Broward Grads are Highest Earners in State

According to a recent study, “Labor Market Experiences After Postsecondary Education,” Broward College graduates not only meet the demands of the job market, but also make more money their first year of employment than those completing the same degrees at other schools. The report, a product of the partnership between the State of Florida and College Measures, documents the variations in median first-year wages of graduates from two-year and four-year higher education institutions.

The report, which is broken down by specific degree programs, documents Broward College associate degree holders as making more money than the statewide averages. The median first-year earnings of associate in arts (A.A.) graduates is $28,000, which is higher than the statewide average of $27,452. For associate in science degree holders (A.S.), 83 percent of Broward College graduates are employed and have median first-year earnings of $46,656, which is higher than the state average of $43,876. In addition, associate in applied science (AAS) in business administration degree holders have the highest first-year earnings in the state, with $40,564 – which is nearly $8,000 more than the state average of $32,116.

For career certificates (non-credit, career-training programs) Broward College graduates rank as the highest earners in Florida, with a first-year average of $54,292 – which is $20,000 more than the state average. Career certifications in law enforcement also rank the highest in the state with graduates making an average of $62,986.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

Dedicated to answering this important question, Broward College honored Dr. King’s legacy by transforming Monday, January 18 into a day of volunteerism.

With funding from the Florida Legislature, Broward College awarded $190,986 to 42 community organizations, which is nearly double last year's award amount. Of the 42, four Broward College projects were funded.

Broward College projects include:
- Broward College North Campus - Basketball Court Renovation
- Broward College North Campus - Homeless Survival Kits
- Broward College Social Sciences Group - Bridging the gap between the Police & Community
- Broward College South Campus - The Honors Student Committee - Children's Harbor Project

This year’s volunteer opportunities included building homeless survival kits, producing gardens, creating affordable housing and revitalizing community buildings, organizing food drives to benefit veterans, and much more.

A total of 873 volunteers registered for a project through the Broward College MLK Day of Service — including 719 community volunteers, 93 Broward College students, and 61 Broward College faculty/staff."
Emerging Leaders Give Back

Volunteerism is an important aspect of the culture at Broward College. Many employees volunteer for countless community service projects throughout the year, including Broward College’s Emerging Leaders. The Broward College Emerging Leaders is a group which aims to provide employees with a variety of opportunities for networking and professional development, as well as access to leadership development and college and community leaders.

In 2015, they participated in several important service projects, including:

**Seafarer’s House Shoebox Christmas**
Donated 30 shoeboxes filled with socks and toiletries, which went to seafarers who come from all over the world into South Florida’s Port Everglades.

**Make a Difference Day**
Emerging Leaders were among the volunteers who joined Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler, City Manager Lee Feldman, and Commissioner Rommy Rogers to participate in meaningful community projects throughout the area. President Armstrong and the Emerging Leaders worked to repaint and landscape Sistrunk community member, Ms. Betty’s, house.

**Adopt-A-Family Holiday program**
Five teams of Emerging Leaders adopted five families and a total of 21 children in need, providing gifts during the holiday season.

**Pony Jail ‘n Bale**
The group participated in this annual, Western-themed festival, benefiting Tomorrow’s Rainbow – a nonprofit organization that provides education and support to grieving children and their families. Tomorrow’s Rainbow is based on a farm, and uses miniature horses to facilitate grief therapy.

At the event, professor Natalie Butto and dean Ed Key were locked in the stalls until they raised enough money to be ‘baled’ out of jail by friends, family, and colleagues.
Broward College Ranks Third Nationally in Conferring Associate Degrees to Minority Students

Broward College conferred associate degrees to 3,930 minority students during the 2013-14 academic year, ranking the college third among public, for-profit, and non-profit institutions nationwide, according to a special report in Diverse Issues in Higher Education. Within that total, 1,721 associate degrees were conferred to African-American students, ranking Broward College second in the nation, up from fourth the previous year, and 1,848 associate degrees were conferred to Hispanic students, ranking BC fifth in the nation, up from sixth place the previous year.

According to *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, Broward College ranks first in the nation for the number of associate degrees awarded to minority students in the liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and the discipline of the humanities. Broward College also ranks third in the nation for the number of associate degrees awarded to minority students in the business administration, management and operations disciplines, and fifth in the nation for the number of associate degrees awarded to minority students in the registered nursing, nursing administration, nursing research and clinical nursing disciplines.

Broward College recently ranked fifth in the nation by *Community College Week* for the number of associate degrees it awarded during the 2013-14 academic year. The school also rated as one of the Best Community Colleges in the Nation, according to WalletHub.com. Schools.com ranked Broward College as one of the Best Community Colleges in Florida.

For additional information about Broward College's *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* rankings, visit http://diverseeducation.com or http://diverseeducation.com/top100.

C.O.P.S. Event Aims to Connect Police and Students

The Social and Behavioral Sciences department organized a program called C.O.P.S. (Community of Police and Students): Coming Together to Build Relationships, which provided an opportunity for students to reflect on the history of African-American interaction with law enforcement in the U.S., as well as examine and discuss strategies for interacting with law enforcement. Students also engaged in problem-solving discussions with police academy cadets, veteran law enforcement officers, and faculty members of the Broward College Institute of Public Safety. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (left) attended and spoke at the beginning of the event.

Earlier in the week, students from Broward College African-American History courses, and organizations such as Broward College’s African American Student Union, Professional Enhancement Program, Dream Defenders, Honors Student Committee, and Phi Theta Kappa met with experts in African American culture and history.

Students also met with community leaders such as Lt. Archie McKay, curator of the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum and one of the first black police officers in the city of Miami in the 1950s.

This event was part of a larger project, which was funded by the MLK Day of Service Awards. On MLK Day, participants of the C.O.P.S. event (including police officers, academy cadets, and Broward College students) worked on projects that assist the homeless in Broward County.
Speaker Series Continues with Mo Rocca

The 2016 Broward College Speaker Series continued on Wednesday, January 13 with popular humorist, actor, and journalist, Mo Rocca. The CBS Sunday Morning News correspondent and host of The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation sat down with CBS4 Miami News Anchor Rick Folbaum for a Q&A-style presentation entitled A Conversation with Mo Rocca. During the hour-long discussion, Rocca shared his story with fans, which included anecdotes from his childhood, experiences as a journalist, and thoughts on current world issues.

"My job is kind of like going back to college and just taking electives."
—Mo Rocca, Fireside Chat

Following the discussion, Rocca had a chance to answer a number of questions from audience members. The audience Q&A concluded with a surprise, on-stage proposal – a dream come true for the bride-to-be.

Earlier in the day, Rocca also visited Broward College’s Central Campus for a fireside chat discussion led by Broward College associate professor, David Hennessy. He spoke to students about how to find their passion, and build a successful career in the realm of journalism and broadcast.

Upcoming speakers:


**Wednesday, April 6, 2016** – James Carville, renowned and provocative political strategist and CNN, NBC, and FOX News political commentator, will host James Carville Looks at Politics and the 2016 Race for the White House.

To purchase tickets and for more information, please call the AutoNation Box Office at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts at (954) 462-0222, or visit www.BrowardCollegeSpeakerSeries.com.
Village Square Continues to Address Hot Topic Issues

Broward College will host a discussion exploring the pros and cons of the proposed penny sales tax in Broward County at the next Take-Out Tuesday event, a new feature of the college’s Village Square programming.

The Village Square series provides opportunities for community and civic engagement on several important topics of local, state, and national importance. This event will be held Tuesday, January 26, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Broward College’s Willis Holcombe Center, 111 E. Las Olas Blvd., 11th floor, Fort Lauderdale. Guests are encouraged to bring their favorite takeout food.

Broward College Beats TerraCycle Goal

Broward College’s TerraCycle recycling program announced it exceeded its 2015 goal of collecting 500,000 items, for a grand total of $32,000 in earnings — or 70 tons of items rescued from landfills — according to program director Jarrod Hersh. As a result, the program was able to award four, $500 Michelle Lawless Scholarships this term.

Broward College remains TerraCycle’s highest-collecting college or university for eight consecutive years. The 2016 program is in progress, and the college has set a goal of 600,000 items.

Innovation Hub at Broward College Hosts Shark Tank Panel

The Innovation Hub at Broward College is hosting The Shark Tank Effect Panel Live: Discussions with Winners on Thursday, January 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Judson A. Samuels South Campus, 7200 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, Performing Cultural Arts Theater (PCAT), Building 68b.

The panel will feature winners from the ABC show, “Shark Tank” live via giant screen webcast, and audience participants will be able to interact and ask questions in real time. Rey Ybarra will host and facilitate the interaction.

Rey Ybarra is the author/producer of the multimedia book Conversations with Shark Tank Winners, and the creator/host of The Conversations with Shark Tank Winners online reality TV series produced at the Pax Stereo TV studio. He is a multimedia professional with more than 18 years of experience in all facets of media. He currently produces the follow-up to his multimedia book due out in 2016.

For more information, visit broward.edu/hub. To register, visit http://bit.ly/1JWDvGg.

Lingua Adds a New Location

Lingua Language Center at Broward College is expanding to the Weston Center. The new location will offer Lingua’s intensive English program; a wide range of foreign language classes, including French, Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish; and a variety of supplemental courses, such as TOEFL test preparation, business English, English conversation, and accent reduction. The courses are intended to guide students through the process of transitioning to American higher education, and prepare them for a professional career or enhance their personal growth through language education.

“The Lingua Language Center has a long history in Weston,” said Erwin Richter, general manager of the Lingua Language Center at Broward College. “We are excited to extend our presence in Broward County, and offer our award-winning, intensive English and foreign language classes to even more members of the community.”

Upcoming Dinner at the Square events:

February 10
Topic: Unconscious Bias – Racism You Can’t See (But You Can Feel).

May 11
Topic: Mass Transportation in Broward County

Upcoming Take-Out Tuesdays at Broward College's Downtown Campus:

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Topic: Guns—Everyone, Everywhere.

For further information, visit www.broward.edu/villagesquare.
Student Spotlight: Yanelle Cruz, Central Campus

Broward College honors student Yanelle Cruz recently was selected to receive a $1,000 scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as a 2015 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. Selected from more than 1,100 applications worldwide, scholars are chosen based on scholastic achievement, community service, and leadership potential.

Cruz, an international student originally from Honduras, began attending Broward College in 2014 and currently is majoring in international relations and sociology. Active on campus, she serves as the senator for Central Campus Student Life, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the Model United Nations, and the International Student Welcoming Committee. She also started the International Student Club.

With a passion for serving the community, Cruz also has volunteered with several community organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House and Next Generations.

News from Athletics

Seahawks Basketball Teams on a Roll

Last year, in M.J. Baker’s (left) first year as coach of the Broward College women’s basketball team, the Seahawks finished the season with a 5-21 record, an improvement over the previous season. In the 2015-2016 season, the Seahawks are showing great improvement.

As of January 18, Broward’s record is 10-5 and since the first of the year, the Seahawks took a 76-71 victory over rival Miami Dade College.

The men’s team currently is ranked 10th in the latest NJCAA Region 8 Coaches’ Poll, and also had a victory this season over Miami Dade College.

Former Broward College Student and Coach Leads National Volleyball Initiative

Broward College alumnus and Seahawks volleyball coach, Elliot Blake, currently serves as coordinator of the sitting volleyball program for USA Volleyball. Sitting volleyball is a version of the game for persons with disabilities.

Blake currently lives in Edmond, Oklahoma and is responsible for the grassroots development of the game in communities across the country, working to network volleyball clubs and regional offices with disabled sport organizations and disabled military groups in an effort to generate playing opportunities for the game.
When Lou and May Jean Wolff were asked about the legacy that gives them the greatest joy, the couple said it was the more than 150 students whose lives have forever been changed because of the endowed scholarship established through their generosity.

The Wolff’s giving supports Broward College’s nursing program and student scholarships. They’ve funded state-of-the-art medical training technology used to teach nursing students who will, in turn, save lives in our community.

Their most recent contribution, the Lou and May Jean Wolff American Dream Scholarship, arrived on the last day of 2015, and was the “icing on the cake” for an exceptional year for the Broward College Foundation.

Watching the community flourish is important to Lou and May Jean, and they have been honored as Outstanding Philanthropists by the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for their support of Broward College and other worthwhile causes.

The Wolff’s often say they feel blessed to be able to help in the ways they do. Because of Lou and May Jean —Broward College, its students and the community have also been blessed.

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Broward College Honors Frank Sacco

On Friday, January 15, Frank V. Sacco, president and CEO of the Memorial Healthcare System, and his leadership team visited the Memorial Healthcare System Emergency Triage Unit at Broward College’s Health Science Simulation Center.

In 1988, shortly after Sacco assumed his leadership role, Broward Community College, the BCC Foundation, the South Broward Hospital District, and the Memorial Health System of Broward signed a partnership agreement (similar to one instituted eight years earlier) affirming the healthcare organizations’ desire to maintain their sponsorship of students who wish to become trained nurses and specialists in related healthcare positions.

In addition to scholarships and programming for the college’s healthcare programs, Memorial has provided capital support for the SIM Center’s technology. Since 1988, Memorial’s support of the college and its students has exceeded $14.8 million.

Sacco – who announced his retirement after 41 years of service, and will step down on February 29 – is credited for steering the expansion of Memorial, which now is the nation’s third-largest public healthcare system.

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Lou and May Jean Wolff are a Dynamic and Philanthropic Duo

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Aspen Institute Names Broward College One of the Top 150 Colleges in the Nation

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Broward College as one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and $1 million dollars in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships. The Aspen Institute previously named Broward College one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation in 2012.

“Broward College was previously honored to be named as one of the top colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute and we are humbled to be eligible for this recognition, once again,” said Broward College President J. David Armstrong, Jr. “We are committed to continuing our work that is leading to even greater student success outcomes and to positively transforming the lives of our students and the community.”

The Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation’s signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America’s community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

A full list of the selected colleges and details on the selection process are available at www.aspenprize.org. Ten finalists will be named in fall 2016. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner and a few finalists with distinction in early 2017.

President Armstrong joins Governor Scott at JL Audio

“Broward College does a great job to help support opportunities in the local community.” —Governor Rick Scott

Broward College President J. David Armstrong, Jr. received an invitation to join Governor Rick Scott at JL Audio, in Miramar on January 25, 2016, for a press conference to discuss the connection among education, workforce development initiatives, and economic growth. JL Audio — a manufacturer of car, marine, power sports, and home audio products — was the perfect venue for this discussion, since Broward College recently partnered with the company to provide access to an Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) grant. The grant recently received approval, and the college will begin offering Supply Chain Procurement & Inventory Management, Leadership, and Lean Six Sigma training sessions to approximately 80 JL Audio supervisors.

Since 2004, Broward College, in partnership with Career Source Florida, has helped local companies identify state-funded workforce training grant opportunities for job growth creation and retention.

In six months, Broward College helped eight companies in South Florida obtain Florida Flex Training Grants, which allow companies to create new jobs and provide necessary workforce training to new hires. By June 2016, Broward College expects approximately five more of these grants to be awarded. Through this effort, approximately 990 jobs will be created by 2017.

Broward College also awarded five Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Grants since July 2015. This will help companies retain approximately 327 jobs in Broward County.

At the press conference, Governor Scott also announced that JL Audio, Inc. will create 30 new jobs, while retaining 294 jobs and investing $9.4 million in Broward County.
South Campus Soars at Broward College BOT Meeting

The students, faculty and staff at Broward College’s South Campus came together to present an overview about the many accomplishments of the campus and its partnership centers during the past year. A number of students from organizations such as the student newspaper, The Observer, and the Florida Model Legislature shared personal stories of successes and awards.

After collecting data from surveys regarding what students would like to see on South Campus, Student Government Association leaders and representatives presented their findings to the Board of Trustees. Feedback from the surveys included: expanded food service offerings and vendor options, additional entrances for the South Campus and Miramar West Center, as well as D2L training through tutorials and resource sites. Students also would like to see health clinics on the campuses, which is an initiative Broward College currently is working on through several successful healthcare partnerships.

Broward College Receives 2015 Local Corporation of the Year Award

Debbie Martin Retires

Debbie Martin, South Campus counselor, was recognized for her 42 years of service to Broward College. A Broward College alumna, she went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in social welfare from Florida Atlantic University, a master’s in counselor education from Florida International University, as well as a doctorate in community college teaching. Martin served as the first, full-time academic advisor at Broward College, and is a two-time Endowed Teaching Chair award recipient.

Debbie Martin, district director of supplier relations and diversity, presented the Broward College board of trustees and President Armstrong with the 2015 Local Corporation of the Year Award from Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council. This award recognizes the achievements of South Florida businesses that demonstrate a commitment to minority purchasing, technical and managerial assistance, and establishing a world-class supplier diversity program.

Debbie Martin receiving her plaque from President Armstrong and South Campus President Rolando Garcia.