Our Vision:
Continuing the Heritage, Legacy and Tradition of Florida Memorial University: Preparing Constructivist, Competent and Compassionate Educators.
COMPILATION: Dr. A. Jerome-Raja

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As we reflect on this academic year – a year in which we are engaged in a change initiative that will focus our resources and energies on improving our teacher education programs. Our goal is to offer the highest quality teacher education programs.

With new federal directives on teacher performance, assessment and new state competencies for Elementary Education K-6, we are working together to redesign our Elementary Education program into a combined Elementary Ed./ESE program. This new program will be clinically-based with a strong content, assessment, technology and diversity components.

We are grateful for the ongoing support and hope for continued success in the process of redesigning our program into a very competitive one. Our goal has always been and will continue to be the training of high quality teachers.

Yours Professionally,
Idriss Abdoulaye Ph.D
School of Education Events

American Education Week

The School of Education (SOE) and Future Educators of America (FEA) celebrated American Education Week with a variety of events to highlight their support for public education. The sole purpose of American Education Week is to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference. During their week long celebrations the SOE hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its newly remodeled “School of Education Center for Teacher Preparation and Retention (CTPR)” with special guest, the 13th President of Florida Memorial University, Dr. Roslyn Clark-Artis. The event was led by the American Education Week chair Ms. Deborah Smith and the Dean of SOE Dr. Idriss Abdoulaye. Special thanks to Mrs. Priscilla Dobbs, Dr. Thelma Lawton, Dr. Mildred Berry and Mrs. Angela Williams.
Florida Memorial University was well represented at the United Teachers of Dade’s (UTD) annual membership picnic by the School of Education’s Dean Dr. Idriss Abdoulaye along with the Director of Graduate Programs Dr. Tamar Riley and faculty members Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja and Ms. Deborah Smith. The School of Education used the occasion to promote their state approved Graduate Programs.
FLORIDA FUND FOR MINORITY TEACHERS (FFMT) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

The School of Education hosted the Sixteenth Annual Teacher Recruitment & Professional Development Symposium in partner with The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers (FFMT) on Saturday, March 7, 2015. Represented were over 40 Florida colleges and universities’ pre-service teachers as well as school district recruiters from across the State. Several research-based best practices papers were presented by faculty and graduate students from the School of Education. Papers included “Manifestations and Management of Diverse Learners” by graduate students Yolanda Garcell, “Collaboration, Consultation and Co-Teaching” by graduate students Kirsten Valencia and Dominique Jackson, “Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct” by Dr. Mildred Berry, “The Mathematics and Reading Connection” by Dr. Thelma C. Lawton, and ASR (Active Student Responding): Responding to Diversity in Classrooms and Learning Needs” by Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja.

http://www.ffmt.org/

RELPAD 2015

Students from the school of Education participated and presented at the 12th Annual Research Experiential Learning and Performing Arts Day.
School of Education offered a 1-credit course on Instructional and Behavior Strategies for Students with Disabilities for teachers and school personnel interested in meeting the Senate Bill 1108 requirement for educator certification renewal from June 9 –11, 2015. This intensive one-credit course was designed for school personnel to complete the course in 3-half day sessions at our beautiful campus. Graduate students from the ESE program organized the institute under the guidance and supervision of Drs Riley and Jerome-Raja.

Various topics were presented by guest speakers:

- **Overview of Special Education**  
  Drs. Riley & Jerome-Raja

- **The 3 A's:** Accommodations, Alternate Assessment, & Accountability  
  Jasmine Diaz

- **MTSS/RtI**  
  Kelly Justice and Beth Hardcastle

- **Eligibility and IEP**  
  Lizette Fernandez

- **Positive Behavioral Supports**  
  Alina Rodriguez

- **Effective Instruction for Students with Disabilities**  
  Jonte Myers
Michael Gose, noted author of “The Legacy of Great Teachers” philosophically states that, “greatness in teaching is just as rare as greatness in medicine, dance, law, or any other profession”. However, The sum total of qualities needed to perfect “greatness” in teaching is ever evolving and always leaves room for us to grow; hence the birth of the Teacher Certification Project.

The Teacher Certification Office provides FMU students with guidelines for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the performance standards developed by the Florida Department of Education. Our office is open daily and provides certification advisement, certification clearance and eligibility, certification application assistance, and distribution of certification study guides that give an overview of the content and format of not only the FTCE General Knowledge Exam, The Professional Exam, and various Subject Area Exams, but also houses applicable study guides for the MCAT, the LSAT, and GRE Exams as well.

Currently, the Teacher Certification FTCE Campaign: “First Attempt Success”, has more than sixty students registered for FTCE test preparation tutorial services through the collaborated efforts of FMU Faculty Members and Miami-Dade County Public School Educational Professionals. The Teacher Certification Office has also partnered with Think-time Inc. and The Learning Liaison Inc. to provide interactive on-line tutorial and live workshops that simulate relevant FTCE test prep. And to create mobile labs for self-paced learning, laptop computers and tablets have been procured to facilitate our students in ALL test prep accommodations.

With more than twenty years of experience in corporate management and nineteen years as an educator, Johnnie Young, Director of the Teacher Certification Project is committed to providing ongoing professional development and resources that will insur e job placement and career sustainability for all students.

**Johnnie Young**  
*Director, Teacher Certification Project*
Professional Development Workshop with Tutors

Teacher Certification Tutoring Session
**Project SIAIMESE**

*Congratulations to Dr. Anamaria Jerome Raja and Dr. Tamar Riley!!*

Project SIAIMESE (Supporting Intensive Applications of Interventions by Minority Educators of Special Education) got funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) through a grant awarded in the amount of $1.25 million for 5 years (2014 to 2019). Project SIAIMESE provides scholars a Masters in Special Education with an Autism Endorsement to implement data-based individualization (DBI) to provide support to students with persistent and severe learning and behavioral problems that need the most intensive individualized supports. The first cohort of 20 scholars were recruited and the program began during Spring 2015.

**Project MASTEC**

Dr. Thelma C. Lawton was awarded a National Science Foundation grant of $293,421 for Florida Memorial University in support of the project entitled "MaSTEC Capacity Building Project”. This award was effective December 15, 2013 and expires November 30, 2015. In addition to Dr. Lawton, Dr. Mildred Berry, Dr. Rose M. Stiffin and Dr. Milagros Loreto were named as Co-PIs on this project. The project will focus on the creation of an innovative integrated science and mathematics master’s degree program which will provide a cadre of highly qualified science and mathematics teacher leaders for urban, high-need school districts.

**Project PLEEASE**

FMU is offering Project PLEEASE (Preparing Leaders to Execute Effective Actions in Special Education), to improve the education of K-12 students with disabilities. Participants will earn a Master of Science (MS) degree in Special Education, with a focus in Special Education leadership. This project is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) through a grant awarded in the amount of $1.25 million for 5 years (2012 to 2017). The first cohort of scholars graduated during Summer 2015. The second cohort began the program during Fall 2014. This project is directed by Dr. Tamar Riley and Co-directed by Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja.
GRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2015

Graduate students from the College of Education presented their Action Research Studies at the 2015 Graduate Research Conference.

CONGRATULATIONS to the graduate students for a stellar job done!!
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Project PLEEASE Cohort 1 graduated with a Master’s in ESE-Summer 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Graduate students from the Reading program graduated with a Master’s in Reading–Spring 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Project PLEEASE Cohort 2 recruited and began the program during Fall 2014.

GOOD LUCK!!

Project SIAIMESE cohort 1 recruited and began the program during Spring 2015.

GOOD LUCK!!!!
The School of Education at Florida Memorial University proudly highlights and congratulates Tawana Akins a 2015 Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year Finalist!! Ms. Akins teaches at Holmes Elementary School. Her class of third-graders, all held back a year, most of them lacking books at home, have shown remarkable progress under her tutelage with some rising a grade and advancing in reading and math, as well. Her class boasting of more than 1,500 books read so far this year.

Jonte Meyers, graduate of the Master’s in Exceptional Student Education Program accepted into the PhD in Special Education program at University of Florida. Additionally, he was recognized as a 2014 HBCU All-Star Student.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
Source: Department of Education - Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
* **Conducted** two Population Connection **Workshops**, one at Broward College at the Davie Campus and one at University of Phoenix at the Miramar Campus.

* **Conducted workshop** at the 2015 Florida Fund for Minority Teachers at FMU.

The workshop was entitled “Code of Conduct and Principles of Professional Conduct”.

* **Served** as a panelist on “Essential On-campus Organizational and Structural Elements Required for the Preparation and Implementation of Noyce Proposals” at the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network Proposal Development Workshop for the National Science Foundation (NSF)’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. November 2014.

* **Presented** on “The Mathematics and Reading Connection” at the 2015 Florida Fund for Minority Teachers at FMU.

* **Published** an article entitled “Financial Strategies for Improving the Haitian Economy” in the Journal of Global Intelligence and Policy (JGIP), Volume 7, Issue 13

* **Presented** at the Global Business & International Management Conference, Seattle, WA. “Financial Strategies for Improving the Haitian Economy”.

Dr. Mildred Berry

Dr. Thelma Lawton

Dr. Jacques Bonenfant
* **Selected** to serve as a federal grant reviewer for the 2015 Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services leadership Personnel program competition.

**Dr. Tamar Riley**

* **Presented** at the 2015 FFMT (Florida Fund for Minority Teachers) conference, at FMU. “ASR (Active Student Responding): Responding to Diversity in Classrooms and Learning Needs”.

* Awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award at the 2015 FMU Service, Teaching, and Research (STAR) Faculty Development Day

**Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja**

**Dr. Riley and Dr. Jerome-Raja presented** at the 2014 OSEP Project Directors Conference, Washington DC, July 2014 “Developing Effective Urban District Special Education Leaders”.

**Dr. Jerome-Raja and Dr. Riley presented** at the 2014 National TED-(Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children) conference, Indianapolis, November 2014 . The presentations were “Scholars’ Evaluation of Project PLEEASE Leadership Program for Serving Urban School Districts” and “District Leaders Mentoring Emerging Special Education Leaders through University Sponsored Program”.

**Project SIAIMESE: Dr. Jerome-Raja and Dr. Riley** received federal funding for project SIAIMESE (Supporting Intensive Applications of Interventions by Minority Educators of Special Education) for an amount of $1.25 million over a 5 year period. This first cohort of 20 urban minority scholars will obtain a Masters in Special Education with an Autism Endorsement to implement data-based individualization (DBI) to provide support to students with persistent and severe learning and behavioral problems that need the most intensive individualized supports.
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