

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

Volume 39, issue 1

August 22, 2023

NEWS
LEARN ABOUT BC'S
PEER MENTORS
PROGRAM

PAGE 3

NEWS
MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS EVENTS

PAGE 3

SPOTLIGHT
THE DIFFERENT CAREER
PATHWAYS AT BC

PAGES 6-7

SPORTS
NFL AND NBA NEWS

PAGES 8

ENTERTAINMENT
A RECAP OF POP NEWS
THIS SUMMER

PAGE 10

OPINION
EDUCATION IN FLORIDA

PAGE 11

SPOTLIGHT
STUDENT LIFE PHOTOS

PAGE 12

Tips for understanding the transfer process at Broward College

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Staff Writer

If you are pursuing an A.A. or A.S. degree, you probably are thinking about transferring in the future. But when exactly do we need to start planning to move? aren't we too stressed with tests and work as it is? can't we just stay at Broward College?

The answers to these questions depend on how far along you are with your credits and on what your plan is. But who are we kidding, even though we spend hours deciding what is our next educational endeavor, plans don't always turn out as (ironically) planned.

The majority of universities offer transfer plans and resources to let you know about the prerequisites for the majors they offer. This can give you a better understanding of the courses you will need, and you can organize as you are trying to figure out what major you will pursue or are choosing your classes. These plans vary by university, state, and major.

The Florida Department of Education guarantees that the credits obtained at a

post-secondary institution transfer over to their new school, allowing students to receive credits for comparable coursework. This is all thanks to articulation agreements that exist among public universities in the state.

This makes it easy to transfer your credits. But you will need to look out for the course requirements for your major to avoid taking classes that give you unnecessary credits. That is why it's a great idea to contact the university you would like to be a part of and ask about the credits you need to transfer and the classes you would need to take to complete your degree with them. The prerequisites are usually found at the university's website, but these transfer guides are often updated, so be on the lookout for any changes.

Wendell "Thomas" Johnson, Partnerships Coordinator for Transfer Services, believes students should begin researching the university(ies) they would like to transfer to during their third semester at BC, or when a student has completed 50 percent of their degree requirements.

"I would also recommend students contact schools (directly



Photo courtesy of Broward College.

or via transfer events) they may not have considered initially. This opens additional options (scholarships, tuition discounts, waivers, other benefits, etc.) for the student as well as the transfer university," shares Johnson.

Transfer Services works as a train station that can connect you to resources and universities as well as guide you on your journey. As Thomas points out, they "help students achieve their educational goals ensuring successful transfer from Broward College to a 4-year college or university. This includes associates to bachelor, and bachelor to graduate levels."

Broward College actually offers bachelor's degree programs, so if you wish to stay at BC, you can look at the majors available

by going onto the school's site.

There are also advisors from FAU and FIU on all campuses, available to answer any question and have one-on-one meetings with you. These two universities offer transfer programs that can give you access to their campuses before transferring and make you eligible for some transfer scholarships. They are known as FAU's LINK program and FIU's Connect4Success program. By joining Phi Theta Kappa or making an account at Raise.me you can become eligible for other-transfer scholarships.

Once you decide what schools you would like to transfer to, it is time to find out application deadlines, minimum/maximum credits you need to transfer over, and apply. Some universities, like

FIU, let you apply up to three semesters in advance to the semester in which you wish to start.

You can visit Transfer Services and take advantage of the Transfer Fairs that happen on campus. And if you're an online student, or not, visit <https://www.broward.edu/students/transfer-services/transfer-spotlight.html> to learn about universities, transfer resources, and Transfer Services' contact information.

It can become stressful to think about transferring during the semester, especially if you do not have a set major yet or have a job but take advantage of the free time you have between classes to investigate schools. Enjoy your time at BC and good luck on your transfer journey.

vales63@mail.broward.edu

Student Life events, esports, intramurals coming in the fall

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

Each year, the arrival of Fall marks the beginning of collegiate careers for many students, and a return to it for many more. Regardless of which group you belong to, you are likely interested in getting as much as you can out of your time in academia, both inside the classroom and out. While the professors, advisors, tutors, and collection of the ASC's (Academic Success Center) resources are available for the former, there is only one place to remember if you are interested in Broward College's extracurriculars: Student Life.

From Aerospace to UNICEF, students can meet and collaborate with their collegiate peers in an organizational capacity through Student Life, but it is more than that. Lauren Adamo, BC's Interim Senior Director for Student Engagement, urges that it is a tool for ad-

vancement. "It's their connection to the college and to other students... and it also will help them to be more successful while at the college."

This success is achievable through the networking that comes along with the various groups and activities. This year, the fall semester will feature the familiar classics that everyone loves but could also include some new hits for students to enjoy. "We are hoping to launch an intramural program offering two sports at each campus, which looks like it will be soccer, or mini-soccer, and basketball," Adamo said.

Also expected to begin this Fall is the highly anticipated esports program marking BC's official membership in the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE). This promises to be a favorite for PC gamers, as they will participate in scheduled competitions in games such as "Overwatch," "Rocket

League," and "Valorant."

Many of these clubs have built-in demographics which will quickly find their landing spot, but being a college student is largely a journey of new experiences, with a lot of dipping your toes into the water. Some students simply haven't found out what they enjoy yet, while others are addicted to novelty. So where is the best place to test the waters? "We always like to bring attention to Club Rush. While it's not new, it is the best way to find out about the clubs and organizations that are going to be active for that academic year," said Adamo.

The Club Rush events will offer something for all students, even those who don't plan to join any clubs. "We do a number of welcome activities: this year we are going to be doing a convocation which is centered around resilience and mindfulness that we're partnering up with Academic Affairs to do."

Club Rush dates are set



Think Fast from last year.

Photo courtesy of Student Life

for each campus: South will host the event on Monday, Sept. 11, North on Tuesday, Sept. 12, and Central on Wednesday, Sept. 13. On these dates, the campuses will also be hosting resource fairs, which highlight the Academic Departments and the Student Services resources.

You can find the Student Life office at each of the campuses, and you can also find more information, in-

cluding a list of clubs and activities, online at <https://www.broward.edu/students/student-life/>.

Gonzr221@mail.broward.edu

What's happening around campus



Student Life Welcome Weeks



- South Campus Events -



Mon, Aug 21st 11 am

Coffee Break: Seahawk Social
Treat Yourself to Hot or Iced Coffee
Activity Center 68 / 191

Thurs, Aug 31st 11 am

Seahawk Convocation
Transform Your Mindset Seminar
PCAT Theater

Tues, Aug 22nd 12 pm

Tea Time: Seahawk Social
Make Your Own Boba Tea
Activity Center 68 / 191

Wed, Sep 6th 12 pm

Spirit Day
Celebrate BC's Birthday!
BLDG 68 Breezeway

Mon, Aug 28th 12 pm

Envision Your Mission
Vision Board Decorating
Activity Center 68 / 191

Thurs, Sep 7th 11 am

Welcome Back Bash
Enjoy Food, Music, & Artists
BLDG 68 Breezeway

Wed, Aug 30th 12 pm

Clash of the Seahawks! Tournament Series
Pool, Ping Pong, Foosball, & Gaming
Activity Center 68 / 191

Mon, Sep 11th 11 am

Club Rush
Join a student organization!
BLDG 68 Breezeway

Thurs, Aug 31st 12 pm

Let's Luau! Seahawk Social
Tropical Treats, Music, & Games
BLDG 68 Breezeway

Thurs, Sep 14th 11 am

Resource Fair & Work-Study Job Fair
Campus resources and jobs
BLDG 68 Breezeway

FOLLOW US @BCSOUTHSL

Broward College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or other legally protected classification in its programs and activities.

Peer Mentoring Program helps students succeed

Daniela Iregui
Online Editor

As a BC student, I have the opportunity of being part of the Peer Mentoring Program as a mentee, but also as part of the Peer Mentoring team. Broward College, in collaboration with esteemed organizations PeerForward and Americorps, has made the Peer Mentoring program possible with the purpose of enhancing student success.

This initiative marks the first of its kind, making a huge change in the way, we students, are guided and empowered throughout our academic journey. The programs peer leaders are current Broward College

students who are equipped with training in leadership and mentoring skills to offer invaluable support and guidance to their peers.

Peer mentoring has long been acknowledged as a powerful tool that boosts student success and personal development. Broward College recognizes the significance of cultivating a strong and inclusive campus community, where students can rely on their peers for guidance and support. The Peer Mentoring and Leadership program is designed to do just that.

Peer leaders possess a natural understanding of the challenges faced by their mentees. Their relatability

creates an environment of trust and mutual understanding, where all students can openly discuss their concerns or questions. This creates a supportive atmosphere that encourages us to remain motivated and engaged in our academic journey.

The heart of the Peer Mentoring program lies in the solid support that peer leaders provide to us, their fellow students. Peer leaders are there to offer guidance to every student who needs support and guidance. Whether it's choosing the right courses, how to register for classes, or seeking resources for academic excellence, the peer leaders are well-prepared to assist.

Mohammed Aqeel is a peer leader of this program who said he is very proud of serving as a lead peer leader, which consists in guiding and supporting fellow students in their academic and personal journeys. He describes his experience in the Peer Mentoring program as an incredibly fulfilling and enriching experience. It has allowed him to connect with peers, cultivate leadership skills, and positively impact the lives of others, Aqeel



Peer mentors at Broward College

Photo courtesy of Peer Mentors

said. According to Aqeel, there are numerous aspects of Peer Mentoring that he cherishes deeply. Firstly, engagement with students and the opportunity to create events that foster a sense of community and camaraderie is truly rewarding. Witnessing people share wonderful moments and form new friendships brings immense joy. Additionally, he expresses that being part of something larger than himself, where members of the program are able to give back to the community, and particularly empower first-generation college students and minorities, fills him with a sense of purpose and pride.

Aqeel shares an inspiring

quote for all BC students "There will never be a PERFECT time to start. Don't waste your life waiting for the perfect conditions to succeed. Do yourself a favor and find a way to embrace your own challenges succeeding on your own terms." "Aqeel said, "Let these words remind you to seize every opportunity, face challenges head-on, and define success in your own unique way. Your journey is yours to embrace and conquer."

For more information about the Peer Mentoring program and how to join, visit Broward.edu/mentoring.

iregd@mail.broward.edu



Peer mentors.

Photo courtesy of Peer Mentors

Mental Health Awareness events at Broward College

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

As the reality of what life was like during a global pandemic fade into memory, what remains are lessons learned. There are certain things that can be professed ad nauseum with ineffectual results, that is, until we are forced to confront the issue because it is no longer avoidable. For many, the wake-up call about the importance of their mental health came in the form of COVID-19, and now a whole geographic range of people previously aloof to this essential form of personal care are becoming interested in their psychological welfare.

Broward College recently hosted three events to address mental health within the school community over the summer term at South,

Central, and North campuses featuring mindfulness activities, informational handouts, yoga, and various other attractions.

The goal was a collective effort aimed at informing and steeling the students, faculty, and staff with the myriad of methods available for coping with the stresses that are a natural part of life.

Melanie Gnaizda-Gilson, Manager of Student Services and Project Director of a grant for Suicide Prevention from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services, organized the events alongside Broward College's Associate Director of Workplace Wellbeing, Lisa Elsinger.

"We're hoping that our collaborations, and the infrastructure that we build



Students practicing yoga.

Photo courtesy of Student Life

now with the grant being the motivator, will continue after the grant's sun sets, so we're hoping that it is an annual thing that we can do," Gnaizda-Gilson said.

The aim for the potentially annual recurrence of the events is to provide added resources and tools to the community, as well as reminders of the importance of continual upkeep of the mind, body, and spirit.

There are occasions where we may not even be aware that things are amiss until we do some proactive work, as related by Elsinger. "A student came and did a 'vision-board.' At first, she

didn't know what it was, what to expect, and afterwards she said, 'I didn't realize how much I needed that. Life is just really stressful, and this is just a good way for me to calm down,' so it lets us know that all activities, large and small, that we can do for people to just help them to calm down a bit, and then learn what they can do on their own then, to have better mental health and well-being... they're all important."

So, who should be taking an interest in their mental health? "Everyone, especially in this day and age," said Owen Blake, Wellness Center Supervisor at Broward

College North Campus. In keeping with the theme of an integrated approach, which is the hallmark of the events, Blake asserts that physical exercise is essential to maintaining good mental health, a method he employs to achieve, "a lighter presence." The wellness centers at each campus are available for students and faculty to achieve this end.

For more information and resources, students and faculty are encouraged to visit www.broward.edu/mentalhealth or www.broward.edu/sos.

Gonzr221@mail.broward.edu



Students on North Campus during the mental health awareness event. Photo courtesy of Student Life

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Graphic Designers
- Videographers
- Photographers
- Writers

JOIN US NOW!

@THEBCOBERVER
JSHAPHIRO@BROWARD.EDU



STUDY HARD, EAT WELL.

In-café offer. Come in and see us!

\$5 OFF
any full-size lunch
or dinner entrée

**Must show coupon and valid
Broward College Student ID
to receive offer.**

Only one offer per person.

Valid at participating Covelli-owned and operated bakery-cafes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. While supplies last. Valid in-café only. Not valid for Rapid Pick-Up or online ordering. Not valid on ordering kiosks, small order delivery, or catering. Limit one coupon per student, per visit, per day. Must present coupon when ordering. Entrees include full-size salads, sandwiches, and bowls of soup, you pick two, single flatbread pizza, flatbread pizza meals, and warm bowls. Not valid with any other coupon or offer including \$5.99/\$6.99 Value Duets. Void if modified, copied, reproduced, transferred, purchased, traded or sold. Applicable taxes paid by bearer. Cash redemption value 1/20 of one cent. Offer may expire without notice due to error, fraud or other unforeseen circumstances. Offer expires 9/30/23. ©2023 Panera Bread. All rights Reserved.

50% OFF
your next online order

Order online at panerabread.com or download app.

Must be logged into an active MyPanera account to receive discount (No MyPanera account? No problem. Simply register online when placing your order.)

Enter this code at checkout:
STUDENT23

Valid at participating Covelli-owned and operated bakery-cafes in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Receive 50% off online order for Delivery or Rapid Pick-Up® exclusive of taxes or delivery fees that may apply. Max discount of \$10. Order minimum of \$5 required for delivery, exclusive of taxes and delivery charges that may apply. Our delivery fee is not a tip or gratuity provided to the driver. Gift card and catering orders excluded. Order must be placed online with credit card or valid gift card. Limit one redemption per MyPanera account. Offer not valid in-café. Delivery hours may vary. Limited Delivery area. Visit panerabread.com/deliveryinfo to determine if you're in a delivery area or for more information. Not valid with any other coupon or offer. Void if modified, copied, reproduced, transferred, purchased, traded, or sold. Applicable taxes paid by bearer. Cash redemption value 1/20 of one cent. Offer may expire without notice to due error, fraud, or other unforeseen circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. Offer expires 9/30/23. Offer code: STUDENT23



Panera
BREAD®

NOW HIRING!
TEXT BREAD TO 242424 TO APPLY

Pathways At Broward College

Broward College has eight pathways which are areas of study that house the college’s programs and majors. Program Pathways or Guided Pathways allow students to select an area of interest that aligns with a major that helps students with transferring and/or going into the workforce. “Our pathways are organized around careers and transfer fields. If you’re in the Business pathway, your going to transfer to the college of business at FIU, FAU or University of Miami,” Dr. Jamonica Rolle, Vice President of Academic Affairs tells the Observer.

As of August 1, 2023 Broward College students are majoring in the following pathways:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23% Health Sciences ○ Example Areas of Interest: Nursing, Dental Assisting, Food Science/Nutrition, Pharmacy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16% Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics known as STEM ○ Example Areas of Interest: Biochemistry, Forensic Science, Computer Engineering, Physics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% Business ○ Example Areas of Interest: Finance, Accounting, Hospitality Administration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7% Arts, Humanities, Communication and Design known as AHCD ○ Example Areas of Interest: Architecture, Theater, Religious Studies, Journalism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% Social Sciences, Behavioral, Sciences & Human Services known as SBSHS ○ Example Areas of Interest: Psychology, History, Social Work, Women’s Studies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4% Industry, Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation known as IMCT ○ Example Areas of Interest: Urban & Regional Planning, Aerospace Engineering, Transportation Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% Education ○ Example Areas of Interest: Early Childhood Education, Mathematics Education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% Public Safety ○ Example Areas of Interest: Pre-Law, Criminal Justice, Fire and Emergency Service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24% Non-degree seeking/undeclared also known as Exploratory Students

Health Sciences and STEM are the most popular Pathway. Why?

Dr. Rolle described this as a heightened awareness of the community’s need for more qualified nurses and healthcare professionals. Competitive salaries, high demand and career growth potential can all be attributed to Health Science’s popularity. “Students feel they can have careers that make a tangible difference in the lives of others and the world. When you think about what’s happening with advances in technology Generative Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, extended reality, and Automation it really sets out to revolutionize how we live, work, and play.”

How do these numbers reflect BC’s budget towards each Pathway?

Adequate staffing is the major part of the College’s budget with the faculty making up most of it. Enrollment rates and budget align by the goal to meet the needs of students enrolled in classes in the pathways. Certain pathways have more of an equipment need than others, and in these cases the budget doesn’t align with the enrollment rate but more so meeting student’s needs for success in the pathway. For example, a student enrolled in Film Production (under AHCD which only contains 7%) will still need film equipment to learn.

How does Broward College get students to enroll in the least popular Pathways?

“I don’t believe the goal is to have students enrolled equally in pathways because we know that jobs are not available equally by pathway.” Dr. Rolle prefers to assess whether or not Broward College has an adequate number of students in pathways according to current and future career opportunities. Many students enroll in pathways in which they have a passion for, and the less enrolled pathways still have importance in the community (education, public safety, social and human services). The college sets out to help students declare majors that will allow them to achieve the career that aligns with their preferred values and lifestyle.

What if you are still deciding on which pathway or major to select?

“We have opportunities in just about every career field. The pathways will lead you to whatever it is that you want to do.” Rolle urges all students with a general interest in any of the pathways to declare their area of interest, explore and ultimately declare a major fairly early on into their collegiate career. By taking these steps students are prepared to transfer to universities with minimal debt and can take the opportunity to assess their future career goals and opportunities.

NBA free agency and offseason news for 2023-2024

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The NBA Free Agency period officially started June 30. During mid-June, before Free Agency, teams can facilitate trades; also, players can decide whether to pick up or decline their player options, in their particular contracts. This NBA offseason provided many surprising moves and signings, especially because of the new adjusted salary cap, in the CBA agreement.

This biggest and most surprising trade of the offseason took place before free agency, when Bradley Beal was traded to the Suns from the Wizards, for Chris Paul and other assets. The assets included 2024-2028 with a 2030 2 nd round picks, 2024-2030 even number of 1st round pick swaps, Landry Shamet, and cash. Also, Jordan Goodwin and Isaiah Todd were traded to the Suns. Since Beal had a no-trade clause, he was essentially able to choose what team he wanted to be traded to, and his two main teams were the Suns and the Heat. Later that week, the Wizards traded Paul to the Warriors for Jordan Poole, a 2027 2 nd round pick, and a 2030 protected 1 st round pick.

Some other trades that took place before free agency, was the Kristaps Porzingis and John Collins trade. The Wizards, Celtics, and Grizzlies facilitated a three-team trade that traded KP

to the Celtics, Tyus Jones to the Wizards, and former DPOY to the Grizzlies. The Hawks traded Collins to the Jazz for Rudy Gay and a future 2 nd round pick. To expedite the KP trade, KP had a deadline to opt into his \$36 million player option and was one of the notable players with player option deadlines. Some other notable players were Fred VanVleet declining his \$22.8 million player option, Draymond Green declining his \$27.5 million player option, Khris Middleton declining his \$40 million player option, and James Harden exercising his \$35.6 million player option, which evidently led to Harden shockingly requesting another trade.

Immediately when free agency started, Green agreed to a four-year \$100 million deal with the Warriors, and with a player option. Also, Kyle Kuzma agreed to a four-year \$102 million deal with the Wizards, after declining his \$13 million player option. The Suns started agreeing to minimum contracts for role players like Drew Eubanks and Keita Bates-Diop with a two-year \$5 million deal, Damion Lee with a two-year \$5.3 million deal with a player option, Eric Gordon with a two-year \$6 million deal, Chimezie Metu and Bol Bol with one-year deals. Some other shocking signings were Bruce Brown signing a two-year \$45 million contract with the Pacers, Dillon Brooks with a four-year

\$80 million deal with the young rockets, and Jerami Grant signing a five-year \$160 million contract with the Trailblazers.

Kyrie Irving finally re-signed with the Mavericks for a three-year \$126 million contract. Fred VanVleet signed a three-year \$130 million contract, to leave the Raptors and join the young Rockets. Khris Middleton re-signed with the Bucks for a three-year \$102 million contract, including a player option. Brook Lopez re-signing with the Bucks for a two-year \$48 million contract. RFA, Cameron Johnson, agreed to a four-year \$108 million deal with the Nets. RFA, Rui Hachimura, agreed to a three-year \$51 million deal with the Lakers. RFA, Austin Reaves, agreed to four-year \$56 million max extension with the Lakers. The Lakers were extremely busy, by also signing Gabe Vincent to a three-year \$33 million deal, Cam Reddish and Jaxson Hayes to a two-year \$4.6 million deals, Taurean Prince to a one-year \$4.5 million deal, and D'Angelo Russell to a two-year \$37 million deal.

Some notable huge contracts extensions were signed like Tyrese Haliburton and the Pacers agreeing on a five-year \$260 million contract, Desmond Bane and the Grizzlies agreeing on a five-year \$207 million contract, LaMelo Ball and the Hornets agreeing on a five-year \$260 million contract, Domantas Sabonis and the



The Suns new "Big Three"

Photo courtesy of NBA.com

Kings finalized a five-year \$217 million contract renegotiation, Dejounte Murray and the Hawks finalizing a four-year \$120 million contract. Also, Anthony Davis and the Lakers finalized a three-year \$186 million contract. Max Strus signed a four-year \$63 million deal with the Cavaliers, which ultimately lead to a three-team sign and trade, with the Spurs getting Cedi Osman, Lamar Stevens, and future 2 nd round pick. Also, the Heat acquiring a future 2 nd round pick. The Heat traded Victor Oladipo to the Thunder, for draft compensation.

The Heat made some free agent acquisitions, by signing

Kevin Love to a two-year \$7.8 million deal, Josh Richardson to a two-year \$5.9 million deal, and Thomas Bryant to a two-year \$5.4 million deal. On the first day of free agency, Damian Lillard finally requested a trade, his preferred destination is the Heat. Also, the Heat have been clearing cap space and building a three-team trade around Tyler Herro with other assets. As of right now, the trade has yet to come to fruition, so Lillard will probably be traded around training camp.

stepj39@mail.broward.edu

Your guide to the NFL Offseason for 2023-2024

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The important days during the offseason were: the NFL draft (April 27-29), NFL Free Agency (March 15), franchise tag deadline (March 7), OTA's offseason program (May 22-June 8), mandatory minicamp (June 13-15) franchise tag deadline for long-term contracts (July 17), rookie training camp (July 18) and official NFL training camp (July 29 .)

The biggest and most impactful signing or trade was when former MVP QB Aaron Rogers, finally after a month long plus, was being traded to the Jets from the Packers. The trade package consisted of: Rogers, a 2023 1 st round

pick, and 2023 5 th round pick to the Jets, then a 2023 1 st round pick, 2023 2 nd round pick, 2023 6 th round pick, and a conditional 2024 2 nd round pick (that can become a 1 st round pick (if Rogers plays 65 percent of the plays) to the Packers. This trade engineered a ripple and snowball effect because some of the AFC teams started enacting impactful acquisitions to their respective teams. Some of his beloved teammates they acquired were Randall Cobb to a one-year deal, Billy Turner to a one-year \$3.15 million deal, and Allen Lazard to a four-year \$44 million contract. Some other moves the Jets made, to fortify themselves as Super Bowl contenders: signing Mecole Hardman to a one-year \$6.5 million deal,

extending Quinnen Williams, to a four-year \$96 million extension (with \$66 million guaranteed).

After receiving the non-exclusive franchise tag, after 2-3 years of negotiations, Lamar Jackson finally signed his five-year \$260 million extension with the Ravens (including a (\$185 million in total guarantees, and a no-trade clause). To solidify themselves as playoff contenders, the Ravens also acquired former Georgia OC Todd Monken, Odell Beckham to a one-year \$18 million contract. To steer the Broncos and Russell Wilson, in the right direction, the Saints traded HC Sean Peyton and a 2024 3 rd round pick to the Broncos for a 2023 1 st round pick and a 2024 2 nd round pick. The Broncos also signed Mike McGlinchey to a five-year \$87.5 million contract (with \$50 million plus guaranteed) and Ben Powers to a four-year \$52 million contract (with \$28.5 million guaranteed).

After making the playoffs for the 1 st time in several years, the Dolphins were poised to continue building a Super Bowl contending team. They executed another blockbuster trade by acquiring all-pro CB Jalen Ramsey from the Rams, for a 2023 3 rd round pick and Hunter Long. To enhance over defensive players talent

and abilities, they signed one of the most vaunted DC's and schemes in the modern era, in Vic Vangio. It is also noted that Bradley Chubb played under Vangio on the Broncos, and Ramsey is extremely familiar with Vangio's scheme on the Rams. The Dolphins also signed Mike White to a two-year deal, David Long to a two-year \$11 million contract, Raheem Mosert to a two-year \$5.6 million contract, and Jeff to a two-year \$6 million contract.

Some other pivotal transactions were present throughout the NFL. The Bears traded the 2023 1 st overall pick to the Panthers for DJ Moore, 2023 9 th overall pick, a 2023 2 nd round pick, 2024 1 st round pick, and a 2025 2 nd round pick. Jalen Hurts signed a five-year \$255 million contract extension, with the Eagles, which also included a \$179.304 in fully guarantees, and a no-trade clause. Daniel Jones re-signing with the Giants, for a four-year \$160 million contract. After receiving the franchise tag, Saquan Barkley re-signed with the Giants for a one-year \$10 million deal, with incentives. The Giants also traded for Darren Waller from the Raiders, for a 2023 3 rd round pick. Dexter Lawrence signed a contract with the Giants, for a four-year \$90 million

extension (with \$60 million guaranteed). The Cowboys traded for Brandon Cooks and Stephon Gilmore, by sending the Texans a 2023 5 th round pick and a 2024 6 th round pick; sent the Colts a 2023 5 th round compensatory pick. DeAndre Hopkins signing a two-year \$26 million contract with the Titans.

Some training camp contracts include Justin Herbert signing for a five year \$262 million extension with the Chargers (with \$133.7 in fully guarantees, and a no-trade clause), Trevon Diggs signed a five-year \$97 million extension with the Cowboys, Andrew Thomas signed a five-year \$117.5 million contract with the Giants, and etc. Some key contract holdouts are Chiefs Chris Jones, Raiders Josh Jacobs, 49ers Nick Bosa, Cowboys Zach Martin, and etc. Some key injuries are Joe Burrow with a right calf strain (looking for an enormous contract extension), Jalen Ramsey with a torn meniscus (out around 4-8 weeks plus), and etc. Dalvin Cook is currently the most key free agent.

stepj39@mail.broward.edu



Aaron Rogers and Deshaun Watson embracing Photo courtesy of JDNews.com

Monetize your skills to earn extra income

Latrice Harris
Staff Writer

In today's economy, many people are looking for extra work to supplement their income. Gas prices are rising, and the cost of living is on the rise, but salaries remain the same. What do you do?

Did you know that if you had vocational training and got certified you can take those skills and teach others? You may have gone to cosmetology school, barber school, became a medical assistant, a patient care technician, or simply worked in a field that you have perfected over the years. Monetize those skills to train others.

Broward County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools offer Vocational Certification in many areas teaching part-time or full-time in Vocational Education and will pay you to teach.

Did you know you can get a Vocational Certificate to teach if you have your license in any one of the following areas listed below or another vocational area that's listed on the website at <https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13452/Certification/VocCoverages.pdf>:

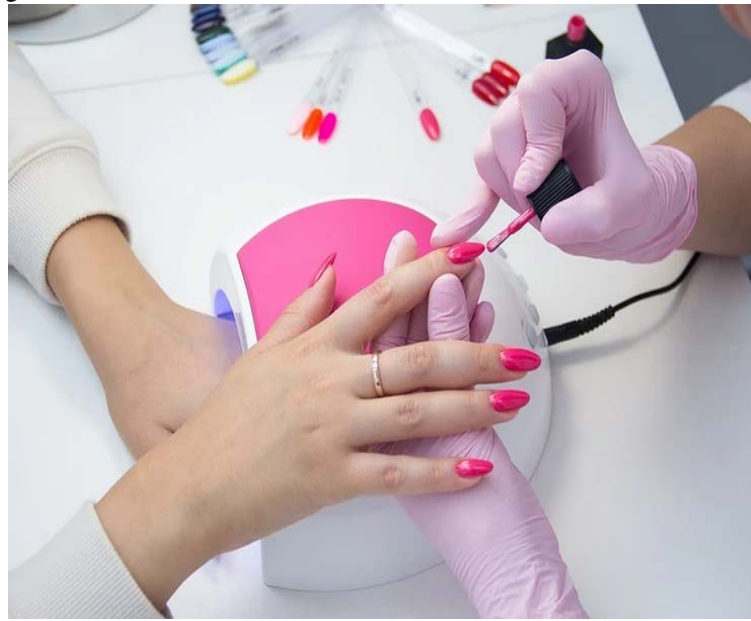


Photo courtesy of <https://www.hi.edu/post/9-glamorous-careers-for-nail-technicians>

[browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13452/Certification/VocCoverages.pdf](https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13452/Certification/VocCoverages.pdf):

- Cosmetology
- License Nail Technician
- Auto Mechanic
- Laboratory Technician
- Pharmacy

To get additional information, you can contact Broward County Public Schools Talent Acquisition & Operations, located at 600 SE Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 or call them at (754) 321-2348.

What are the requirements

for teaching part-time or full-time in Vocational Education with Broward County Public Schools:

- Select which coverage you want to get certified in to determine if your occupation is eligible.
- Have proof of documented 6 years of full-time (40 hours a week) experience performing the skills and activities of that occupation with at least one 1 year of full-time experience working in the trade during the last five 5 years.
- Provide verification that you are a high school or GED graduate.
- Send a completed ap-

plication along with your \$75 fee payable through the Broward County Schools site.

- Official Transcript
- Valid License for trade.

Dr. Dawn Baglos, Chief Human Capital Officer, of Miami-Dade County Public Schools stated that interested candidates can apply at 1450 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132, Suite 260, or call them at (305) 995-7200 for additional information and instructions to get a certification in CTE/Vocational & Adult.

For additional information, please go to https://www.hrdadeschools.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=368363&-type=d&pREC_ID=691178

What are the requirements for a Career and Technical Education (CTE)/Vocational Part-Time Certification with Miami-Dade County Public Schools:

- The initial renewable part-time non-degreed vocational certificate shall be valid for 5 years and issued upon fingerprint clearance and meet the following requirements.
- Six years' experience in the field (vocational subject area)

- Copy of license or credential (when applicable)
- Pay the application fee of \$75

The certification process for part-time, non-degreed vocational teachers is initiated by the site administrator at the adult/vocational school. Start earning additional income by reaching out to the Vocational School of your choice that offers your trade and inquire with the site administrator for an opportunity to monetize your skills.

Take your skills to the next level and get your District Certification with Miami-Dade County Public Schools or Broward County Public Schools.

harr180@mail.broward.edu

Style Extravaganza: Trinidad and Tobago fashion week

Swami Hinojosa Blas
Staff Writer

Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Week 2023 was an electrifying and vibrant event that left attendees mesmerized by its stunning array of designers, trends, and cultural influences. Held in the heart of the Caribbean, this celebration of fashion, creativity, and culture was a true spectacle that left an indelible mark on all fortunate enough to attend.

The atmosphere was electric, pulsating with the high-energy rhythms of soca music, an essential element of Caribbean culture. The vibrant colors and captivating ambiance created an unforgettable experience, setting the stage for an unparalleled fashion extravaganza. Fashion Week 2023 was a true testament to the evolution of fashion as an art form and a means of expression. From clothing to storytelling, cultural preservation, and meaningful change, it demonstrated the true power of style. Each day of the event was an unforgettable experi-

ence, showcasing the designers' ingenuity and the island's rich heritage.

The first day was a dazzling display of costumes and folk tales featuring an abundance of feathers, bright colors, and elaborate headpieces. The intricate designs paid homage to the island's cultural heritage and artistic traditions, showcasing the designers' exceptional craftsmanship and attention to detail.

On the second day, they emphasized sustainability and eco-consciousness, promoting a message of responsible fashion that resonated with attendees. The designers showcased creations made from eco-friendly materials, proving that style can be beautiful and environmentally conscious.

On the third day, they departed from the norm, featuring unconventional designs and patterns transcending everyday attire's boundaries. The avant-garde styles were a true celebration of innovation and artistic expression, pushing the boundaries of fashion to new heights

Diversity and inclusivity were the stars of the fourth day, with designers creating clothes that celebrated individuals of all backgrounds and body types. This display of empowerment and acceptance was a powerful reminder of the beauty of diversity and self-confidence. The final day was the epitome of luxury and glamour, with renowned designers showcasing their latest creations on the runway.

The meticulously crafted pieces exuded sophistication and elegance, leaving attendees in awe of the island's extraordinary talent and creativity. As the event ended, the message was loud and clear - Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Week 2023 had set a new benchmark for the global fashion industry. It showcased the island's rich heritage and cultural influences while embracing sustainability and inclusivity.

This celebration of creativity and diversity demonstrated how fashion has evolved beyond just clothing, becoming a medium of storytelling, cultural preservation, and a platform for

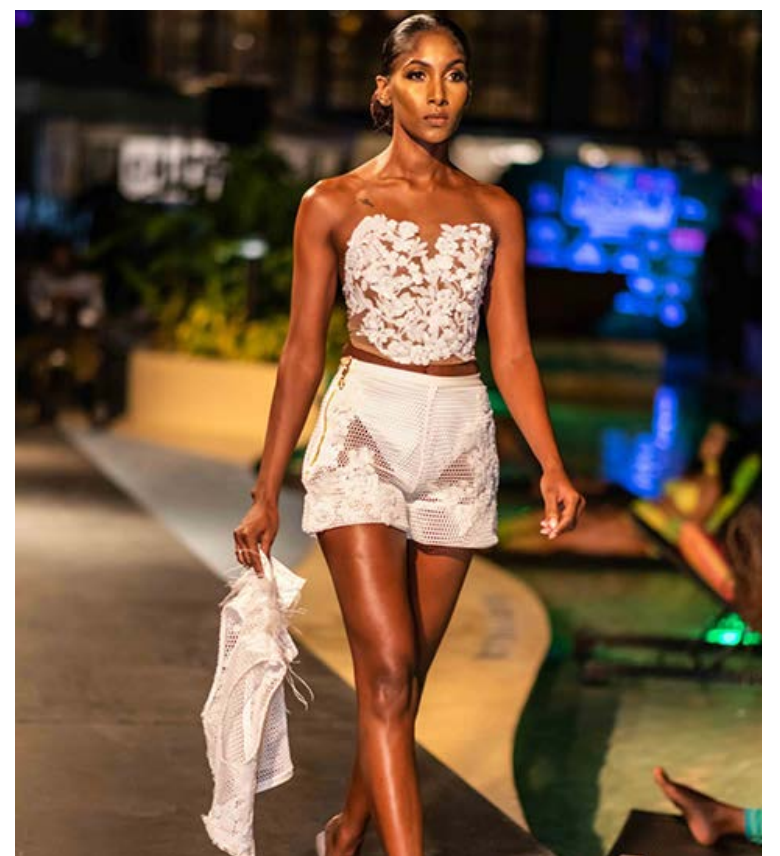


Photo courtesy of <https://europaregina.eu/fashion-weeks/fashion-weeks-south-america/port-of-spain-fashion-week/>

meaningful change.

Fashion enthusiasts and industry professionals eagerly anticipate the next Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Week, anticipating how these trends and themes will influence the future of fashion worldwide.

The event's impact ex-

tended far beyond the Caribbean shores, leaving an indelible mark on the global fashion landscape and inspiring designers and fashion enthusiasts alike to embrace the power of creativity, sustainability, and inclusivity in their work.

hinos2@mail.broward.edu

A recap of summer 2023 in pop culture

Keynaya Thompson
Editor-In-Chief

As a majority of Broward College's students prepare to return to campus for the Fall classes in August, they leave behind a Summer that was met with large moments in film, television, music and fashion. Here is a recap of Summer 2023 in pop culture.

Shonda Rhimes' Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story

Released during the end of the Spring semester, this spin-off limited series for the record breaking Bridgerton remained the topic of must watch Netflix shows all summer. Queen Charlotte tells the story of the self-titled fan favorite and how she came to power after marrying the troubled King George III. Much like its original series, the six-part drama combines history and fiction to tell a swoon-worthy tale that addresses themes of

same-sex relationships, Eurocentric beauty standards, isolation and the stigmatization of mental health.

The Little Mermaid

One of the biggest theatrical releases of the season was Disney's live action remake of The Little Mermaid. Starring Halle Bailey, Melissa McCarthy, Daveed Diggs and Johan-Haure King, the movie is reimaged with new songs added to

its nostalgic soundtrack, a refreshing spin to the original plot and visually outstanding special effects. The film has grossed over \$500 million worldwide and sparked several trends over the summer. Mermaid inspired nails and makeup took over the beauty-sphere of social media. Goddess passion twists, braid and loc hairstyles inspired by Bailey's look in the film also saw a rise in popularity.

Beyoncé's Renaissance World Tour

Nine months after the release of her seventh studio album Renaissance, Beyoncé embarked on her first solo tour in seven years, the Renaissance World Tour. The tour began in Europe right at the end of the Spring semester. In July, she started the United States leg of the tour and performed in South Florida on Aug. 18. With clips from the show going viral, choreography from the show has trended on TikTok and the space cowboy/girl theme has taken

over fast fashion. Brands like Shein, Akira, Dolls Kill, H&M and ASOS have all dropped collections that include lots of silver, fringe, sequins, cowboy/girl hats and boots.

Pharrell Williams' Louis Vuitton Debut

In February of this year, hip-hop producer Pharrell was named the new creative director of Louis Vuitton menswear; a position that was vacant following Virgil Abloh's death in 2021. On June 20, he debuted his first collection with the house: menswear Spring/Summer 2024. In attendance at the Paris fashion show were Rihanna, Naomi Campbell, Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Zendaya, Kim Kardashian, Jared Leto, LeBron James and many more celebrities. The show garnered over a billion views worldwide across Louis Vuitton's several platforms. The collection and Pharrell's position with the fashion house shows the prioritization of culture and diversity in high fashion.



Photo courtesy of <https://observer.com/2020/12/bridgerton-netflix-shonda-rhimes/>

Greta Gerwig's Barbie

Arguably the largest theatrical release not only of the year but of the decade, Barbie's promotional run over the summer leading up to its July 21 release made the color pink nearly inescapable. Starring Margot Robbie as the titular character and Ryan Gosling as Ken, the film was promoted through a \$150 million marketing campaign. Supporting the release were various Barbie collabs with companies like Forever 21, GAP, Zara, Trully, Air BNB, Beis, Alex and Ani, Burger King, Crocs, Boohoo and many more. Mattel, Barbie's parent company, saw a 33 percent increase in sales. The release of Oppenheimer at the same time of Barbie promoted a social media phenomenon known as Barbenheimer, which prompted everyone to see both films as a double feature.

Writer's and Actor's Strike

The Writer's Strike began on May 2, where nearly 12,000 screenwriters represented as the Writers Guild of America went on



Photo courtesy of <https://www.vulture.com/2023/07/greta-gerwig-barbie-movie-personal.html>

strike due to labor issues with the AMPTMP. It is still ongoing and is the largest labor stoppage since 2007. On July 14, the American actors union known as the SAG-AFTRA also went on strike. It is the first actor's strike since the 1980s and has sparked a larger conversation about labor issues in Hollywood in the era of streaming.

Many shows and movies have been delayed in production until further

notice. Some notable shows include Euphoria, Emily in Paris, American Horror Story, P-Valley and Stranger Things. Movies that have been paused include the next installments of various Marvel movies, Superman: Legacy, It Ends With Us and Twisters.



Photo courtesy of <https://wwd.com/pop-culture/celebrity-news/gallery/beyonce-renaissance-tour-looks-photos-1235649503/>

The Importance of Being Earnest in Florida; the Not-so-Trivial Comedy of our Academic Futures

David Gonzalez
North Bureau Chief

When Mark Twain wrote, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts,” he was expounding on the idea that through our dealings with unfamiliar cultures, we become better informed about the world and our education in this allows for mutual improvements. Extrapolation of this concept leads us down an interesting road; the content of a person’s knowledge dictates their philosophies and, in turn, influences the ethos of a community. Thankfully, humans are in possession of a hard-wired desire to explore. This works in our favor, and we can think of it as a natural asset in our pursuit of harmony. But education begins at home, and here in Florida, we are in the midst of an affront to humanity; being dressed in a faux-Gucci cloak of education.

The newest addition of academic curriculum for 6th to 8th grade students in Florida teaches that slavery ultimately imparted valuable qualities which were of “personal benefit” for the enslaved. The instruction of this lesson has been called insulting by Vice President Harris, and I submit that it is far worse than that; it is dangerous. The future of humankind lies inarguably with our youth, and proliferating this false narrative of history can

only derail the progress of our species. These children are, out of necessity, reliant on the adults around them and therefore must trust in the validity of what we say and do, and if what we allow to be relayed are blatant falsehoods, then we cripple them.

Learning is often uncomfortable, but it is an essential part of the way in which we evolve; they are called growing pains for a reason. This manipulation of valuable lessons to agree with personal agendas, closing in from both sides by selective realities, is trending toward normalcy with a disturbing speed. It is happening so intentionally fast that we are in danger of forgetting why it is worth considering even if we are not a part of the group which is under attack.

So-called “Don’t Say Gay Laws” are on the other side of the new educational paradigm, utilizing complete omission of a matter in lieu of alterations. Proponents of these laws insist that teaching of the history and culture of the homosexual community, as well as its outliers in the various coalitions of the LGBTQ+, will confuse a child and coerce their sexual orientation. But homosexuality is not a learned behavior; it naturally occurs despite the tireless efforts of certain groups to extinguish it. Furthermore, the belief that class material relating to it might influence the outcome of a child’s sexuality is tantamount to believing that learning about an-

tiquity and arithmetic carries the risk of spontaneously trans morphing into a Roman Numeral.

Ignoring or distorting reality is forfeiture of knowledge which may enrich our lives. Nature is not obliged to conform to our preferences, and if it did, the world would be dolefully void of beauty and elegance. In the 17th century, the consensus was that the earth was at the center of the universe, as prescribed by divine literature. Investigation into this matter by the likes of Galileo (who continued the work done by Copernicus and others) proved beyond doubt that this was an anachronistic fallacy. This was highly controversial and resulted in Galileo being placed under house arrest for the remainder of his life. No one knew then what was to be gained by adopting this new view of the heavens; but astronomers, interested in truth, discovered the prerequisite information to engineer satellites; stalwarts of our modern technology.

Curiously, by refusing the fait accompli reality of our solar system, humans had done nothing to stop earth’s obstinate orbit of the sun or change its roughly four billion year past of doing so. Societal adherence to traditional thought, often through persecution and violence, is a great impediment to progress.

Let us consider, in another way, the harmful effect of tampering with information. The

Great Library of Alexandria was the world’s largest collection of literature, amassed from every culture and people in every corner of the earth which had then been explored; it housed millions of pages of entertainment, the history of humanity up to that point, the beginnings of science, the flourishing of the arts, contemporary news of the era, and untold wisdom. This irreplaceable cache of hard-won intellectual currency was burned to the ground during battle, robbing future generations of their ancestral inheritance. We are those future generations, and because the library contained transcultural works, the authors of the words in those books are the common ancestors of everyone.

Our collective time as passengers in this world is achingly short, and we have lost much of ourselves that we can never recover. We are a species full of curiosity and wonder, the catalysts required to assimilate ideas, and resplendent with brilliant diversity which excites the imagination, qualities to celebrate! We can marvel at the unlikely circumstance; we have consciousness. Our discomfiture with reassessing our statuses is natural, but when we have endured the discomfort, we have also blazed new trails and reached fantastic heights, both literally and figuratively. Humanity, at times, soars.

These are not, I think, unre-

lated endeavors. In our quest to explore the domain of our physical location in space and time through the slow acquiescence of useful knowledge, we redeem the truth that Twain spoke of, and strike another blow upon the head of hatred. Man has been to the moon. With NASA’s Artemis missions, women and people of color will soon join them. On the scale of worlds, we are not as different from one another as we behave, and there is an immense chasm which separates us from the comprehension we all seek. Therefore, it is not only that everyone deserves unbiased education, but that none of us arrives without the inclusion of us all.

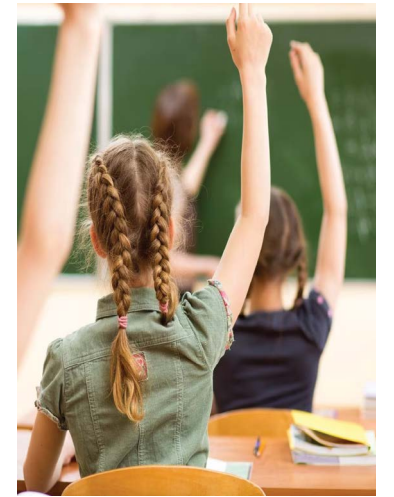


Photo courtesy of <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/voices/opinions/2020/08/31/shropshire-star-comment-kids-heading-back-to-the-classroom/>

Gonzr221@mail.broward.edu

The Observer

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keynaya Thompson

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Jennifer Shapiro

CAMPUS EDITOR

Swami Hinojosa Blas

ONLINE EDITOR

Daniela Iregui Silva

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Tabetha Martin-Howard

CAMPUS EDITOR

Jordan Stephenson

LAYOUT EDITOR

Brigdet Borge

DESIGN EDITORS

Tearia Molden, Maria Arango

CAMPUS EDITOR

David Gonzalez

STAFF

Scarlett Valencia Pulido, Latrice Harris, Isabella Mendez-Bedoya, Jessica Cinalli, Leslie Matos

2010-2013, 2022 FCSPA General Excellence Award

The Observer is a bi-weekly college wide newspaper produced by students of Broward College. Our office is located on South Campus bldg. 68, room 268, 7200 Pines Blvd, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024. The newsroom can be reached via email at TheObserverbc@gmail.com. Letters to the editors are encouraged. The writer’s name must be included, although request for anonymity can be honored at the editor’s discretion. Emails must not exceed 300 words. The Observer upholds the right to edit for style of length or to reject publications deemed inappropriate. For information regarding editorial policy or advertising rates, call (954) 201-8035. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of BC students, staff, faculty and administration, and the content has not been reviewed or approved by the College.

Broward College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, genetic information, national origin, marital status, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities

Student Life summer events on South Campus



All photos courtesy of Student Life