

PLP COHORT 5 (2021) BIOS

Presidential Leadership Program – Sponsor & Facilitator



Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg is the fifth president of Florida International University (FIU). A public institution of higher education, FIU is the face of the country's future in higher education demographics: it is a majority-minority institution that leads the country in the production of minority degrees in the sciences and engineering.

Dr. Rosenberg has served as the fifth president of FIU since August 2009. A political scientist specializing in Latin America, Dr. Rosenberg is the first FIU faculty member to ascend to the university's presidency.

Under his leadership as president, FIU has increased enrollment to almost 58,000 students, improved graduation rates by 23% and hired over 400 new full-time faculty members. As President, Dr. Rosenberg has provided leadership to grow the institution's budget, improve student retention and graduation rates, expand internships for enrolled students, and coordinate FIU's emergence as a leading producer of graduates in priority national and state areas focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The university has been named as a Carnegie "Highest Research" as well as an "Engaged" institution, and has developed path-breaking partnerships with the Miami Dade County Public Schools, JP Morgan Chase, Florida Power & Light and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Research expenditures have grown by over 120% to nearly \$226 million, and over 100 new student advisers and counselors have been hired for a restructured and expanded student graduation initiative.

From 2005 to 2009, Dr. Rosenberg served as the second Chancellor (he was the first that was formally selected by the Board of Governors) for the State University System (SUS) of Florida, which includes all of Florida's public universities – over 325,000 students and an all-accounts budget of nearly \$9 billion. As chancellor, Dr. Rosenberg led the system's strategic development and financial planning and policy initiatives, working closely with Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist and the state legislature to secure support for SUS priorities. During this era, major new strides were made in research support for the system, over \$1 billion was provided for new facility construction, and a new SUS strategic plan was developed, approved and launched.

Prior to becoming chancellor, Dr. Rosenberg was integrally involved in the expansion and development of FIU into a major public research university. As Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1998 to 2005, Dr. Rosenberg spearheaded the establishment of a law school in 2002 and a medical school in 2006. Under his leadership, FIU increased enrollment, implemented major campus

construction projects, and was invited to join the select national honor society Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Rosenberg was also instrumental in moving FIU into the top tier of Carnegie Foundation research universities.

Dr. Rosenberg's academic career began at FIU in 1976 as an assistant professor of political science. In 1979, he founded the FIU Latin American and Caribbean Center,

which today is one of the nation's premier federally-supported research and teaching centers focusing on the region. Dr. Rosenberg subsequently served as the Founding Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs and Vice Provost for International Studies. He has also been a Visiting Distinguished Research Professor at The Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and a Visiting Professor at the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM) in Mexico.

Dr. Rosenberg earned a B.A. in 1971 from Miami University of Ohio and a Ph.D. in Political Science with a graduate certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976. He has written or co-edited seven books and numerous scholarly articles in leading journals. His latest book, *The United States and Central America: Geopolitical Realities and Regional Fragility* (2007), is a Harvard University project co-authored with Luis Guillermo Solis of Costa Rica. Governmental and media organizations have frequently sought Dr. Rosenberg's expertise on Latin America. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, has testified before Congress numerous times, and has served as a consultant to the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Firmly committed to service with national and local educational impact, Dr. Rosenberg serves as Immediate Past-Chair of the Association of Public Land-Grant University's (APLU) Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU) and its Commission on Access, Diversity, and Excellence (CADE); Co-Chair of the Board on Science Education's (BOSE) Roundtable on Systemic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education and as a member of the American Council on Education's (ACE) Transfer Task Force. He also served Chair of the National Academies' Committee on Developing Indicators for Undergraduate STEM Education, and as a member of the national Task Force of Apprenticeship Expansion.

Within Miami-Dade County, Dr. Rosenberg was the 109th Chair of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC), one of Florida's leading business associations; served a 5-year term as Chair of the Academic Leaders Council (ALC) for the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County's official economic development organization and is currently on the Board of Directors for the South Florida Business Council (SFBC). He serves on the Board of Directors of City National Bank of Florida, and is active in a variety of other civic organizations, including the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, Florida Council of 100, and the United Way of Miami-Dade County.

Dr. Rosenberg is a first-generation college graduate whose two children, Ben and Ginelle, are both graduates of FIU. He and his wife of over 45 years, Rosalie, are members of Temple Menorah in Miami Beach.



Presidential Leadership Program - Program Director & Co-Facilitator

Valeria Espina Stevenson serves as Executive Director and Head of Strategic Initiatives and Projects at the Office of the President at Florida International University (FIU). In her role, she manages Presidential initiatives, serves as Program Director for the Presidential Leadership Program, is a member of the President's Executive Committee and serves as liaison with university partners such as Royal Caribbean and Florida Power and Light. Additionally, Valeria represents the Office of the President on several university-wide committees. Valeria Espina Stevenson is a two-time graduate of FIU, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in Accounting ('13) ('14).



Andrew Naylor
Senior Director
Housing and Residential Life

Andrew Naylor currently serves as Senior Director for Housing and Residential Life. In his role, he oversees operation for a comprehensive housing and residential life department serving over 3,000 students. Andrew earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University ('95) and his master's degree in Student Counseling/Personnel Service from Kansas State University ('97). In addition to his role as Senior Director, he serves as faculty at the Regional Entry Level Institute which focuses on growing the student housing profession by engaging new professionals in a weeklong intensive professional development experience.



Angel Burgos
Executive Director, Administration
Chapman Graduate School of Business

Angel Burgos currently serves as the Executive Director of Administration within the Chapman Graduate School of Business. In his role, he directs all business activities and operations for eight MBA programs which serve over 1,200 graduate students. Angel earned his bachelor's degree in Communication from Hunter College and his master's degree in Public Administration from Columbia University. Beyond the academic world, he served as a Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate. Angel is part of the Leadership Florida Cornerstone Class of 2018.



April Lewis
Associate Director
Academic and Career Success

April Lewis currently serves as Associate Director for Academic and Career Success. In her role, she works with academic units to develop and implement ongoing assessment tools to ensure quality academic advising throughout the University. April earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Higher Education/Enrollment Management from the University of Miami ('97) ('13). April has a passion for helping students and helping them find a major that aligns with their interests, skills, and values that will ultimately lead them to future academic and career success.



Arif Sarwat
Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Arif Sarwat currently serves as Professor within the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He teaches Smart Grid, Sustainability & Reliability, Renewable Integration, Power Systems, Energy Systems, Power System Analysis among many other topics. He earned his bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering from AMU in India ('94), his master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of Florida ('05) and his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Florida ('10). In addition to his role as Professor, Arif serves as Director of the FPL-FIU Solar Research Center.



Arnaldo Gonzalez
Senior Program Coordinator
Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse

Arnaldo Gonzalez currently serves as Senior Program Coordinator within the Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse (CRUSADA). In his role, he provides key support to grant proposal submissions and presentations by the Center. Arnaldo earned his bachelor's degree in English and his master's degree in Linguistics from FIU ('05) ('08). He also has completed coursework in Computer Science and Computational Linguistics.



Brian Connors
Director
Bacardi Center of Excellence

Brian Connors currently serves as the Director of the Bacardi Center of Excellence within the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. In his role, he leads the Bacardi Center of Excellence, a dynamic learning partnership between Bacardi North America and the school aimed to inspire and educate the hospitality community on global spirits and entrepreneurship. Brian earned his bachelor's degree in Restaurant Management from Cornell University and his master's degree in Strategic Hospitality Management and Beverage Marketing from the University of Central Florida. In addition to his role as Director, he has taught several courses within the School throughout his tenure at FIU.



Carolina Zapata Aquino
Manager of Accreditation
Office of Academic Planning and Accountability

Carolina Zapata Aquino currently serves as the Manager of Accreditation for the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability. In her role, she is responsible for submission of various reports to our governing bodies including but not limited to the Board of Governors and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Carolina earned both her bachelor's in communication and her master's in Higher Education Administration from FIU ('03) ('10).



Christina Chong
Manager
College Life Coaching

Christina Chong currently serves as Manager of College Life Coaching. In her role, she oversees the college life coaching program which provides one-on-one coaching, group coaching and workshop programming in order to increase student success. Christina earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and master's degree in Education from the University of Miami ('10) ('12). She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist as well as a certified Academic Life Coach.



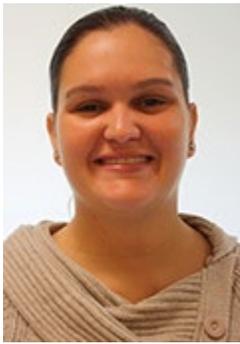
Cristina "Cristi" Arabatzis
Director of Admissions and Recruitment
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Cristi Arabatzis currently serves at the Director of Admissions and Recruitment at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. In her role, she provides leadership, strategic planning and oversight of medical student recruitment and admissions. Cristi earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from FIU ('09) ('12). In addition to her role as Director of Admissions and Recruitment, she serves as a First Year Experience instructor. She is also a member of the National Association of Advisors for Health Professions and a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program.



Dayanis Borges
Compliance Manager
Office of University Compliance and Integrity

Dayanis Borges currently serves as Compliance Manager within the Office of University Compliance and Integrity. In her role, she manages the day-to-day operation of the Office of University Compliance and Integrity as well as serves as advisor to the Chief Compliance Officer. Dayanis earned her bachelor's degree in Education and her master's in Public Administration from FIU ('14) ('17). She is also a certified Compliance and Ethics Professional.



Dolores Medina
Director - CRM & Enrollment Communications
Enrollment Management and Services

Dolores Medina currently serves as Director – CRM & Enrollment Communications within Enrollment Management and Services. In her role, she leads Salesforce platform operations and communication planning for her division. Dolores earned her bachelor's degree in Information Technology and her master's degree in Management Information Systems from FIU ('07) ('09). In addition to her role as Director of CRM and Enrollment Communications, she teaches Information Systems Management as an adjunct professor in the College of Business. Dolores is a graduate of FIU's Education Leadership Enhancement Program.



Erica Levy
Assistant Director of Academic Support Services
College of Engineering and Computing

Erica Levy currently serves as Assistant Director of Academic Support Services at the College of Engineering and Computing. In her role, she supervises adjunct faculty and assigns 200+ sections for 80 faculty at the School of Computing and Information Sciences. Erica holds a B.A. in Social Science Interdisciplinary: Specialization in Health and Human Services with a Minor in Sociology from the University at Buffalo, a M.S.Ed. in Counseling Education from Hofstra University, and an Advanced Ed.M. in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition to her role as Assistant Director, she is Chair of the Florida Academic Advising Association (FLACADA). Erica is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program.



Frantz Williams
Leadership Annual Giving Officer
FIU Foundation

Frantz Williams currently serves as Leadership Annual Giving Officer within FIU Foundation. In his role, he is responsible for raising philanthropic donors to support student success initiatives.

Frantz Williams is a mission-forward leader and access advocate. Frantz is a mission-forward leader and access advocate. His skillsets in business development and project management have served over 15 million customers; benefited over 100,000 lives with social services; and directly raised over \$7 million in philanthropic donations. He earned two undergraduate degrees (cum laude) in English and Sociology ('06) ('06) from the University of Florida. In Spring 2021, Frantz will graduate with a Master of Public Administration from FIU.



Grisel d'Elena
Academic Advisor II
Honors College

Grisel d'Elena currently serves as an Academic Advisor II within the Honors College. In her role, she advises Honors students in non-STEM majors and prepares them for graduate and law school.

Grisel earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Religious Studies from FIU ('14) ('16). She is currently working on her doctorate in International Relations continuing her graduate work on the state sponsored persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar. In addition to her role as Academic Advisor, Grisel serves as an Adjunct Faculty member for Religious Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and The Honors College. She teaches courses on Church and State, Religion Analysis and Interpretation, Feminist Theology and Ethics, Honors Seminar as well as First Year Experience.



Jacqueline "Jackie" Lynch
Associate Professor
Department of Teaching and Learning

Jackie Lynch currently serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning. She earned her bachelor and master's degrees in Education at Memorial University of NL ('95)

('99). Jackie earned her Ph.D. in Education from the University of British Columbia ('03). She teaches Critical Issues in Literacy Research and Practice and Theory and Instruction in Literacy among other courses. In addition to her role as Associate Professor, Jackie serves as a Faculty Mentor within the Office to Advance Women, Equity and Diversity.



Janelle Fernandez
Assistant Director of Academic Support Services
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Janelle Fernandez currently serves as Assistant Director of Academic Support Services at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. In her role, she manages the administrative functions for the Associate Dean for Curriculum and Medical Education including overseeing financial expenditures and special projects for the Office of Medical Education. Janelle earned her bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a specialization in Biology Education from the University of Florida ('09). She also earned two master's degrees from FIU, one in Higher Education Administration and one in Business Administration ('14) ('19). Janelle is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program.



Jennifer Bravo
Director
Transfer and Transition Services

Jennifer Bravo currently serves as Director of Transfer and Transition Services. In her role, she oversees all matters related to the development of effective and efficient transfer credit processes and ensuring a seamless transition for every transfer student to FIU. Jennifer earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Human Resource Development from FIU ('94) ('11) and most recently earned her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University ('19). She is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program.



JoAnn "Jo" Adkins
Director of Communications
College of Arts, Sciences & Education

JoAnn "Jo" Adkins currently serves in the Division of External Relations, Strategic Communication and Marketing as Director of Communications for the College of Arts, Sciences and Education. In her role, she directs public relations, media relations and marketing initiatives for the college. Jo earned her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from Marshall University in 2002. In addition to her role as Director of Communications, she serves on the university-wide Marketing Task Force and the Next Horizon Communications Council. Jo also is a graduate of the FIU Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP) and of the Greater Miami Chamber Leadership Miami program.



Katherine "Kathy" Martin
Assistant Director of Career Development
Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

Kathy Martin currently serves as Assistant Director of Career Development in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. In her role, she's responsible for helping and guiding students to reach their career goals pre and post-graduation as well as manages the Career Development team in Tianjin, China to increase and improve employment partnerships and career opportunities for students. Kathy earned her bachelor and master's degrees in Hospitality Management from FIU ('10) ('18). In addition to her role as Assistant Director of Career Development, she also teaches Introduction to Hospitality Management, Pathways II and Advance Internship as an adjunct professor.



Lergia Olivo
Instructional Design Manager
FIU Online

Lergia Olivo currently serves as Instructional Design Manager at FIU Online. In her role, she supervises a team of over 20 learning design professionals who together are responsible for the design, development and maintenance of online and hybrid courses. Lergia earned her bachelor's degree in English and her master's degree in Linguistics from FIU ('08) ('09). She is currently working towards her doctorate in Teaching and Learning. Lergia is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP) and the Online Learning Consortium's Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning (IELOL). In addition to her role at FIU Online, she also teaches courses for the Honors College and the English Language Institute.



Lourdes Torres
Assistant Director - Corporate Relations
Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

Lourdes Torres currently serves as Assistant Director for Corporate Relations within the Career Development Office at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. In her role, she serves as the primary contact between employers and the campus recruitment function at the school, manages the daily operations of the career development office and represents the office at appropriate meetings/events such as ComPASS. Lourdes earned her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications/Public Relations and her master's degree in Educational Leadership and Human Resource Development from FIU ('10) ('13). She also holds a certification in Hospitality Studies. In addition to her role as Assistant Director - Corporate Relations, Lourdes serves as an adjunct professor at her school teaching Advanced Internship, Intro to Hospitality Management and Pathways II.



María Carla Chicuén
Executive Director
CasaCuba

María Carla Chicuén currently serves as Executive Director for CasaCuba. In her role, she leads the effort to develop CasaCuba, a leading think tank and cultural center at FIU for the study of Cuba and the preservation and celebration of Cuban heritage. Maria Carla earned her bachelor's degree in History from Harvard University ('10) and a master's in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science ('11). She is also a former participant of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami.



Melissa Castriota
Associate Director of Administrative Services
FIU at I-75

Melissa Castriota currently serves as Associate Director of Administrative Services for FIU at I-75. In her role, she supervises staff for building support, enrollment services, space management, social media as well as student employees for the FIU at I-75 regional location. Melissa earned her bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from FIU ('09), her master's degree in Leadership from Nova Southeastern University ('14) and is currently completing coursework under the Doctoral program in Public Affairs at FIU. In addition to her role as Associate Director, she serves on several FIU university-wide committees including our Diversity Week Committee, our Commencement Committee, our Scholarship Committee, and most recently our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committees for *Attraction, Retention and Engagement, Health and Wellness, and Marketing*. Melissa is also a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP).



Noel Barengo
Associate Professor
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Noel Barengo currently serves as an Associate Professor at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. Among his courses taught are research methods, principles of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics and clinical epidemiology. Noel earned his master's and doctorate degrees in Public Health from the University of Kuopio in Finland ('01) ('06). In addition to his role as an Associate Professor, he serves as Secretary for our Faculty Senate and participated in our strategic planning process for our NextHorizon2025 Strategic Plan.



Okezi Otovo
Associate Professor
**Department of History and Program in African and African
Diaspora Studies**

Okezi Otovo currently serves as Associate Professor within the Department of History and the African and African Diaspora Studies Program. She teaches introductory, advanced, and graduate courses on Latin America, modern Brazil, and thematic topics such as gender, race, public health, and the social history of medicine. Okezi earned her bachelor's degree in History from Carnegie Mellon University ('98). She earned her master's degree in Latin American Studies and her doctorate in History from Georgetown University ('02) ('09). In addition to her role as Associate Professor, Okezi serves as Graduate Program Director in the Department of History.



Pamela Castillo
Care Coordinator
Office of the Dean of Students

Pamela Castillo currently serves as the Care Coordinator within the Office of the Dean of Students. In her role, she tracks and monitors students in distress. Pamela earned her bachelor's degree in International Relations and her master's degree in Higher Education Administration from FIU ('14) ('16). She is also certified in QPR Suicide Risk Assessment and Risk Management and in Mental Health First Aid.



Priscilla Chaves
**Director of Operations – Psychiatry and Behavioral Health &
Translational Medicine**
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Priscilla Chaves currently serves as Director of Operations for the Psychiatry and Behavioral Health and Translational Medicine departments within the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. In her role, she oversees budget management, contract management and negotiations, departmental metrics and regulatory compliance for both departments. She recently spearheaded the negotiations with the Department of Health which led to a 1.425-million-dollar service contract. Priscilla earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University ('06) and a master's degree in Public Health from FIU ('18). She also earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University ('10). In addition to her role as Director of Operations, Priscilla serves as a First Year Experience instructor.



Rakesh Ravikumar Nair
Assistant Professor - Cellular Biology and Pharmacology
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Rakesh Ravikumar Nair currently serves as Assistant professor within the Department of Cellular Biology and Pharmacology at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM). He is also the Course Director for the Period 1 & Period 4 Anatomy course. Rakesh earned his MD from Government Medical College in India ('07) and his master's degree (MPH) from the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work ('11). His clinical training includes General Surgery and Primary care practice. Rakesh's research interest includes clinical surgery, medicine, and public health issues. He is also a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and a graduate of LeaderShape Florida. Rakesh was inducted into FIU Chapter of Sigma Xi (2020), Delta Epsilon Iota chapter ('10), Phi beta Delta- Zeta Alpha Chapter ('10) and Golden Key International Honor Society ('09).



Roneet Merkin
Program Director
Mastery Math Lab

Roneet Merkin currently serves as Program Director for the Mastery Math Lab. In her role, she oversees the lab which focuses on Finite Math, Social Choice Math and Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences. Roneet earned her bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Columbia University ('99) and her master's degree in Mathematics from the City University of New York ('00). In addition to her role as Program Director, she is an Associate Teaching Professor within the Department of Math and Statistics and a Ph.D. student in the Teaching Learning program with a concentration in STEM education.



Rosa Cellucci
Assistant Director
Department of International Business

Rosa Cellucci currently serves as Assistant Director within the Department of International Business. In her role, she supervises the recruitment process along with the Division of Human Resources for faculty, administrative staff and Ph.D. candidates within the department. Rosa earned both her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and her master's degree in Human Resource Management from FIU ('09) ('12). In addition to her role as Assistant Director, she also serves as an Adjunct Professor teaching a course on Crisis Management. Rosa is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP).



Sofia B. Fernandez
Post-Doctoral Researcher
Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work

Sofia Fernandez currently serves as a post-doctoral research fellow within the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work and for the FIU Research Center for Minority Institutions. In her role, she works on various health promotion projects specifically focusing on alleviating health disparities among underserved communities.

Sofia earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from Florida State University ('13) ('14) and earned a doctorate in Social Welfare from FIU ('17). In addition to her role, she serves as an adjunct professor within the School of Social Work and works closely with various campus support programs including the Fostering Panther Pride Program to support student success and promote campus well-being.



Sofia Trelles
Student Ombudsperson
Division of Academic and Student Affairs

Sofia Trelles currently serves as Student Ombudsperson within the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. In her role, she helps students who have encountered problems or conflicts within the

University, particularly problems not being adequately addressed through normal channels, or which processes and procedures seem incapable of, or are causing an inordinate delay in resolving. Sofia earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science, her master's degree in Public Administration from FIU ('11) ('13). She will graduate with her Ph.D. from FIU as well this year ('21). She is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP).



Stephanie Miller
Associate Director for Programming
Campus Life

Stephanie Miller currently serves as Associate Director for Programming in Campus Life. In her role, she advises both the Homecoming and Student Programming Council which are comprised of

over 200 students. She earned her bachelor's degree in Resort and Hospitality Management from Florida Gulf Coast University ('12) and her master's degree in Higher Education Administration ('14) from FIU. In addition to her role as Associate Director for Programming, she serves on the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) in various roles.



Vanessa Vazquez
Director, Event Management and Conference Services
Graham Center

Vanessa Vazquez currently serves as Director of Event Management and Conference Services for the Graham Center. In her role, she provides overall vision, leadership, and direction, division-wide and across multiple campuses, to each lead coordinator to mitigate risk, deliver a high-touch approach and foster the proper planning, coordination, production, and execution of events for student organization, departments, and external guests. Vanessa earned her bachelor and master's degrees in Business Administration from FIU ('12) ('14). In addition to her role as Director of Event Management and Conference Services, she serves on the Division of HR Task Force and United Way Steering Committee. Vanessa is a graduate of FIU's Leadership Education Advancement Program (LEAP).



Vicenta Shepard
Director - Center for Academic Success
Academic and Career Success

Vicenta Shepard currently serves as Director for the Center for Academic Success. In her role, she manages all staff at the learning center and develops, implements, and assesses programs related to tutoring and academic support. Vicenta earned her bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Florida ('99), her master's degree in Reading and Special Education from the University of Miami ('02), and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture at FIU. She is a Founding Member of the Florida College Learning Center Association.



Wendy Ordoñez
Coordinator of Outreach and Educational Media
Counseling and Psychological Services

Wendy Ordoñez currently serves Coordinator of Outreach and Educational Media in Counseling and Psychological Services. In her role, she manages a team to conceive and implement multi-faceted University prevention campaigns. Wendy also serves at the Center's liaison for faculty and staff in regard to awareness and prevention presentation and events. She earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and her Master of Arts in Teaching Art Education from FIU ('07) ('10). She's also a practicing artist trained in Alla Prima painting.