

What's New?

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Cape Fear Valley Health System Partners with FSU School of Nursing to Improve Pipeline of Nurses in Cumberland & Surrounding Counties

Cape Fear Valley Health System in Fayetteville (NC) and the FSU School of Nursing are collaborating to establish and support a pipeline program to retain more FSU nursing graduates to work in Cumberland County and surrounding counties upon graduation. The program is designed to offset challenges through intervention and incentives.

The pre-licensure nursing program at FSU is a highly competitive and sought-after program with a track record of excellent student outcomes. The upper-division curriculum is composed of two components: pre-nursing and upper-division nursing. Freshmen and transfer students declare their majors as pre-nursing while they complete the prerequisite curriculum in their freshman and sophomore years. Because of the competitive selection and entry standards into the upper-division courses, compounded by lower performance of first-time-in-college students, the pipeline of students entering, continuing and graduating from the nursing program tends to have a high attrition rate. For example, attrition rates in nursing academic programs reported in the national literature range from 30% to 42%. However, while FSU's average program attrition rate of its pre-licensure program is 15% overall, the average attrition rate of the typical first-time pre-licensure nursing students from this region is 62%.

To increase the pipeline of registered nurses who are from this region and/or are first-time-in-college students, the School of Nursing is implementing focused intervention strategies that address the issues of entry and retention. This will include a pre-nursing elective course that focuses on nursing assistant skills and be infused with Math and Science content relevant to nursing. Upon completion of the elective course, students will be eligible to be Certified Nursing Assistants II (CNA II) while enhancing their clinical abilities and performance on entrance examinations. Students with this certification also have the opportunity to work part-time at the hospital while enrolled in nursing courses, if desired. To attract students to this opportunity, stipends will be provided by the Cape Fear Valley Health System.

FSU Spring 2017 Nursing Graduates Post 94% Pass Rate on National Licensure Exam

Fayetteville State University's (FSU) spring 2017 graduates of the pre-licensure nursing program have earned a 94% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the test required for entry into the nursing profession. On the first attempt, 29 students out of 31 took and passed the exam. In recent years, specifically since 2011, FSU nursing students have achieved 94% to 100% pass rates on the exam.

Congratulations to Dr. Afua Arhin, Associate Dean of the FSU School of Nursing, and the faculty, staff, and students for their continued success!

<http://nursejournal.org/articles/americas-best-nursing-schools/>

College of Education Receives Scholarship from Hattie M. Strong Foundation

In 2017-18, the Hattie M. Strong Foundation is again providing \$15,000 for three scholarships awarded to students in the College of Education. The first student selected is Ms. Rebekah Mayers. *Congratulations!*

College of Business & Economics (CBE) Hosts Two Youth Entrepreneurship Events

Youth Entrepreneurship Day – October 21, 2017

Youth Entrepreneurship Day (YED) teaches children ages 9-12 how to start, own, and operate their own business. Over the next four weeks, children enrolled at the Boys & Girls Club of Cumberland County and those living in the Old Wilmington Road community will work with College of Business & Economics' faculty to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Children at each center will work in groups to make bracelets and other crafts, set a fundraising goal, identify the costs, set a price, and develop a promotional plan. During the fourth week, a spokesperson from each group presents the business plan to "investors" to secure funding. YED will take place during the FSU Homecoming celebration on Saturday, October 21st at Capel Arena.

Youth Entrepreneurship Conference – November 15, 2017

In collaboration with Cumberland County Schools, the CBE will host the *9th Annual Youth Entrepreneurship Conference* for high school students throughout the district. This full-day event helps students learn the power of an entrepreneurial mindset that includes new ideas,

analyzing possibilities, and taking initiative to follow through with actions.

The Elevator Pitch Competition is one of the conference highlights. It provides an opportunity for student teams to present their business ideas to a panel of judges. Each team has three minutes to describe its proposal and persuade the judges of its merits. The judges, composed of representatives from the local business community and business school faculty, select three winners. Each winning team—and its advisor—receives a cash prize and trophy.

For students not participating in the Elevator Pitch Competition, the conference includes a 'Creativity Challenge' component. In this challenge, groups of 8-10 students are given the task of working together to: 1) identify an unmet need; 2) develop a business concept that could help meet that need; and 3) illustrate the concept with art supplies—all within a 45-minute time frame. Each student participating in one of the top three groups is awarded a monetary prize. The Creativity Challenge has proven to be an excellent opportunity for students to put entrepreneurial thinking into practice.

College of Business & Economics Receives U.S. Department of Commerce Grant to Establish EDA University Center

In partnership with the Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF), the CBE recently received a 5 year, \$600,000 U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to fund an *EDA University Center*. CSBDF is an innovative, non-profit Community Development Financial institution (CDFI) that provides capital and business services throughout the state of North Carolina. This collaboration will replicate the well-proven business support model in which nascent entrepreneurs interested in start-up funding are first required to learn about key business success factors and perform market tests to confirm that they have a viable value proposition. Through this partnership, the center will strengthen the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem by: (a) bringing new entrepreneurial funding sources to the six counties surrounding FSU; and (b) providing entrepreneurial training and ongoing mentorship to underserved populations.

American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Executive Council Chapter for FSU Business Students

The College of Business and Economics recently launched an American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Executive Council chapter. Executive Council chapters are comprised of groups of up to six students who form the core of AEI's outreach to undergraduates. Members enjoy several benefits including opportunities to: 1) attend lectures, leadership conferences, and workshops hosted by AEI; 2) connect with former students of AEI's Academic Programs to explore career opportunities in the world of public policy; and 3) host on-campus events including student debates, reading groups, and film and debate viewings. As part of the program, six CBE students will attend a leadership conference in Washington, DC on October 6-8th.

FSU McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Grant Award Renewed

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program grant application for \$ 1.2 million was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Education, renewing the program at Fayetteville State University for another five years. This grant award was the result of a competitive application process. Congratulations to Dr. Charlesene McNeill-Blue, Director of the FSU McNair Scholar Program, and staff!

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRiO program for enriching the educational experience for first-generation college or traditionally underrepresented students with financial need and who have demonstrated strong academic potential yet are underrepresented in graduate education. The program goal is to increase graduate degree awards for these students. The program provides eligible undergraduates with critical research experiences, preparation for the GRE entrance exam, mentoring, professional skills, and assistance with the graduate application process (<http://www.uncfsu.edu/mcnair>).

FSU Success Coaching for Students is Here!

"FSU Success Coaching" for a cohort of 300 entering freshmen is here. In partnership with InsideTrack, a national leader in coaching programs, students will get one-on-one help to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that lead to success. Coaches empower students to better understand themselves, their goals, and the resources available to assist them. They also help students define goals, balance competing commitments, and develop the mindset required to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them in college and beyond.

InsideTrack has a proven record of helping institutions improve student success, retention, and graduation. A study by two Stanford University School of Education researchers found statistically significant improvements in students randomly assigned to InsideTrack coaching compared with similar students not assigned to coaching. FSU Success Coaching is being led by Dr. Gerald Mitchell, Associate Dean of University College.

Faculty Accolades

- **Dr. Timothy T. Ajani**, Professor in the Department of Communication, Languages & Cultures, contributed a book chapter, "Writing System and Literature" in the peer-reviewed anthology entitled Culture and Customs of the Yoruba published by the Pan-African University Press. <https://panafricanuniversitypress.com/2017/06/27/new-release-culture-and-customs-of-the-yoruba/>
- **Dr. Ashley Holder**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Elementary Education, recently published an article entitled, *The Effectiveness of Repeated Reading on Increasing the Reading Fluency of Struggling Readers* in the SCIEDU International Research in Higher Education journal. The study explored the effectiveness of repeated reading intervention to increase reading fluency of students reading below grade level.
- **Dr. Tanya Hudson**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Elementary Education, recently was recognized by the Cumberland County Register of Deeds J. Lee Warren, Jr. for Dr. Hudson's "unselfish" assistance and partnership with that agency to supply 800 homeless children with school supplies, a county outreach project.

Fall Preview 2017

Office of Admissions invites

high schools juniors and seniors and transfer students to visit FSU on

Saturday, September 30, 8:30 – 1:00 pm.

For more information, contact: admissions@uncfsu.edu or call 910/672-1371.

Individuals, families and groups can register at: www.uncfsu.edu/admissions/fallpreview

Upcoming Events

Note: *Sesquicentennial Fall Convocation, Fall Preview, Homecoming, and more*

- **September 22:** High School Counselors for Cumberland County *Bronco Breakfast* hosted by FSU Office of Admissions
- **September 26, 6:00 pm:** Coffee with a Cop, a panel-led discussion, at Shaw Auditorium hosted by the Department of Criminal Justice in partnership with Starbucks (*Open to the Public*)
- **September 30:** Fall Preview 2017 hosted by Office of Admissions
- **October 5-7, 7:30 pm:** FSU Theatre Company production of James McLure's one-act plays—*Laundry and Bourbon* and **Lone Star**, Amphitheatre next to Butler Hall: For tickets, call FSU Ticket Office at (910) 672-1724 (*Open to the Public*)
- **October 21:** Homecoming 2017
- **October 21:** Youth Entrepreneurship Day, Capel Arena, hosted by College of Business & Economics
- **October 26, 9:30 am:** Grant Proposal Development 101, SBE 247, hosted by Office of Sponsored Research and Programs
- **October 27, 7:00-9:00 pm:** Community Science Night at Seabrook Auditorium hosted by Department of Chemistry and Physics (*Open to the Public*)
- **November 9:** Sesquicentennial Deed Signing Commemoration Ceremony - For details, visit: <https://150.uncfsu.edu>
- **November 14 – 18:** American Education Week

Visit FSU Sesquicentennial Website

**For information about the
Sesquicentennial events**

(Now through – May 12, 2018)

<https://150.uncfsu.edu>.