



**THE COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA
KEYS**

Memorandum

DATE: November 7, 2025
TO: District Board of Trustees
FROM: Monekka Munroe, Ed.D., Vice President, Academic Affairs
DEPARTMENT: Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Division Report – Monekka Munroe, Ed.D.

Introduction

This report provides an overview of recent activities, accomplishments, and updates within the Academic Affairs division for November 2025. Highlights include personnel updates, program achievements, academy graduations, instructional initiatives, and developments that continue to support student success and strengthen the College's academic mission.

Marine and Applied Sciences (M.A.S) Division

The Division of Marine and Applied Sciences is pleased to welcome Ricardo Sanchez, College Fleet Captain. Captain Sanchez is a seasoned maritime professional and licensed USCG Master 100 Gross Ton Master Captain with more than twelve years of experience as a scuba instructor and dive master operating in the nearshore waters of Key West. As the primary captain and PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor at Captain's Corner, he has led safe and engaging dive operations for up to 32 passengers aboard the M/V Sea Eagle, overseeing navigation, crew coordination, emergency response, and compliance with Coast Guard regulations. A former Boatswain's Mate and Third-Class Petty Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard,

Ricardo brings extensive expertise in vessel operations, communications, and maritime security. His earlier career as a project manager in the audiovisual industry further strengthened his leadership and client-relations skills.

Marine Resource Management (MRM)

- Spring 2023 MRM graduate, Dawn “Cricket” Desmarais, has been hired as a subcontractor for Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., a global leader in sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting. Specifically, Ms. Desmarais will be working on implementing the City of Key West’s Water Quality Monitoring Program. She has also been accepted into the University of Rhode Island’s Master of Oceanography program.
- Lucja Rice, Diving Business and Technology Faculty and Dive Safety Officer, has recently confirmed two MRM students, Nico D’Alessandro and Seth Paulsen-Sacks, as American Academy of Underwater Sciences Scientific Divers.

Institute for Public Safety (IPS)

IPS Director, Cathy Torres, accepted the Phil Royal Scholarship Award at the October CJSTC Quarterly Meeting in Kissimmee, Florida, for BLE 95 Cadet Reagan Rodriguez, who was awarded \$750. Each Florida Training Center collects applications and submits one nominee to the state for recommendation. Only two applicants statewide were selected to receive this award.



IPS Director, Cathy Torres with CJSTC Representatives

Upper Keys Center - Academies

The Crossover Corrections to Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) Academy (XVR) #37 graduated October 17, 2025. All graduates were self-sponsored, and upon successful completion of the Florida State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE), they will be eligible for certification as law enforcement officers.



Basic Law Enforcement Academy #37 Graduates

Middle Keys Center - Academies

Advanced Specialized Training: IPS provided Laser/Radar Speed Measurement training to certified law enforcement officers from October 27–30, 2025.

Key West Campus – Academies

The Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLE) Class #93 graduated on October 15, 2025. All graduates were sponsored by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

and the Key West Police Department (KWPD). Each has successfully passed the State Officer Certification Exam (SOCE) and is now a certified law enforcement officer.



Figure 1 Basic Law Enforcement Academy #93 Graduates

Nursing, Arts, Sciences, and Hospitality (NASH) Division

Nursing

The ASN application for Spring 2026 is closed. A total of 134 applications were received, and 43 students were accepted—26 at the Upper Keys Center and 14 at the Key West Campus. Additionally, seven BSN applicants were accepted.

Surveys:

Four required ASN and BSN surveys were submitted last month to the Florida Center for Nursing (FCN), Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), Florida Board of Nursing (FBON), and American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

Emergency Management Services (EMS) and Paramedic

No Update

Learning Resource Center (LRC)

Enhancements to Learning Resource Center Operations and Student Experience

Director of the Learning Resource Center, Don Williams, has been with us for two weeks and has already made significant strides in staff engagement and strategic planning. He has strengthened team involvement through clear communication and collaborative planning, while also introducing a more focused approach to the department's long-term strategic development.

Operationally, the Learning Resource Center now opens at 7:30 a.m. to better accommodate students' schedules and academic needs. Director Williams has also led enhancements to the physical environment—reorganizing furniture creates more welcoming study areas and improves overall cleanliness and brightness, providing a space that is more conducive to learning.

These early initiatives have had a noticeable positive impact on staff morale and the student experience. The refreshed layout improves comfort, accessibility, and the overall atmosphere of the center.

Halloween-Themed Library Showcase

To celebrate the Halloween season, Academic Support Services Specialist Kenna created a themed library display that was well-received by students and staff. Several books from the display were checked out, which is less common, and many patrons offered positive feedback on the collection. The display added a fun and creative touch to the library environment.



Halloween Themed Book Display