievement and of triumph. It illuminates and enhances, sharing in its wisdom and knowledge. The color is gold, and it's the color associated with Florida SouthWestern State College as it earned the "Gold Tier" rank in the 2015 State Board of Education's performance funding model.

Performance funding for public colleges was enacted in 2015 as a way to incentivize improvements across a broad range of outcomes for students, placing greater emphasis on student outcomes.

"In the past few years, in addition to our traditional mission, we have focused more on recruiting high-



FSW students are exceptional and played a critical role in the "Gold Tier" ranking that the college received from the State Board of Education.

achieving students in our region, the state and across the country," said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, FSW President. "We want our students to learn, grow and ultimately graduate."

The metrics used to measure the colleges are: Job Placement, Completion Rates, Retention Rates, and Completer Entry Level Wages. Each category was assigned a maximum

point score, with a perfect total score of 30.5 points. FSW's total score was 20.83. FSW earned the highest points possible in two of the categories: Job Placement and Completer Entry Level Wages.

To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.

Wayne White infuses art with humor at FSW

When Wayne White unveiled his newest exhibition at FSW's Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on September 11, titled "Here Comes Mr. Know-It-All," he demonstrated to guests that art isn't only thought provoking; it can also be silly.

White is best known as a designer for the 1986 children's television program "Pee-Wee's Playhouse," for which he earned three Emmy Awards for creating the scenery and iconic puppets: Randy, Cool Cat, Chicky Baby and Dirty Dog.

Following his success with Pee-Wee, White moved to Los Angeles with his wife, graphic novelist Mimi Pond, to work on "Shining Time Station," "Beakman's World," and other popular television shows. He even worked in music videos, serving as art director for the Smashing Pumpkins' "Tonight, Tonight" and Peter Gabriel's "Big Time."



To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.

FSW business students learn about entrepreneurship

Business programs at FSW emphasize innovation and entrepreneurship.

On September 23, the School of Business and Technology collaborated with the FSW Foundation to host guest speaker Maria Tobin.

Maria Tobin discussed the legacy of her late husband William J. Tobin, the author of "Confessions of a Compulsive Entrepreneur and Inventor," and she answered specific questions about running a business and working as an inventor and as an entrepreneur.

Over a long and pioneering career, William J. Tobin obtained 15 product and software patents, as well as starting, managing, and selling 10 technology-based businesses that have generated millions of dollars worldwide. He founded PC Flowers and Gifts, the first e-commerce

company, in 1988 and went on to work on projects that improved videoconferencing and geographic mapping technology.

His book describes the integral role he played in developing computer and Internet applications that are being used widely all over the world and is required reading for FSW's Introduction to Entrepreneurship class.

Honored as one of the Top 100 Marketing Executives by *Ad Age* magazine and Man of the Year by the International Teleconferencing Association, William J. Tobin also founded the Tobin Family Education and Health Foundation. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and worked with organizations to find cures for illnesses afflicting veterans.



Maria Tobin

To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.

SCIENCES 2.0 »

New dean shares upgrade plans

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences is undergoing an institutional upgrade.

Not only has FSW invested in a complete renovation of the labs and facilities in Leonhardt Hall (Building H), but they also hired Dr. Martin McClinton as the new dean of the sciences. His academic school



Dr. Martin McClinton

houses the entire math and science curriculum taken by students pursuing a number of degrees.

"I'm excited about the new building, bringing these labs into the 21st

century, and the possibility it offers to expand undergraduate research," said McClinton, who started officially on July 1, 2015.

One of President Jeff Allbritten's initiatives is to increase the amount of research at the college. The school already employs world-class research faculty in multiple disciplines, like Dr. Robert Furler who conducts undergraduate research in microbiology and is collaborating with the UCLA AIDS Institute to help find a cure. However, the college is seeking to attract more.

Besides expanding opportunities for research, McClinton wants to provide students interested in engineering an easier path to universities by allowing them to complete their first two years at FSW. His school will also create new and exciting courses to stimulate and challenge students registered in the burgeoning Honor Scholar Program.

"We want to strengthen the courses we offer for A.A. students to be able to transfer from any of our campuses, as well as looking to see what skills our community needs and provide those in a degree program," he said.

To read the full story, visit www.FSW.edu/foundation.

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