

#### 2021-22 FLORIDA POLY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

"My favorite part about Florida Poly is the small but close community. During my time here, I have learned so much and met so many unique individuals who have helped me grow into the man I am today. Florida Poly means the world to me."

> - Taylor Preston, Junior Computer Science (Game Design) Accusoft Scholarship Recipient

## Letter from the President

As president of Florida Polytechnic University, I am privileged to lead as we continue growing and evolving into Central Florida's standout producer of high-demand STEM degrees. This is evidenced by our ranking as the No. 1 Public College in the region by U.S. News and World Report for two years in a row. We couldn't have done it without the steadfast support of so many.

Today, we are a university on the rise. We have much to be proud of, and below I noted some of the many exciting happenings on campus. We celebrated the beginning of construction of a new building, which will be home to our first on-campus partnership with Fortune 500 company IFF.

We are making great strides in research and are attracting ever more applicants of the best and brightest students in the state. The Alexander Scholars Program is Florida Poly's esteemed scholarship program, boasting an average SAT score of 1513.

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On March 14, 2022, we held our inaugural Florida Poly Giving Day. On this day, we received more than \$2 million in contributions from 90 unique donors – more than half of which were first-time supporters of the Foundation.

In August of 2022, we were proud to host the grand opening of our Applied Research Center, a 90,000+ square-foot hub of research and teaching laboratories, student design spaces, conference rooms, and faculty offices.

We launched the Corporate Impact Network in July of 2021, developing new opportunities for corporate partners to engage with students in areas such as capstone project sponsorships, internships, and career opportunities.

In the past year, we connected with more than 200 industry partners, and we're proud to say over 80% of our graduates are accepting positions with great companies throughout the state of Florida.

On behalf of myself and the entire Florida Poly community, thank you for supporting our students, our alumni, our faculty, and our University. We couldn't do all we do without you. Thank you for being #Changemakers!

Sincerely,

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# **Foundation Leadership Message**

As we reflect on the past year of support and success, what is certain is that Florida Poly is financially on the rise. The Foundation's assets are greater than \$10 million – and they're growing. Together, we are working hard to develop the resources to continue the University's commitment to expanding Florida's high-tech workforce. As we reflect on the past year of support and success, what is certain is Florida Poly and the Florida Poly Foundation are on the rise.

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Our Foundation Board is also growing in strength and stature. It added three new members in the last year: Ana Wood, Justin Hollis, and Cady Johnson, who began putting their expertise and talent to work from day one. We are proud to say about half of our board is now made up of women who are fiercely dedicated to the Foundation and its success.

In 2022, we took an important step and established the Alumni Leadership Committee. At the helm of the nine-member committee are outstanding Florida Poly computer science graduates Travis Hills '19, Board chair, and Saivamsi Hanumanthu '20, vice chair. As our alumni population grows, this leadership committee will help increase alumni participation and engagement with their alma mater.

Navigating through a pandemic during the past two years was tricky, but we are more excited than ever. We are now engaging with more great companies here in Florida, by creating exciting partnerships (capstone projects) with corporations and business organizations to hire our students, provide internships, and join the Corporate Impact Network

We launched the Corporate Impact Network, which hosted the first Corporate Impact Summit in the fall of 2021. The event included a faculty presentation on cybersecurity and the inaugural Presidential Speaker Series, which featured a roundtable discussion with Florida Poly President Randy Avent and two alumni who discussed their roles in cybersecurity within their respective organizations.

The last year was a strong, successful one, and we are sure with the continued work of our steadfast supporters, Florida Poly and the Florida Poly Foundation are poised to again raise the bar in shaping Florida's future.

Sincerely,

Alice Hunt, Chair & Jack Harrell III, Vice Chair



# **RANKINGS**







#### LOWEST **OUT-OF-STATE** TUITION ValueColleges

#7 4

#### **BEST AFFORDABLE MECHANICAL** ENGINEERING **DEGREE PROGRAM**

Affordable Schools



#### **BEST CAREER OUTCOMES**

Wallethub





Analytics Insight Magazine



#### **PUBLIC ENGINEERING** SCHOOL Without a Ph.D.

U.S. News & World Report

#### **ALUMNI STORIES**

# Jamie Blanco '18

Jaime Blanco '18, a mechanical engineering graduate, is making her family proud as a mechanical design engineer at Fortune 500 company Emerson in Longmont, Colorado. The first-generation American in her family has also worked for aerospace giant Boeing and has no plans of slowing down.

"Mom is Colombian and Dad is from El Salvador. They came here to give themselves and their kids a better life. Now, I'm living the American dream. I think both my parents are very proud of me," Blanco said.



# Carl-Edwin & Marc-Edwin Rigaud '18

Identical twins Carl-Edwin and Marc-Edwin Rigaud '18 have taken on all of life's challenges together. They emigrated from Haiti together, pursued demanding degrees at Florida Poly together, and now they work together at FIS Global in St. Petersburg, Florida, a leader in financial technology. Carl-Edwin received a degree in computer science and Marc-Edwin's degree is in computer engineering.

"Florida Poly helped me learn to be a developer and how to implement what I already know and figure out what I don't," Carl-Edwin said.

#### **STUDENT STORIES**

# Vanessa Townsend '22

Vanessa Townsend, a mechanical engineering major, had her pick from several prestigious employers as her May 2022 graduation approached. She was part of nearly 10 campus organizations and activities and enjoyed the prestigious National Security Innovation Network (NSIN) X-Force fellowship.

"These four years set me up to let me know I'm capable of doing whatever I want. The experience I've had at Florida Poly has been incredible," Townsend said.

# Capstone team designs microgravity simulation device for Florida Space Institute

A senior capstone design team pooled their talent and education to design and build a microgravity simulation device for the Florida Space Institute. Their creation aimed to serve as a costeffective way for scientists to conduct experiments in an environment similar to that found in space.

"The goal is to create a device with a chamber in it that is able to drop from a given altitude – 900 feet for us – and from its descent be able to simulate up to four seconds of zero Gs so microgravity simulations can be done on the device. We're working hard to make something that works. It's a lot more fun than we expected," said Andre Archer, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering.

#### **DONOR STORY**



## Gary C. Wendt donates \$2 million for new leadership initiatives at Florida Poly

Florida Poly Trustee Gary C. Wendt gave a \$2 million gift to the University in 2022 to support the creation of new leadership initiatives for students. Wendt, who joined the Board of Trustees in 2017, is the former chairman and CEO of GE Capital, the financial services division of General Electric.

"I'm a firm believer in giving students the chance to develop leadership because it broadens their ability to access various parts of the job market and provides much wider opportunities. As just scientists or engineers, they're limited in those things. But if we add to the strong leadership component in the school, we can deliver a great advantage to students," Wendt said.

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#### RESEARCH

# Florida Poly wins NSF grant to research durability of 3D-printed jet engine materials

Dr. Sanna Siddiqui, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, secured a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to research the durability and longevity of 3D printed nickel-based metal superalloy materials used in jet and rocket engines.

"Many industries including aerospace and automobile manufacturing are shifting toward 3D printing because you can rapidly prepare parts, with flexibility in geometric designs, and hence improved efficiency. The question is, can these 3D printed materials perform as effectively as their counterpart materials developed through prior conventional manufacturing methods or not," Siddiqui said.

Dr. Patrick Zhang

# Three Florida Poly professors among world's top 2% of scientists

Three engaged, forward-thinking Florida Poly professors were named to a prestigous list of the world's top 2% of scientists. The work of Dr. Ajeet Kaushik, assistant professor of environmental engineering; Dr. Hisham Mahmood, assistant professor of electrical engineering; and Dr. Patrick Zhang, director of research mining and beneficiation at the University's Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute, placed them on the list compiled by Stanford University. Their work concerns topics in nanomedicine, energy systems, and rare earth element recovery.

"I believe in the quality of research over quantity, and my goal always is the quality. When I see the list, I'm very optimistic about the future and I feel more achievements will come and hope more faculty members will join us on the list," Mahmood said.

t Kaushih PhD

#### SUMMARY - FY22 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR OVER YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

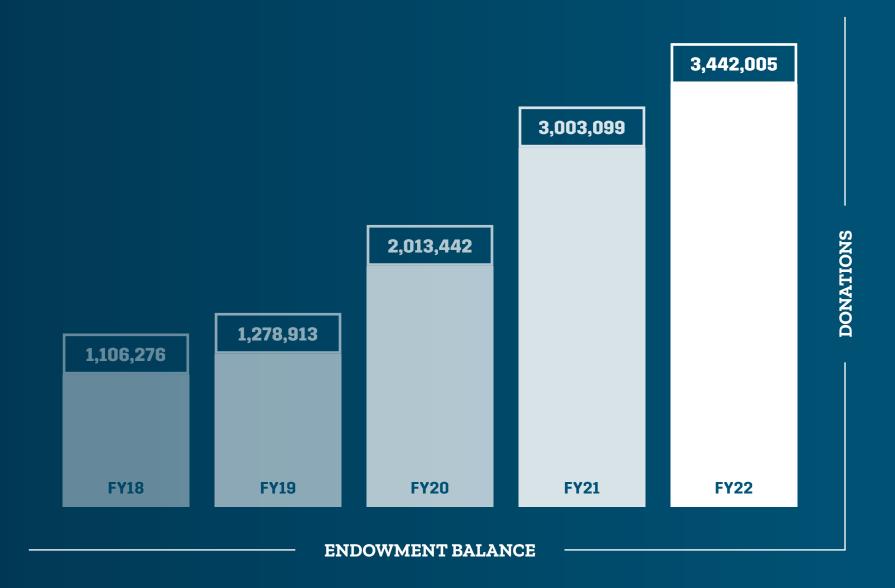
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL FY22	YEAR OVER YEAR FY21 TOTALS	VARIANCE
REVENUE	\$815,039.93	\$1,790,576.15	\$836,388.83	\$3,442,004.91	\$2,248,808.64	53.06%
EXPENSES						
• Operations	\$322,056.87	\$108,359.05	\$23,729.86	\$454,145.78	\$204,822.74	-121.73%
• Advocate	\$195,270.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195,270.00	\$174,225.00	-12.08%
<ul> <li>Scholarships</li> </ul>	\$254,646.58	\$315,661.77	\$0.00	\$570,308.35	\$406,389.93	-40.34%
• Salaries/Benefits/ Initiatives	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$921,973.45	\$424,020.82	\$23,729.86	\$1,369,724.13	\$935,437.67	-46.43%
FY22 Net Asset Gain/Loss	-\$106,933.52	\$1,366,555.33	\$812,658.97	\$2,072,280.78	\$1,313,370.97	<b>57.78</b> %





57.8% increase in **NET ASSET GAIN** from FY21 to FY22

### **ANNUAL FOUNDATION REPORT 2022**



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#### WAYS TO SUPPORT FLORIDA POLY

#### Give to the Florida Poly Innovation Fund

Big, real-time impact allowing you to support the University's greatest needs.

#### Create an Endowment

Enduring gifts invested and nurtured over time provide Florida Poly with a stable source of funding while helping promising students, supporting top-flight faculty, and enhancing vital research initiatives and programs.

#### Plan a Deferred Gift

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit the University after your lifetime, there are charitable solutions to provide for your family and support Florida Poly.

#### Give in Honor or Memory

There is no greater honor than to pay tribute to a living or departed family member, friend, or mentor by supporting the University and students by creating a lasting impact in their name.

#### Match your Gifts

Numerous companies and donors are willing to match your charitable gifts to Florida Poly, dramatically increasing your impact.

