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Message from Complete Florida

Welcome! As we head into summer, we continue to focus on making it easier for adults to return to college and finish a degree. We know this is not a solitary effort, and we strive to make connections throughout the state to share ideas that enhance all efforts related to education and workforce development. To support this work, we formed the Complete Florida Networking Group.

Meetings take place each month virtually and last an hour. Faculty, advisors, administrators, and other partners and stakeholders meet to learn about ways we can support returning adults. Topics include accelerated course options, navigating tuition reimbursement, using open educational resources, and handling finances. We invite you to attend. Details about how to join the group appear later in this newsletter. In the meantime, we want to know what issues you would like to discuss. We want to plan speakers, presentations, and discussions that enhance collaboration and make your work easier. We eagerly await your ideas. Send suggestions for topics to collaborate@completeflorida.org

Michelle Horton, Ed.D.
Complete Florida Director



Gain Insight into Supporting Military-Affiliated Students

The featured speaker at the next Complete Florida Networking Group meeting is Lori Milkeris, Interim Director at the University of West Florida Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC). She will present an overview of integrated strategies that help military students, veterans and their

dependents by coordinating services of multiple offices. Topics include VA Education Benefits, Active Duty Tuition Assistance, tutoring, counseling, academic advising, internships and entrepreneurship guidance. Lori is an Air Force veteran who served four years of active duty as an F-16 crew chief and four years in the reserves as a Mental Health Technician. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and started the Mentoring Program at MVRC in 2015. UWF is ranked by G.I. Jobs as No. 5 in the nation of Military Friendly Schools. To sign up for the meeting, June 27 at 11 AM EST, [register online](#). We will send you a WebEx invite 48 hours prior to the event.

Ask Questions; Offer Solutions

Join the Conversation about OER

The Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC), a unit of



the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC), serves 1.3 million students, faculty and staff at the 40 colleges and universities in the state. FALSC and FLVC lead the discussion about Open Educational Resources and how to create solutions to reduce the cost of college textbooks.

Collaborative efforts to develop and share these free and low-cost materials can help all students in Florida have access to the tools they need to be successful in their academic careers. Join the OPEN FL community at <https://falsc.libguides.com/openfl> to share knowledge, learn best practices and collaborate with peers to help build a state-wide open access network. Topics of discussion include public domain, fair use, and Creative Commons licensing. Look for updates in future Complete Florida newsletters to stay current with all OPEN FL happenings.

Student Spotlight:

Degree offers insight into cultural diversity, various options for career advancement

Tracy, 40, lives in Jacksonville and works full time as a document imaging manager for a company that processes medical records for 17 hospitals. She is a May 2019 honor graduate of Florida State College at Jacksonville with a bachelor's degree in supervision and management.



"I believe in the value of education, and I want to be able to advance from my current role as a manager to a director role in another division of my company," Tracy said. "I am the first in my family to obtain a bachelor's degree, and I have a great desire to expand my knowledge and expertise. Of course, an additional degree will help me get ahead in my professional life, but I wanted to do this for me. I was on the Dean's List and the President's List and am a member of Phi Theta Kappa."

After obtaining an associate degree in health information management in 2009, Tracy decided to work to gain experience in her field before finishing her four-year degree. Though completing courses while working full time was a challenge, Tracy said her sacrifices were well worth it. Even though she has to travel frequently for her job, she was able to stay up to date on all her assignments because her entire degree program was online.

Tracy said the support of her Complete Florida coach and the Complete Florida representatives at FSCJ made it easier to navigate her academic requirements.

"They gave me advice about the best order to take the classes," Tracy said. "Any time I had a question about courses descriptions or anything else, they were right there with information and answers. It always feels good to know you have people in your corner."

The principles and information Tracy learned in her classes complement her established professional experience and help her sharpen her management skills.

"Being aware of diversity of cultures and personalities and being able to adapt and empathize with all different kinds of people is a real strength," Tracy said. "Not everyone learns and processes information the same way. Good managers recognize this and they can use this information to help meet deadlines and finish projects so that everyone feels successful."

What We're Reading

- [How a Community-Based Organization Model Can Transform the Role of a University](#)
- [College Students Want Careers with a Social Purpose](#)

Who Are We?

Complete Florida is a high-tech, low-hassle, online program for busy adults to finish their college degree and land their dream job. We provide free concierge coaching services for students returning to college.

CompleteFlorida.org

By the Numbers

15 Partner schools

200+ Degree programs

8,900+ Students have worked with a Complete Florida Coach

\$1million+ Awarded in scholarships from Complete Florida

1,086 Graduates



Fast-Forwarding A Degree

Complete Florida recognizes adult learners have busy lives and often come into a degree program with prior credits and work experience that can be used to complete a degree faster and in a cost-effective way. Complete Florida partners review potential student transcripts and identify what previously completed courses will fit into a program of study. Armed with this information, students can consider different types of accelerated options as they decide where they would like to complete their degrees. Visit CompleteFlorida.org to learn more about accelerated course options.

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What Students are Saying

"Besides the scholarships, the other huge bonus to Complete Florida is the support. I have gotten encouragement to help me succeed."

~Elizabeth, Florida State College at Jacksonville

"I would like to finish my degree because of the confidence completion will bring along with the increase of job options."

~Keith, University of West Florida

"Coach Bridget is so dedicated and helpful. Not only does she keep me abreast of deadlines, she is there to discuss any issue that comes up along the way."

~Cheryl, University of Central Florida

"Ultimately, this degree will be a much-needed piece of my comprehensive education in the information technology sector."

~Christian, St. Petersburg College

"I had to put the dream of a college degree on hold at different points in my life due to family obligations and medical conditions. I have found a balance now that allows me to take the next step to complete this longtime personal goal."

~Chandra, Polk State College

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