

FAU'S ACADEMY FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION LAUNCHES SPRING 2016



Mary Lou Duffy, Ph.D., professor of exceptional student education and program coordinator, prepares for the academy's launch with Gwendolyn Carey and Angelica Downey, training and curriculum specialists at FAU's Academy for Community Inclusion.



FAU Jupiter welcomes FAU's Academy for Community Inclusion where students with developmental disabilities will engage in Opportunities to Work, Learn and Succeed.

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Florida Atlantic University's Department of Exceptional Student Education within the College of Education will launch the FAU Academy for Community Inclusion, a new higher education program for students with developmental disabilities, beginning in the spring 2016 semester. The Academy, led by Michael P. Brady, Ph.D., professor and chair of ESE, is the first-of-its-kind in Florida and will begin operation on FAU's John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter. The program is made possible by a generous multi-year commitment from The Taft Foundation designated to provide funding for the program's development, recruitment and personnel.

"The FAU Academy for Community Inclusion is such a welcome and natural addition to FAU, where we celebrate diversity and are dedicated to delivering the best in higher education," said FAU President John Kelly. "A world of opportunity awaits all FAU students, whatever their abilities or interests might be. We are thrilled to be the only university in Florida to open this door for so many with sorely limited options to excel after high school graduation."

The Academy is designed to provide students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have completed high school with opportunities to earn certificates in "Supported Employment Skills," "Supported Community Access" and "Supported Living Skills."

"A program like this has been needed in Florida for a long time – one that will tap the potential of those with developmental disabilities and prepare them for a future filled with purpose and the possibility for employment," said Mary Lou Duffy, Ph.D., professor of exceptional student education and program coordinator. "The Academy will serve a population that is in great need for enrichment and educational opportunities after their high school graduation, and will offer programs suited to their needs in an inclusive higher education environment."

Applications for the spring 2016 semester are available online. For more information, visit the Florida Atlantic University Academy for Community Inclusion website at www.coe.fau.edu/academicdepartments/ese/aci/index.php.

To read more go to: www.fau.edu/newsdesk/.