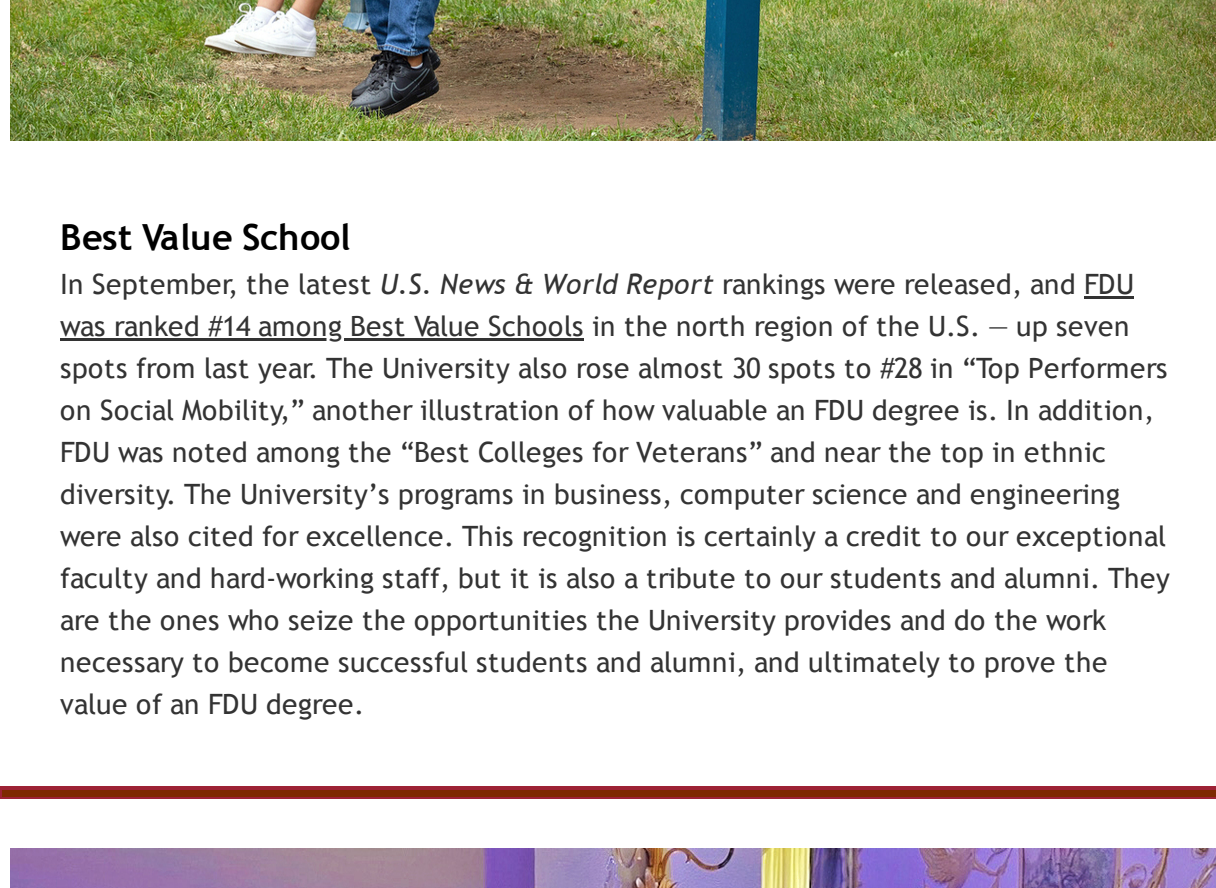
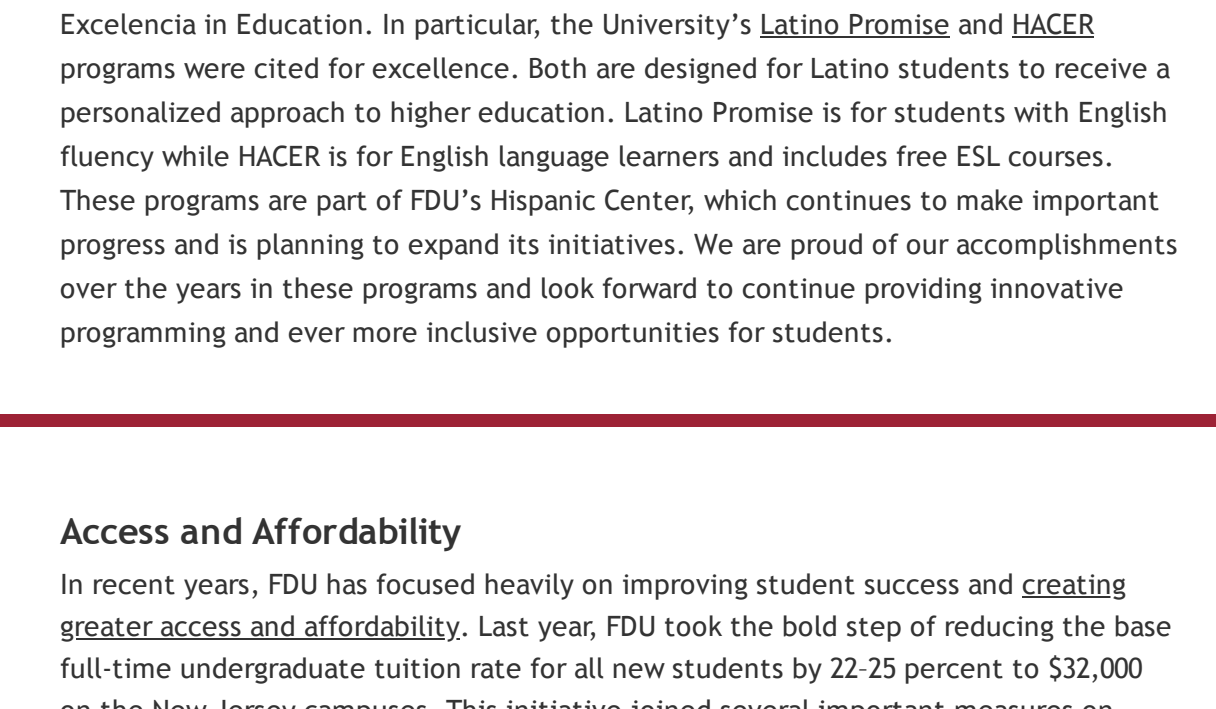


Welcome to the latest edition of the *President's Newsletter* from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Higher education is facing many challenges today, and more and more people are questioning the value of a college degree. That value, though, has never been more clear as those with college degrees continue to enjoy greater earning potential, more career opportunities and job security, less unemployment and better health care and other benefits than those with only a high school diploma. At FDU, we are continually focused on increasing the value of the degree we offer, and providing greater access and opportunities for students from all walks of life. We are committed to opening doors for students, and our momentum is strong. This brief update offers a sample of our recent achievements and highlights, and I hope it helps convey a sense of the excitement and energy on our campuses.



Best Value School

In September, the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings were released, and FDU was ranked #14 among Best Value Schools in the north region of the U.S. — up seven spots from last year. The University also rose almost 30 spots to #28 in “Top Performers on Social Mobility,” another illustration of how valuable an FDU degree is. In addition, FDU was noted among the “Best Colleges for Veterans” and near the top in ethnic diversity. The University’s programs in business, computer science and engineering were also cited for excellence. This recognition is certainly a credit to our exceptional faculty and hard-working staff, but it is also a tribute to our students and alumni. They are the ones who seize the opportunities the University provides and do the work necessary to become successful students and alumni, and ultimately to prove the value of an FDU degree.



National Honor for Latino Student Success

FDU was one of four programs nationwide honored as Examples of Excelencia by Excelencia in Education. In particular, the University’s Latino Promise and HACER programs were cited for excellence. Both are designed for Latino students to receive a personalized approach to higher education. Latino Promise is for students with English fluency while HACER is for English language learners and includes free ESL courses. These programs are part of FDU’s Hispanic Center, which continues to make important progress and is planning to expand its initiatives. We are proud of our accomplishments over the years in these programs and look forward to continue providing innovative programming and ever more inclusive opportunities for students.

Access and Affordability

In recent years, FDU has focused heavily on improving student success and creating greater access and affordability. Last year, FDU took the bold step of reducing the base full-time undergraduate tuition rate for all new students by 22-25 percent to \$32,000 on the New Jersey campuses. This initiative joined several important measures on behalf of students including freezing tuition rates for two consecutive years; providing generous discounts for summer and winter courses to help students accelerate the completion of their degrees; restructuring graduate tuition rates — simplifying and, in many programs, reducing the cost; and launching a campaign to generate increased scholarship funds. We are committed to providing our students outstanding programs at an affordable price. And we are committed to providing an education that makes a difference in the real world. Our graduates have achieved great success and have reached the top tiers of just about every profession imaginable. To access, opportunity and a great value are what we stand for and what we pledge to continue to provide.



TAG Recommendations to Benefit NJ Students

In 2020, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy established the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) Study Commission, which was charged with identifying barriers, gaps or deficiencies in the state’s TAG program, a program that was established more than 40 years ago to provide need-based aid to low- and moderate-income students. The TAG Study Commission included 10 members, six of whom were appointed by the governor (including the executive director of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority) and four of whom were appointed by legislative leadership. I was honored to be one of the governor’s appointments and to represent the state’s 14 independent colleges and universities, which, including FDU, play a major role in educating tens of thousands of New Jersey residents and TAG recipients annually. At the first meeting in 2020, I was further honored by being elected chair of the group. Following an exhaustive review of the TAG program, the Study Commission issued its final report in October. Included among five high-priority recommendations for policy changes was expanding the TAG program to include summer TAG awards, which would allow TAG recipients to complete their degrees and enter the job market more quickly and with less debt.



Center for Empathy Training and Research

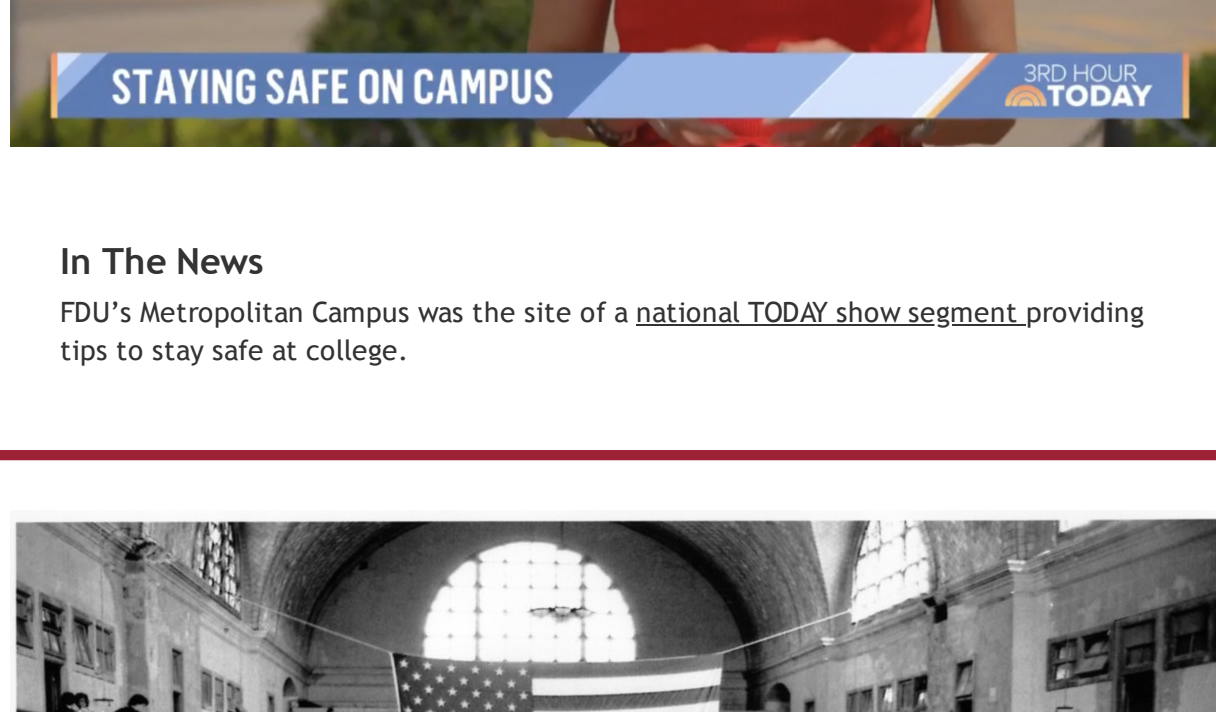
FDU’s School of Psychology and Counseling has created the Center for Empathy Training and Research (CERT), which will provide essential education and support for those within and outside the University community. The ability to empathize with others is the most important skill necessary to prosper together peacefully. Through proven empathy training methods and applied psychological research, the center will engage and teach individuals and groups to increase the capacity for empathy and to prevent, mitigate and resolve aggressive behavior in the global communities where we teach, work and live. Training programs began this semester within the community, and external training programs will begin shortly.

World-Class Faculty

FDU faculty continue to excel in and out of the classroom. Take Kalyan Mondal for example, who this fall was presented a Distinguished Faculty Award by the University. A professor of electrical engineering, he is the founding director of FDU’s heralded Center for Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, and he was instrumental in securing the coveted designation as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the U.S. Department of Defense/National Security Agency (DOD/NSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Through his efforts, FDU students have gained a competitive edge, plus prestigious cybersecurity scholarships from the DOD/NSA, and the University has gained more than \$2 million in funding for new programs, curriculum design and more.

Then there’s April Patrick, assistant professor of literature and University director of honors, who was a featured expert in a recent story in *The Record* celebrating the 75th anniversary of the children’s book “*Goodnight Moon*.” Patrick, who teaches courses on children’s literature, well explained the popularity and endurance of this timeless classic and its gentle soothing nature. “There’s a sense of comfort, that you’re grounded in something real,” she said. “When you think of kids at bedtime, you don’t want them having bad dreams. You want them to be grounded in a present moment that seems safe and comforting. That’s what makes ‘*Goodnight Moon*’ so appealing.”

I also want to highlight Professor of History Peter Burkholder for his coauthored report on public perceptions of history, published by the American Historical Association and recognized by the Pulitzer Commission. Burkholder was co-director of “History, the Past, and Public Culture,” a national public-opinion survey featuring important findings on teaching and learning about the past. The project was a collaboration between the American Historical Association (AHA) and Fairleigh Dickinson University and was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

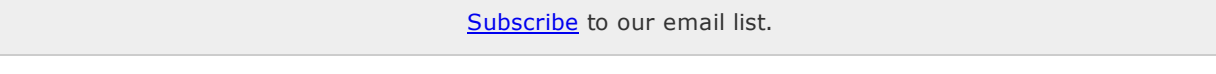


Landmark First Decade

This year we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Since its inception in 2012, the school has developed a reputation as an innovative education hub, with an emphasis on technology, cross-disciplinary courses and world-class facilities, including a sterile compounding lab. What started out as a dream — there was only one other pharmacy school in New Jersey — has turned into leading-edge programs across the school has reached a decade of distinction. Since 2020 alone, the school has launched three new degrees at the master’s level in public health, social work and physician assistant studies. A doctoral-level degree in occupational therapy will start this winter, and a master’s of health care administration is next.

State Grant for Computer Science

The New Jersey Department of Education selected FDU as one of just two higher education institutions to be awarded a grant for computer science education. The grant, part of the Computer Science for All program, provides FDU \$333,330 this year and next year to create hubs that will provide professional learning for educators and resources for districts to increase computer science opportunities for students. The grant will also help build partnerships to promote the growth of computer science education.



The Joy of Being First

Since FDU was founded by Peter Sammartino in 1942, it has been a beacon of hope and enlightenment for students who might not have had the means or opportunity — but who did have the talent and potential — to succeed in college. In particular, FDU has well served first-generation college students with tremendous support that helped them transform their lives. In our latest edition of *FDU Magazine*, you can read these inspiring stories of first-generation students across the decades who have blazed the trail in their families, earned their college degrees and then made an incredible impact in their chosen pursuits.

A Long-Awaited Day

FDU is a national leader in providing educational programs for U.S. veterans, and this year we had the wonderful opportunity to honor a very special veteran, Richard Salkind left college to enlist in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After his service, he was married and working full-time when he enrolled at FDU, but his commitments to his job and family made it difficult for him to complete his degree. He recently reached out to FDU and, after evaluating his career, the University identified credits that were approved by the American Council on Education for his army training. These credits qualified him for his long-awaited bachelor’s degree, and we presented the degree at his house during a ceremony in the spring. Congratulations again Mr. Salkind!

In The News

FDU’s Metropolitan Campus was the site of a national TODAY show segment providing tips to stay safe at college.

Did You Know?

FDU’s founder Peter Sammartino was an educational pioneer who also played a major role in the restoration of Ellis Island. He was the national chairman of the Restore Ellis Island Committee and helped gain support for congressional funds to clean up and maintain the historic site. A plaque in his honor was placed there in 1980 to commemorate his pivotal role in the renovation of this landmark.

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