

Media Announcement

Project SCISSORS: FMU's School of Education earns \$1.2 million grant to improve learning outcomes



File Photo

Miami Gardens, FL (November 6, 2018) – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to one in five school-aged children are contending with a diagnosable behavioral or learning disability. While these circumstances impact millions of students, very few instructors are highly qualified to help students overcome these intensive challenges. In an effort to reverse this trend, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) recently tapped Florida Memorial University's (FMU) School of Education to add 20 well-prepared interventionists to effectively collaborate with 12 School Guidance Counselors prepared by Florida International University (FIU) to support students with severe learning and behavioral challenges. DOE's Office of Special Education Programs funded a \$1,225,000.00 grant to support a five-year interdisciplinary program charged to increase skilled school personnel and educational outcomes for this targeted population.

“Florida Memorial University is excited about this innovative project with Florida International University to provide advanced level training to prepare highly effective key school personnel to support students in difficult situations,” said Denise Callwood-Braithwaite, Ph.D., FMU's Associate Provost. “The implementation of this project will likely inform future preparation of school leaders to provide necessary supports for student success.”

Entitled Project SCISSORS: (Supporting Successful Opportunities for Responsiveness to Students), FMU's associate provost, Dr. Denise Callwood-Braithwaite; education professor, Dr. Tamar Riley; and education professor Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja will work in collaboration with Dr. Sandra Logan-McKibben, School

Counseling Track Coordinator at Florida International University. Collaborative preparation focuses on providing mental health, emotional and literacy supports. Twenty scholars will receive the reading endorsement as part of the Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) degree in Special Education Intervention over a 2-year program. Twelve scholars will receive state certification for School Guidance Counseling through a Master's Degree over a 2.5-year program. Outcomes include: (1) Designed interventions to support learning and behavior; (2) collaboration as Mental Health First Aiders; and (3) developed district-level professional development to support families.

“We are excited to add interdisciplinary trained experts to provide the necessary complex supports to schools, students, staff, and families,” shared Tamar Riley, Ph.D., FMU education professor.

“Interventionists will be trained to help teachers provide evidence-based practices in a timely manner to ensure high-quality services to the students who need them the most,” shared Annamaria Jerome-Raja, Ph.D., FMU education professor.

“It is an exciting time to be training professional school counselors, who really serve as the first line of defense in providing and advocating for support students in need,” said Dr. Logan-McKibben, School Counseling Track Coordinator at Florida International University.

Written by Zachary Rinkins and Dr. Tamar Riley

For more information on the program, contact Tamar Riley, Ph.D., at tamar.riley@fmuniv.edu or 305-626-3139. For media inquiries, contact FMU Public Affairs Director Opal Comfort at opal.comfort@fmuniv.edu or 305-626-3164.

ABOUT FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution that offers 37 undergraduate degree programs and four graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the University has upheld a commitment to provide an academic education solid foundation built upon the pillars of leadership, character, and service. As South Florida's only Historically Black College or University (HBCU), it is widely recognized as the birthplace of the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing. For more information call 305 623 1452 or visit www.fmuniv.edu.
