Commencement Offers Formality, Fun

Broward College conferred more than 2,600 degrees at its 80th commencement ceremony last month, including nearly 2,400 associate's degrees — and some 230 bachelor's degrees, a 55 percent increase over the Spring 2013 Commencement. The graduating class represented 92 countries. Robert W. Runcie, superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, was the keynote speaker. The lighthearted side of commencement was again celebrated through #GradSHOEation — a social media event highlighting graduates' shoes. Graduates donated 52 pairs of shoes to Shoes for the Cure, a local organization that recycles/reconditions shoes for the needy.

- Watch the ceremony
- View a recap of the day
- See GradSHOEation
- Check out #GradSHOEation pics

College to Host 2014 Gubernatorial Debate

Broward College has been selected to host the 2014 Florida Gubernatorial Debate this fall with Leadership Florida and the Florida Press Association. The debate will take place on the Central Campus in Davie.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Broward College to provide an avenue for students, staff, community members and the state of Florida to get a firsthand look at the candidates, hear important issues and become informed and engaged in an important political process," said President J. David Armstrong, Jr. "It is also an exceptional opportunity for us to spotlight the College and Greater Fort Lauderdale to a national audience who will be following this race to lead the fourth largest state in the country, which is arguably one of the most important states in the U.S. politically and economically.

"With demographic and economic diversity and vitality, Broward College is the perfect location to highlight important issues and discussions in the upcoming campaign and debate. We are grateful for the opportunity to host such an important event and look forward to working with Leadership Florida, the Florida Press Association and the candidates to have a successful event."


Check Out Broward Spotlights on YouTube

Profiles of Broward College students and faculty are now running on YouTube and are featured on the Broward College homepage. Highlighting the dedication and accomplishments of our students and the expertise and creativity of our staff, recent profiles include business administration/management major Natalie von Cieminski (left) and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Teresa Hodge (right).

Watch for more Broward College spotlights every month.
Bob Woodward Visits with Broward College Students

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author and associate editor of The Washington Post Bob Woodward, met with Broward College students earlier this month. Woodward, one of the nation's most-respected journalists, discussed current events and his most recent book The Price of Politics with students. The session preceded his lecture later that evening as part of Broward College's Fort Lauderdale Speaker Series. The series continues every month this spring with Jeannette Walls, author of The Glass Castle; Michael Beschloss, "the nation’s leading presidential historian;" former CNN host Soledad O’Brien; and ocean conservationist and Emmy and Peabody Award-winner Jean-Michel Cousteau.

Visit fortlauderdale-speaker-series.com.

Campuses Celebrate Dr. King’s Life, Legacy

At events across the campuses, speakers and activities recalled the achievements and legacy of Dr. King and the positive impact he had on life in the United States. Central, North and South campuses held luncheon celebrations. The Downtown Center hosted the documentary “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A Historical Perspective.” North Campus also hosted “Eyes on the Prize,” a film chronicling the civil rights era from the point of view of the men and women whose actions launched the movement.

Dr. Lulrick Balzora, keynote speaker for Central Campus' Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, concluded, as Dr. King had in his 1958 speech at Bennett College, that the civil rights movement had indeed come far, but still had much further to go. “While we may look to the past with contempt, there’s plenty in the present that’s equally horrendous,” Balzora said, quoting King. "We’ve come a long, long way, but we have a long way to go.”

Visit the college homepage for a full slate of Black History Month events in the coming weeks.

Report to the Community 2014 Now Available

Highlighting the events and accomplishments of the Broward College family over the last year, the Broward College Report to the Community 2014 details the College’s commitment to excellence. The report includes the release of a study detailing the College’s annual $1 billion economic impact, two more BC students earning Jack Kent Cooke scholarships (the most of any college in the nation), the expansion of the College’s international reach with new alliances in Russia and China, a statewide first place for the BC student math team, the College winning its largest-ever grant and much more.


Human Trafficking Conference Held

Broward College, in partnership with Free the Slaves, hosted a day-long conference titled “Human Trafficking: Exposing the Crisis, Devising Strategies and Solutions,” this month. More than 400 attendees and presenters brought awareness to the magnitude of human trafficking in Florida, the United States and around the world, while promoting discussion on effective responses and encouraging participants to join the movement to end modern slavery.
Baseball Players Go to Bat for Day of Caring

Last month, in preparation for the United Way’s annual Day of Caring, some 30 members of Broward College’s baseball team cleaned and groomed Fort Lauderdale’s War Memorial Auditorium for the event’s 800 volunteers. The ballplayers pressure-sprayed the auditorium, unloaded tons of gardening supplies, garbage pails and other equipment from trucks and readied the facility for the next day’s volunteers. Members of the baseball team have been involved with the annual Day of Caring for several years.

Police Cadets Make Holidays Brighter for Youths

Institute of Public Safety Officer Thor Lockhart and the recruits from cadet classes 288, 289 and 290 participated in the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program over the winter holidays. The Institute collected toys in classes and from students that went to the Marines program and Kids in Distress. Members of cadet classes perform a variety of community service work during their 22-week program, including school-supplies drives, food drives for the homeless and more.

Join the Virtual Groundbreaking for Broward College’s New Southwest Center

Visit www.browardcollegesw.com to “dig some dirt” and explore plans for Broward College’s latest center, coming this fall.

The Southwest Center’s degree programs will focus on: business, global trade/logistics and supply chain management in traditional, blended (onsite and online), weekday, evening and weekend settings in an accelerated format. A number of credit-for-prior-learning options will also be available, including credit-by-portfolio development, military experience and ACE-approved training, as well as credit by examination.

The building will be a four-story, 89,000-square-foot, LEED-certified structure featuring a large student commons, a courtyard and a one-mile outdoor walking path. Broward College and Florida International University will be partners in the joint-use facility, sharing classrooms and student common areas.
Foundation Exceeds 2013 Fundraising Goal

Thanks to individuals and businesses who gave generously and supported successful fundraising events, such as the annual Broward College/Sharp Golf Classic, the Employee Giving Campaign and the American Dream Scholarship Luncheon, the Broward College Foundation exceeded its 2013 fundraising goal.

Preliminary tallies indicate the foundation raised more than $2.5 million last year, supporting academic programs, faculty initiatives, such as the Endowed Teaching Chairs, and both need- and merit-based scholarships for degree-seeking students. Founded in 1971, the Broward College Foundation is managed by a volunteer board of directors, composed of business and community leaders, who work with professional staff from Broward College’s Office of Advancement. The foundation’s mission is to change lives through education by providing financial resources, advocacy and community awareness to Broward College. The foundation is dedicated to ensuring that higher educational opportunities are available to anyone wishing to pursue them.

Recently Tweeted  ...follow along @BrowardCollege
North Campus Hosts Meeting

North Campus hosted this month’s Board of Trustees meeting at the Omni Auditorium. Campus President Dr. Avis Proctor highlighted campus achievements from the past year. North Campus student leaders spoke about their experiences. In an open forum format, students shared ideas and concerns with the Board and President Armstrong including rental texts, the smoke-free campus campaign, campus safety/lighting, solar powered gazebos and campus beautification, among others.

Retirees Honored

Broward College recognized the long-time contributions of two members of the health science program on their retirement. Nursing professor Gregg Brickman’s history at Broward College started as a student in 1973. After earning her bachelor’s degree at FIU and a master’s degree at the University of Miami, she returned to her alma mater to teach nursing and continuing education classes for nurses for 17 years. Her retirement coincides with the start of her encore career as a mystery writer. Patty Croson, like Brickman, also will be retiring from the college’s nursing program. She has served the college for more than 26 years, most recently as executive assistant for nursing’s continuing education program. Croson is looking forward to spending quality time with her father, sons and grandchildren.

Expansion Plans for Broward College Online

David Shulman, associate vice president for Broward College Online, shared details on plans for the expansion of the College’s online campus. With current enrollment up 35 percent from the same period last year, more than 3,000 exclusively online students per term and state-approval that allows Broward College to offer out-of-state online courses at rates below our standard out-of-state tuition, the College will start reaching out for both national and international students this year.

In addition to the current computer systems specialist associate’s degree, Broward College Online will offer other certificates, programs and degrees in IT and healthcare, including associate’s degrees in computer systems, networking, security and project management as well as bachelor’s degrees in business administration, IT specializations, healthcare management, management information systems and project management. These programs are competency-based and self-paced and will offer prior learning assessment, open enrollment, modularized content and global availability. Find out more at online.broward.edu.