

AFC  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FLORIDA COLLEGES

15

APRIL  
2021

ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES

REGION V

# SPRING CONFERENCE

ENGAGED & CONNECTED, CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

APRIL 15 • 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

\$5

DIRECT EDITION



030204

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**AFC Region V Spring Conference**  
*Engaged and Connected: Creating Positive Change*  
*April 15, 2021*



**PALM BEACH STATE  
COLLEGE**



**INDIAN RIVER  
STATE COLLEGE**



**Miami Dade  
College**



**THE  
COLLEGE  
OF THE  
FLORIDA KEYS**





## ***Welcome Message from the Region V Director:***



Greetings Region V,

Welcome my fellow Region V AFC members. This year has brought about some major changes but in true AFC fashion we make our way through creating and paving the world we want to see.

The Region V Chapter Presidents and myself have come together to put a wonderful spring conference into action. With the help of many Region V members you can expect a powerful and jam packed conference that will highlight the key areas in our mission.

As the Region V Director I am honored to be working with all of the Region V Chapter Presidents (who are **OUTSTANDING** Individuals) Currently our main goal is to bring the College of the Florida Keys back into the Region fold. We are well on our way to accomplish the goals we set out to do.

The conference theme is “Engaged and Connected: Creating Positive Change” The Chapter President’s came up with this theme and it really highlights what is happening at each institution.

I am confident you all will have a great time at our conference and don’t forget to provide feedback to ensure that we not only get better but do better!!

Mark A. Ross  
AFC Region V Director



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## **Region V**

### **Chapter Presidents**

**Teresa Simeon**, *President* – Broward College  
**Taylor Kilman**, *President*— Indian River State College  
**Mark Johnson** , *President* – Miami Dade College  
**Joan Roberts** , *President* - Palm Beach State College





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- 9:00am – 9:05am**      **Welcome, Region V Virtual Conference**  
Dr. Nasse, Senior Vice President *Broward College*
- 9:05am – 9:15am**      **AFC President, Opening Remarks (Story time)**  
Ray Coulter, 2021 AFC President, *Palm Beach State College*
- 9:15am – 9:25am**      **AFC Update**  
Marsha Kiner, AFC CEO
- 9:30am – 10:00am**      **Legislative Update**  
Jessica Kummerle, *College of Central Florida*
- 9:55am – 10:25am**      **Avengers Assemble. No, Wait I Mean Colleges Assemble**  
Joan Rivera, *Indian River State College*



*The new normal seems to have a darkness shrouding our lives, it is reminiscent of the darkness you see in every picture of Batman's beloved Gotham City. It has crept into every part of our world and impacted our coworkers and our students. It's time that we embrace our roles as superheroes and assemble against the forces of darkness to bring about a better world. Join forces with me to stop the darkness, let's identify our superpowers together and come up with plans to combat the darkness together. College's Assemble*



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**10:30am – 10:55am**    **"Self-reflection: ME and WE a reflection"**  
Dr. Sankaranarayana Chandramohan, *Palm Beach State College*

*Self-reflection leads to enhanced engagement and connectedness for a positive outcome*

**11:00am – 12:00pm**    **Change making at your institution: What's your super power?**

Donna Fishkin, *Miami Dade College*

Dr. Kelly Hernandez, *Miami Dade College*



*In this fun and informative session, participants will learn about Miami Dade College (MDC)'s journey as an Ashoka U-designated change making institution. More specifically, the presenters will focus on one of the eight campuses of MDC, the Medical Campus. Participants will learn about the change making vision of this campus and the lessons learned along the way. Attendees will participate in an informal assessment which will survey their institution's "superpower" attributes of change making: reflection,*

**12:00pm - 12:30pm**    **Workforce, Adult and Continuing Education**  
**What is WACE, and what's in it for me?**

Eligio Marquez Jr, *Palm Beach State College*

The AFC-WACE Commission has not been recognized much in the association as it should be. WACE is a great resource for our members not only to achieve Professional Growth and Development, but community, innovation, and networking with each other.



In this short session we will explain what we do in WACE and what are the benefits of being a member of this commission.





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**12:30pm – 1:30pm**

**Lunch with your Chapter**

**1:45 – 2:15pm**



**Virtual Events 2.0**

Teresa Simeon, *Broward College*

Miguel Ramirez, *Broward College*

*The rethinking and redesigning of events as Virtual/ hybrid experiences brings with it challenges that require new ways of thinking about events. So, in the spirit of continued growth for all of us in the crazy world of event planning, we've created a PowerPoint presentation that every pro can learn a little something from.*

**2:20pm – 2:50pm**

**Minding Your Mind: Personal Strategies for Staying Well and Resilient**

Lisa Elsinger, *Broward College*



*We are all feeling the effects of the past year's events, including transitions associated with the pandemic. In many cases, the volume of our work has increased, along with the time needed to accomplish what we need to do each day. Taking care of ourselves slips lower on the priority list as we take care of everyone and everything else. This session will share insights on how little time it can take to feel a sense of renewed energy and mental clarity. Refraining from extreme activities enables us to reap the rewards of accumulating mindful moments into our days, and to benefit from consistent minor actions that support our well-being. You may be surprised at how little effort it really takes to create a sense of well-being – a minute at a time!*



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**3:00pm – 3:30pm**      **MDC – MAC Project SEED**  
Dadilia Garces, Miami Dade College

*Project S.E.E.D (Serving Everyone Embracing Diversity), is a community outreach project hosted by the Physician Assistant students where they participate to provide disease prevention and health promotion to the migrant worker population. This assists in developing leadership skills and promotes integration into the physician assistant profession.*

**3:45pm – 4:30pm**      **Closing Remarks & Thank You's**  
Region V Chapter Presidents

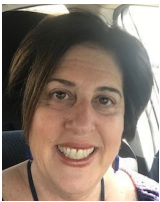




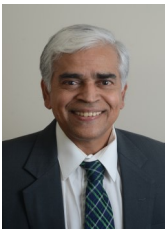


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***Conference Presenters***



**Donna Fishkin**, considers herself blessed and fortunate to be employed by Miami Dade College Medical Campus for the past 20 years. During her tenure at Miami Dade College, Donna has served as program coordinator and faculty member for the Massage Program which she developed and implemented, Chair of College Academic and Support Council, Chairperson in the School of Health Sciences and Grant Management. She currently serves as Chair of the Medical Campus IMPACT Committee. As her true passion is student success and teaching, she is happy to be back in the classroom! Donna holds a Master's Degree from The American University and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



**Dr. Chandra** (Sankaranarayana Chandramohan), Professor of Anatomy Physiology & Microbiology at PBSC since 2008 has taught nearly 10,000 students over 13 years with exemplary teaching excellence and student assessment. His leadership at the college and in community is through compassion, kindness, volunteerism and team-building at the grassroots. Dr. Chandra's leadership in STEM Outreach, Textbook/College Affordability and volunteering has been commended with various awards including 2020 MLK Leadership, 2019 STEM Champion Innovation, 2018 PBSC BRAVO, 2017 Volunteer Excellence, and 2015 NISOD Teaching Excel-



**Dr. Dadilia Garces Mejia** is a faculty of the Physician Assistant program at Miami Dade College, where she teaches Behavioral and Community Medicine, Inter-professional Education, Introduction to Public Health and Community Service Learning. After working in Trinidad and Tobago with the United Nations as a medical volunteer, Dadilia knows the impact of community services on underserved populations and the importance of empowering them. As a Medical Doctor for more than 20 years, Dadilia encountered different situations where the intervention of psychosocial factors made an enormous difference in the communities' health. Dadilia has advocated for diverse community services in South Florida such as MDC-MAC Project SEED for migrant farm workers, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking awareness, Disability awareness, and Mental Health awareness. Additionally, she is part of the MDC COVID-19 contact tracers training faculty team.



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***Conference Presenters (Continued)***



**Eligio Marquez** has more than 25 years of experience in education in higher education, Eligio Marquez Jr, began his career as an automotive technician back in 1985 and his educational professional career back in 1993. He has worked for various colleges in Puerto Rico and since 2014 has been with Palm Beach State College at the Lake Worth Campus, where he is the Transportation Service Technology Programs Director and Adjunct for Corporate and Continuing Education.

Prof. Marquez holds a Bachelor's in Arts in Secondary, Adult/Vocational Education. With a major in Industrial/Vocational Adult Post-Secondary Education and a minor in Curriculum Design and students with Special Needs at the ANA G. Mendez University System. A Master's in Arts in Career and Technical Education at the University of Central Florida. In addition, from the same university a Graduate Certificate in local Director of Career and Technical Education. And a Doctoral of Theology in Biblical Counseling at the Ark Theology University from the World International Council of Independent Christian Ministers of the United States ARCA, Corp.



**Dr. Kelly Hernandez** serves in the role of Academic Writing Coach at Miami Dade College-Medical Campus. Previous to this position, she worked as the Director of Recruitment at Miami Dade College-InterAmerican Campus for ten years. She also has a long history of creating curricula and assessments for college-level English language learners and has worked as a customized workplace English trainer both in the United States and abroad. In addition, she has conducted multicultural communication workshops for the workplace, becoming a Certified Diversity Professional from Cornell University in 2009. Kelly has presented at various state and national conferences and workshops and published three articles in the field of higher education. Dr. Hernandez holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and received a Master of Arts from Michigan State University. More recently, she received her doctorate at the University of Miami in Higher Education Leadership in December 2014.

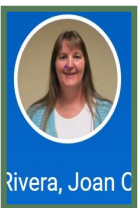


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***Conference Presenters (Continued)***



**Sandra LaFleur** is Miami Dade College's Director of Changemaking Education and Social Innovation. In her role at the largest public institution of higher education, Sandra focuses on building and sustaining the College's social impact education ecosystem. She works with MDC's eight campus teams to embed changemaking education into both curricular and co-curricular opportunities. Sandra's past experience in the youth development and college success fields have focused on strategy setting, operational planning, organizational growth and change management, program/product design and execution, innovation and research, talent, and communications. Her past roles include serving as National VP of Program for Summer Search and as National Associate VP of Research, Evaluation, and Innovation for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. She currently serves as a national board chair for the Children's Literacy Initiative, national board member for The National Mentoring Partnership, and local board member for both the Awesome Foundation Miami and Rising Up Adventures.



**Joan Rivera** has seven years with IRSC, three years as an adjunct while she continued working for the State of Florida, and four years in a full time position teaching in three different programs including: the AS Degree in Emergency Administration and Management, the AS Degree in Fire Science and the BS Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Emergency Planning. Joan's background encompasses over 17 years working for the State of Florida, the last eight years of which focused on public health preparedness and epidemiology.



**Lisa Elsinger, PhD**, leads the Live Well at Broward College employee wellness program, in the Talent and Culture department at Broward College. In reframing well-being as a component of a positive workplace culture, she promotes a moderate holistic approach to healthy lifestyle habits and organizational health. She creates and leads mindfulness and meditation practices, administers virtual and onsite ergonomic workstation assessments; and collaborates with internal and external stakeholders to address multiple domains of well-being. Lisa's purpose is to inspire people to remain lifelong learners and find ways to practice daily self-care through lifestyle habits that create energy and vitality – leading to professional excellence, work-life harmony, strong supportive relationships, and high quality of life.



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***Conference Presenters (Continued)***



**Teresa Simeon** began working at Broward College over 30 years ago. In her current role as the Associate Director of Institutional Events, she oversees the project management of college-sponsored events. Her responsibilities include event planning and production of institutional events collegewide, such as, the annual holiday celebrations, employee recognition, faculty welcome backs, appreciation breakfast, employee morale boosting events, and community events. She previously worked in Human Resources and Health Sciences. Teresa earned her Associate in Arts degree from Bauder College and a bachelor's degree in Supervision and Management, from Broward College. She is passionate about creating awareness amongst her colleagues, around creativity, equity, honesty, and kindness. She is well known for her creative thinking ideas outside the box. Teresa's motto is, "As I continue to inspire others along their path, I will continue to project the Spirit of Community and Collaboration, in my path of greatness."



**Jessica McClain** is the Director of Governmental Relations and Special Assistant to the President at the College of Central Florida. She is passionate about the college system, as she is an alumna of the College of Central Florida. Prior to her role at CF, she worked in government relations for Florida Polytechnic University and was a legislative assistant in the Florida Senate. Jessica received her BA from the University of Florida and her master's degree from The George Washington University.



**Miguel Ramirez** began working for Broward College in August of 2007. In his current role as the Associate Director of Institutional Events, Miguel oversees project management of college-sponsored events. His responsibilities include event planning and supporting institutional events college wide, such as, building dedications, groundbreaking ceremonies, grand openings, art exhibits, community events, and dignitary visits. He previously worked in the Office of Public Affairs & Marketing and the Office of Advancement. Miguel earned his Associate in Arts degree from Miami-Dade College, a bachelor's degree in Public Management, and a master's degree in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University. He is also a graduate of the Association of Florida College's Certified College Professional (CCP) Program. He is also a member of the Broward College Emerging Leaders Group. Serving the community continues to be one of his proudest achievements.



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