DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES **NEWS**

TOP NEWS
IN FL & BEYOND

■ **HOW CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE USING AI TO BATTLE FINANCIAL AID FRAUD**

"Community colleges in California for years have been fighting a losing battle with fraudsters who have stolen millions of dollars in federal and state financial aid. But now state officials believe they are finally turning a corner thanks to new tools. The game-changer? Artificial intelligence." (Source: EdSource)

Read more here.

HOW AI IS CHANGING—NOT 'KILLING'—COLLEGE

"Key findings from Inside Higher Ed's student survey on generative AI show that using the evolving technology hasn't diminished the value of college in their view, but it could affect their critical thinking skills". (Source: Inside Higher Ed)
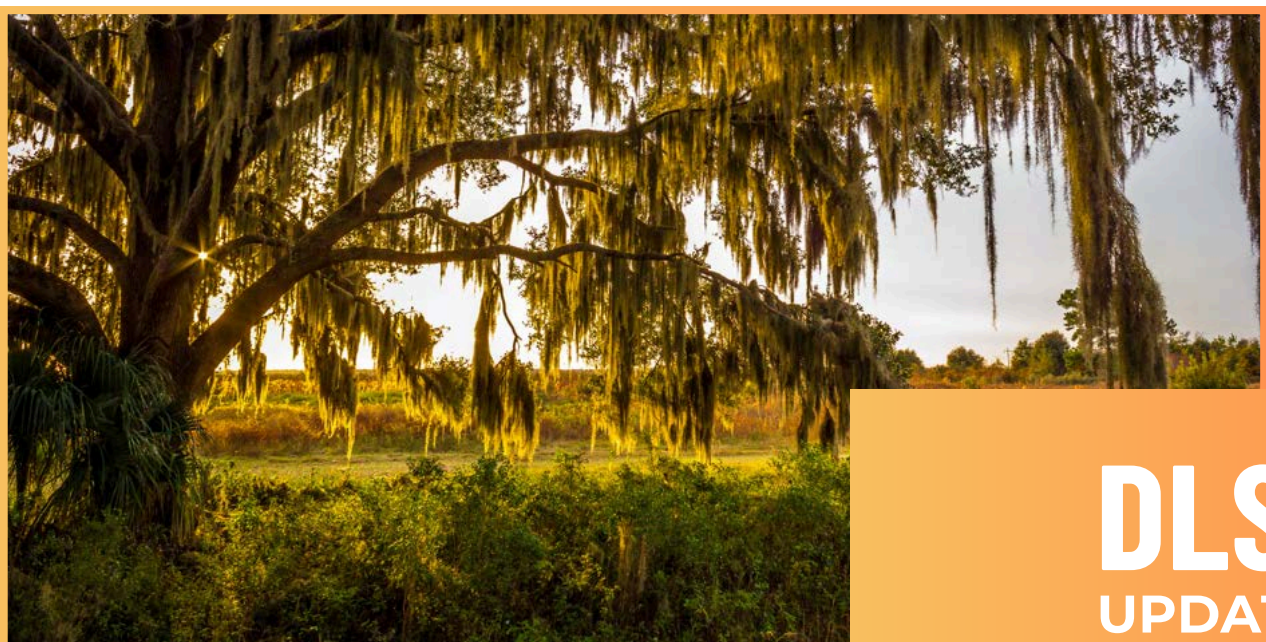
Read more here.

OHIO ENACTED A LAW TO REGULATE ONLINE PROGRAM MANAGERS. HERE'S WHAT IT DOES.

"The state became the second to create legislation to oversee companies that help colleges launch and run online programs... Under a new law, both public and private colleges in Ohio must disclose on their websites for their online programs when they are using vendors to help run those offerings." (Source: Higher Ed Dive)

Read more here.

DLSS UPDATES

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FL-IDN LATEST WEBINAR: FROM PROMPT TO PRODUCT: REAL-WORLD AI TOOLS FOR EFFICIENT INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

Last month, FL-IDN hosted the webinar, "From Prompt to Product: Real-World AI Tools for Efficient Instructional Design." This dynamic panel brought together five experienced instructional designers from a variety of ID industries to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming their daily workflows and enhancing productivity. Participants left with actionable strategies for thoughtfully incorporating AI into their instructional design practice while maintaining learning effectiveness and academic and pedagogical integrity. Many thanks to Dr. Laura McNeill (University of Alabama), Beth Brooks (Health HIV), Preston Ruddell (University of Alabama), Ciera Cornelison (Brasfield & Gorrie), Amy Bethke (Belmont University Medical School), Justine Burke (National Debt Relief), and Detra Allen (Rollins Pest Control) for sharing their knowledge and experience with our IDN community.

In case you missed it, here's the recording.

FL-IDN UPCOMING WEBINAR: GENAI IN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN: SURVEY FINDINGS ON ID USE, CHALLENGES, AND NEEDS

This month, FL-IDN will host the webinar, "GenAI in Instructional Design: Survey Findings on ID Use, Challenges, and Needs." This presentation shares the results of a survey exploring how instructional designers (IDs) in higher education use generative AI (GenAI) in their practice. IDs use GenAI in online and blended course development (e.g., to develop materials) and also guide faculty on GenAI use for teaching. IDs identified several challenges with GenAI, including credibility, ethical, and academic integrity concerns. They reported struggling to keep up with rapidly evolving GenAI technologies and the need for various types of support to successfully implement GenAI at their institutions. Ariel Gunn (Johns Hopkins University), Swapna Kumar (UF), Margeaux Johnson (UF), and Albert Ritzhaupt (UF) will discuss the implications for their research for IDs and GenAI integration into teaching and learning processes at institutions of higher education.

September 16, 2025 | 2:00 - 2:50 PM (ET) | Register for free here.

The recording and other resources related to this webinar will be sent to the FL-IDN and MCDLSS listservs as soon as they are made available.

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FL-IDN UPCOMING WEBINAR: SIMULATION-BASED LEARNING IN ONLINE SCIENCE COURSES

Next month, FL-IDN will host the webinar, "Simulation-Based Learning in Online Science Courses." Students enrolled in fully online courses have limited access to experiential learning opportunities, which are essential for enhancing engagement, developing practical skills, and reinforcing instructional materials. Therefore, there is a need for equitable, experience-based learning activities that allow fully online students to engage with instructional materials and apply their knowledge dynamically.

To address this issue and provide learners with a holistic learning experience, our team developed a prototype laboratory simulation for a fully online Drug Analysis and Chemistry course using Articulate Storyline 360. In this interactive, gamified online learning activity, students explore a lab and complete tasks while applying theoretical and foundational knowledge they learned in the course.

Our guest speakers, Anamary Tarifa and Michael Trainor (FIU), have a goal to reach instructional designers and faculty, sharing innovative solutions to current real-world challenges.

October 14, 2025 | 2:00 - 2:50 PM (ET) | Register for free here.

The recording and other resources related to this webinar will be sent to the FL-IDN and MCDLSS listservs as soon as they are made available.

IDN For more IDN webinar recordings, visit: https://dlss.flvc.org/idn-webinars

INSTITUTION SPOTLIGHT: AS FLORIDA TOURISM SURGES, UF TRAINS STUDENTS IN AI-DRIVEN HOSPITALITY

"Florida welcomed 34.4 million visitors over the summer to theme parks, beaches and trending destinations, shattering tourism and hospitality records. To keep the pace, statewide businesses are increasingly looking to innovate, and turning to AI to deliver personalized, memorable experiences that exceed the expectations of today's travelers.

University of Florida's Nico Rose — an assistant provost, senior director of operations and lecturer in the UF College of Health & Human Performance's Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management — is at the forefront of this shift, preparing students to adapt to the ever-evolving tourism and hospitality industries.

"My overarching goal is to establish a baseline of AI literacy, an awareness of what opportunities exist, and a framework for decision making and operational deployment," said Rose, who teaches several courses within the college's undergraduate and graduate certificate programs in Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics in Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management." (Source: UF News)

Read more here.

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UP NEXT

■ THIS MONTH: FREE COLLEGE 101 WEBINARS

Registration is now open for September's free College 101 webinars!

This three-part series, "College 101: Plan Your Path After High School," is designed to help high school students and parents successfully navigate the various education paths after graduation.

Each webinar will cover a key step in the admission process: selecting an education path, creating an effective application, and various financial aid options. Experts in college admissions and financial aid will present the sessions and answer questions. Attendees can register for one, two, or all three webinars for free.

- **September 9**: Discover Your Shining Path: College, University, or Technical College?
- **September 16**: Make an Impression: How to Make Your Application Shine!
- **September 23**: Paying for College: How to Save Big, Stress Less, and Make College Affordable!

College 101 is presented through partnership with the Florida Department of Education, FloridaShines, Florida College Access Network, and numerous school districts across the state.

To learn more about College 101 and to register, please visit FloridaShines.org/college-101.

FloridaShines has free College 101 flyers to help you spread the word to your school's students and parents. Visit FloridaShines.org/promotion to order your flyers today!

Guest Speaker
Dr. Amanda Sterk, Method Learning

Guest Speaker
Jasey Bedoya, Path to College

Guest Speaker
Dr. Karemah Campbell Manselle, University of Central Florida

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NEXT MONTH: MCDLSS FALL 2025 MEETING

A regular meeting of the FLVC Members Council on Distance Learning and Student Services will be held on Tuesday, October 14 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, October 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Seminole State College's Sanford/Lake Mary Campus in Sanford, Florida.

Registration, resources, and other information can be found below.

MEETING TIMES & LOCATION:
Tuesday, October 14
Lunch: On Your Own
Meeting: 1-5 p.m. ET

Wednesday, October 15
Breakfast: 8:30 - 9 a.m. ET
Meeting: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ET

Seminole State College, Sanford/Lake Mary Campus
AT Building, Rm. 102
100 Weldon Boulevard, Sanford, FL 32773

REGISTRATION:
Please register your attendance (in person or online) below:
https://forms.gle/iqP1c7ptkfQsQB939

If attending in person, there is a $60.00 meeting registration fee.
Payments may be made by institution check, purchase order, or credit card.
Payment instructions can be found on the registration form.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
Registration closes on Friday, October 3, 2025.
The last day to cancel and receive a refund is Friday, October 3, 2025.

CREDIT CARD LINK:
https://commerce.cashnet.com/FLVC

By submitting this registration form, you agree to pay the registration fee unless you cancel or transfer your registration.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:
The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North
2974 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746
(407) 531-3555

HOTEL BOOKING LINK:
The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North Courtesy Room Block Booking Link

Please note:
- You will need to manually select your dates.
- The Westin will issue the rooms in small batches. If you're unable to book, contact Brooke, and she'll reach out to Westin to increase the batch.
- The deadline to book is currently set to September 13, 2025. Brooke will work to extend the date, if needed.

PARKING:
Parking Lot 18 and 19 are the closest to AT Building and are free of charge.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Brooke Tome.

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OPEN-ED MIC: THE OER PODCAST FOR EDUCATORS

Welcome to "Open-Ed Mic", a podcast where voices from across the educational landscape share insights, stories, and strategies for transforming learning through openness. Whether you're new to open education or a seasoned practitioner, Open Ed Mic invites you into the conversation.

Your hosts—Kevin Corcoran, Zach Claybaugh, Brittany Dudek, and Dr. Michael A. Mills—bring decades of combined expertise as prominent thought leaders in open educational resources (OER) within higher education. With extensive backgrounds spanning digital learning, library science, student success initiatives, and strategic leadership at state and national levels, they have collectively shaped policies, driven impactful initiatives, and advocated passionately for increased access to education. Their collaborative approach highlights their deep commitment to advancing open education practices, ensuring quality, affordability, and accessibility for learners everywhere.

In their latest episode of "Open-Ed Mic", Liliana Diaz shares her journey with open educational resources (OER). They explore how OER has grown from a cost-saving strategy to a driver of student success, the role of course markings and data, and why educators remain committed to open education.

Go here to listen.

SAN
BOX

WELCOME TO THE FLVC STATE AUTHORIZATION LISTSERV!

FLVC recently launched the Florida State Authorization Network Listserv to help institutional contacts stay informed with timely updates, alerts, and developments related to state authorization. We also encourage you to use this Listserv to ask questions, share resources, and exchange best practices with your colleagues across the state. As a reminder, the Florida Virtual Campus provides an annual group membership to the State Authorization Network (SAN) for all Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) institutions. Since 2011, SAN—a division of WCET—has been a national leader in providing guidance, professional development, and support on regulatory compliance for out-of-state activities of postsecondary institutions. FLVC has periodically hosted SAN representatives at Members Council meetings to share expertise and insights.

You may access the **SAN Member Portal** here.

Username: Florida Virtual Campus | **Password**: SANhelps1819

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ARTICLE
DIGESTS

■ FOLDABLE SMARTPHONES AND AGENTIC AI ARE THE NEW MOBILE PCS

"As the professional landscape becomes increasingly fluid, a new paradox is emerging. Professionals are more connected than ever, utilizing smartphones to stay productive while on the move. However, for many, true "PC-level" productivity only happens when they are tethered to their static workstations. This forces compromises, indicating that regular smartphones have not yet adapted to modern ways of working..." (Source: Fast Company)

Read more here.

■ INSIDE A NETWORK OF FAKE COLLEGE WEBSITES

"Southeastern Michigan is one of nearly 40 fake university sites that Inside Higher Ed recently uncovered, which appear to have been developed with or supplemented by AI. The sites seem to be part of a network, based on the use of identical language, the repetition of images and other design similarities. And many of these fake colleges also have a presence on social media sites, including LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook..." (Source: Inside Higher Ed)

Read more here.

■ 4 STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE AI IMPLEMENTATION

"Researchers at the University of Kansas Center for Innovation, Design & Digital Learning (CIDDL) have published a new framework for the responsible implementation of artificial intelligence at all levels of education. Developed under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Education, the framework "is intended to provide guidance on how schools can incorporate AI into its daily operations and curriculum," the university said in a news announcement."
(Source: Campus Technology)

Read more here.

■ THE EU AI ACT AIMS TO CREATE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR AI INNOVATION: HERE'S WHAT IT IS

"The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, known as the EU AI Act, has been described by the European Commission as "the world's first comprehensive AI law." The EU AI Act, however, is more than a European affair. It applies to companies both local and foreign, and it can affect both providers and deployers of AI systems." (Source: TechCrunch)

Read more here.

■ REPORT IDENTIFIES SURGE IN CREDENTIAL THEFT AND BREACHES

"A recent report from cybersecurity firm Flashpoint detected an escalation of threat activity across multiple fronts during the first half of 2025. Based on monitoring of more than 3.6 petabytes of original-source data, "Flashpoint Global Threat Intelligence Index: Midyear Edition" documents growth in credential theft, vulnerability disclosures and exploit availability, as well as a rise in ransomware attacks and large-scale data breaches." (Source: Campus Technology)

Read more here.

■ RESEARCH: LLMS NEED A TRANSLATION LAYER TO LAUNCH COMPLEX CYBER ATTACKS

"Dozens of fake college websites, which appear to be connected, are pushing scams. Many of the sites appear to be built with or supplemented by generative AI.... The sites seem to be part of a network, based on the use of identical language, the repetition of images and other design similarities. And many of these fake colleges also have a presence on social media sites, including LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook." (Source: Campus Technology)

Read more here.

■ UNLV AND TERBINE PARTNER ON AI FOR SUPPLY CHAIN COORDINATION

"As autonomous machines, including drones, self-driving vehicles and freight robots, evolve and grow more common, getting them to work together in real time can be difficult. To address challenges of implementing these technologies in manufacturing logistics and supply chains, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) is teaming up with tech startup Terbine on a new AI-powered platform that could potentially impact consumer, commercial and even military supply chains." (Source: Government Technology)

Read more here.

■ GARTNER FORECASTS INCREASED SPENDING ON DESKTOP AS A SERVICE AS COST OPTIMIZATION, SUSTAINABILITY DRIVE ADOPTION

"While secure remote access remains a key driver of DaaS adoption, a growing number of deployments now focus on broader efficiency goals, according to Gartner's 2025 Magic Quadrant for Desktop as a Service. DaaS has become a foundational technology across enterprises, not just for supporting remote workers, but as a strategic tool for managing costs, streamlining IT operations and advancing sustainability initiatives. According to Gartner, by 2027, virtual desktops will be financially viable for 95% of the workforce, up dramatically from just 40% in 2019."
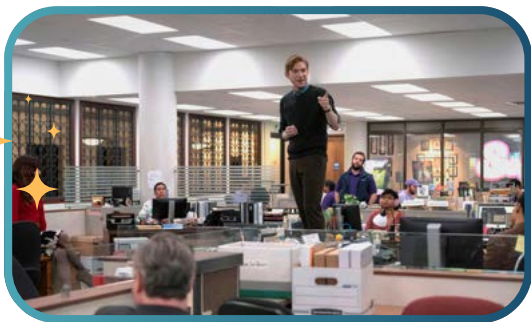(Source: Campus Technology)

Read more here.

TV MUST-SEE:
THE PAPER

"The documentary crew that immortalized Dunder Mifflin's Scranton branch in the Emmy Award-winning series "The Office" find a new subject when they discover a historic Midwestern newspaper and the publisher trying to revive it." Season one now streaming on Peacock.
(Source: Rotten Tomatoes)

YOU GOTTA TRY IT:
SODOUGH SQUARE

"At Sodough Square the name of the game is authentic. This is honest-to-goodness Detroit-style pizza. They bake the mouthwatering square pies in blue steel pans, have a crunchy frico edge, and the fermented dough is topped with block cheese and a hearty sauce." Located on Michigan Street in Orlando.
(Source: Vittles & Nosh)

FUN
STUFF

SPINE-BENDERS:

"September is here, bringing a fresh batch of monthly picks waiting to be discovered. Whether you're in the mood for a moving tale of surrender, a sharp novel with a touch of magic, or a lyrically-woven pet memoir, these books are worth your time. From Russian spies and vampires to dragons and dark magic, our hand-selected list of monthly picks for September has something to read for everyone."
(Source: B&N)

YOU GOTTA GO:
BLOWING ROCKS PRESERVE

"This peaceful, barrier island sanctuary is a well-known model for large-scale, native coastal habitat restoration. The natural features found here are disappearing fast from many Florida islands, and a number of endangered plants and animals call this special place home—including rare loggerhead, green and leatherback sea turtles. The preserve was named for its rocky Anastasia limestone shoreline—the largest on the Atlantic coast. At high tide when the sea is rough, seas break against the rocks and force plumes of saltwater up to 50 feet skyward."
(Source: The Nature Conservancy)

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