



THE COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

Memorandum

DATE: June 13, 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.

Marine Science and Technology (MS&T) Division

Marine Environmental Technology

On May 18, Dr. Charles Gregory, a member of the Marine Science Faculty, traveled to Pensacola State College to participate in the Florida Master Teacher Seminar 2025. Dr. Gregory joined many other faculty members from various disciplines across the Florida College System. The group met for an exchange of learning, teaching, and philosophy. Participants collaborated to discuss the kinds of excellent teaching practices occurring in American higher education and to share their teaching craft, promoting mastery of their instructional methods.

Dr. Gregory indicated that attending the Florida Master Teacher Seminar significantly enhanced his professional development as a professor. The seminar provided valuable opportunities to learn from educators with diverse backgrounds and to explore current challenges in college teaching, including the integration of AI, promoting student engagement, and preserving the value of hands-on learning experiences. Dr. Gregory has already shared new strategies with colleagues to help optimize instruction. One key takeaway was the importance of using narrative structure and real-world relevance to make lessons more impactful, meaningful, and memorable for students.

Dr. Gregory designed an engaging classroom activity to demonstrate the power of "insider excitement," a concept frequently used in game shows and reality television to



Dr. Gregory and Teacher Volunteer

heighten audience engagement. Using a cardboard box that opens only from the front after a volunteer is selected, Dr. Gregory builds anticipation among the audience, in this case, a group of student teachers. After a dramatic reveal, the box is shown to contain a pinecone with Cheetos, surprising the volunteer, who was expecting to encounter an echinoderm, a topic they had just studied. This playful and unexpected experience leaves a lasting impression on both the volunteer and the audience, reinforcing the lesson in a memorable and impactful way.

Marine Resource Management (MRM)

MRM Graduate Capstone Presentation at City of Key West Event

On Tuesday, May 20th, three recent MRM graduates presented their capstone experiences at the City of Key West-sponsored “Green Drinks.” This month’s theme was *Youth Leadership*. In addition to presenting their work, graduates had the opportunity to network with local environmental professionals. Green Drinks is a monthly event sponsored by the City of Key West, focusing on local environmental and sustainability issues, featuring a guest speaker each month and providing networking opportunities. Photos below of Leah Eve, Robert Saylor, and Daniel Widell.

Ghost Trap Rodeo

MRM students in Dr. Matt Semcheski’s Nearshore and Offshore Ecology and Assessment course recently volunteered with the Ocean Aid 360/Reef Relief annual Ghost Trap Rodeo. Dr. Semcheski and his students joined commercial fishing captains in the collection of derelict stone crab and spiny lobster traps from local waters. Students recorded bycatch data and were able to see the impacts of ghost traps firsthand. After two and a half weeks of trap collection, our students and faculty joined 40 other volunteers and 16 captains to remove over 3,000 traps, totaling well over 100,000 pounds from the lower Keys waters.



MRM Student Zach Petty



11MRM Students Sage Hanley, Zach Petty, and Professor Dr. Semcheski



MRM Student Sage Hanley

Arts & Hospitality Division

Manager of Transition Programs

Sherry Hill of Anna, Texas will be joining us as the new Manager of Transition Programs and will oversee all students involved in Project ACCESS. This role represents a promotion in scope and responsibility compared to her predecessor's. Sherry will support program reporting, student recruitment, and overall expansion efforts.

Project ACCESS Annual Excursion

On March 1st, Dr. Nina Medyk led the Project ACCESS students on their annual boat trip downtown for a day of shopping and sightseeing. They enjoyed perfect weather as they set sail aboard the *Tuga Explorer*, heading to Sunset Marina. It was a memorable and enjoyable outing for all!



Project Access students on the boat



Project Access students at the marina



Project Access student and his mentor on the boat

Dr. Emily Weekley, a Fulbright Scholar in literature and creative writing, is currently teaching a course titled *Writing About Film*. As part of the class, she takes her students to the iconic Tropic Cinema, located just off Duval Street in Key West. The theater is known for its striking aqua-blue Art Deco marquee, a distinctive sculpture by Seward Johnson of Marilyn Monroe in her signature white dress posed over a grate, and a tropical twist on the classic Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Statue of Marilyn Monroe in front of the Tropic Cinema

Sciences & Nursing Division

Interim Dean, Sciences and Nursing

Dr. Monekka Munroe will serve as the interim Dean for the Sciences and Nursing division until a permanent replacement is named. Dean Laura Cox has resigned from her administrative role but will remain with the College as nursing faculty.

Faculty, Biology

Dan Brook, former Director of Sciences and Nursing, has been selected to fill the Faculty, Biology position. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Brook to his new role, where he will continue to support the College's mission and vision to lead in quality education, foster innovative learning, and serve as a unifying force within the community.

Learning Resource Center Division

Spring Commencement Support

In May, the Key West campus library played a supportive role in the College's commencement activities. On the afternoon of May 8, 2025, under the direction of the Admissions and Student Activities departments, the library hosted graduate registration and a prep party. Later that day, as graduates proceeded to the Tennessee Williams Fine Art Center, the library welcomed overflow audience members to view the ceremony in the Seminar Room. Approximately 50 guests attended the live stream viewing.

Pride Month Showcase Collection

In celebration of Pride Month this June, Academic Support Services Specialist Kenna curated a themed book display in the library. The display highlights a diverse selection of LGBTQ+ literature and resources. The library has recently expanded its monthly display space to better showcase curated collections and support community engagement.

Institute for Public Safety (IPS) Division

Key Largo

- Florida General Instructor Training Refresher Course – cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

Marathon – MCSO Training Hangar Classroom

- On May 22, 2025, the IPS Director and Assistant Director attended an eight (8) hour Autism Safety 101— Autism and the Law Enforcement Response course. This training course provided law enforcement personnel with a basic understanding of autism and how individuals with autism behave, communicate, and react in various situations. Furthermore, it addressed high-risk and crisis incidents and provided officers with tips and strategies to defuse and de-escalate the situation. MCSO sponsored this class.
- On May 28, 2025, the IPS Assistant Director attended a four (4) hour class on the debriefing of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting. MCSO sponsored this class.

Key West

- The IPS Training Advisory Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 PM on Monday, June 30, 2025.

Emergency Management Services (EMS) and Paramedic Division

Nine EMTs graduated from the EMT Program during this Commencement. Meanwhile, the Paramedic Program is actively preparing its LSSR submission and will present the following documents to the Board of Trustees for formal review and approval: Minimum Expected Goals Statement, Capstone Field Internship Preceptor Manual, and Clinical Liaison Orientation Manual. These materials are an essential part of the program's ongoing efforts to meet accreditation standards and provide high-quality educational experiences for students.

Paramedic Program Update

The Letter of Review Self-Study Report (LSSR) revisions were submitted on June 10, 2025. The College is currently waiting to receive feedback. If all revisions are approved, the virtual site visit will be scheduled. This is the final step before the Letter of Review (LoR) is received.