



2022

CONFERENCE OF FLORIDA GRADUATE SCHOOLS

2022

University of Central Florida | Orlando, Florida
April 19 – 20, 2022

Hosted by:



**College of
Graduate Studies**

Message from the Dean

Welcome to UCF, we are so happy to host our colleagues from around the state.

We've prepared a program we hope enriches our discussions and plans to help our students with two big issues facing them - their mental well-being throughout graduate school and new legislation that may prevent foreign national graduate students from working on research.

The mental well-being of our students has always been a concern, given the work involved in obtaining advanced degrees and the additional hurdles many of our students face such as inadequate stipends, family obligations, and a "pay your dues" culture. The restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic, and its economic impact have shaken many of our students, heightening stress, and anxiety.



Florida and the federal government are trying to minimize the impact of inappropriate influence by foreign entities, foreign governments, and foreign individuals on institutions and researchers. This is commonly referred to as foreign influence. New Florida legislation takes things a bit further by creating new rules for hiring foreign nationals - including graduate students - who work in research and research-related roles. As we all know, many of our graduate students come from other countries, which challenges us to balance protecting our national interests against providing our students access to research opportunities necessary to advance their education and our fields.

These topics impact our educational mission, and I hope this conference helps us share some ideas and data that can help our students succeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Klonoff', written over a white background that is part of a yellow banner at the bottom of the page.

Elizabeth Klonoff, Ph.D., ABPP

Vice President for Research,
Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Day 1: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Day 1 events will primarily be for deans and staff of graduate schools. An evening event will be hosted by UCF's College of Graduate Studies Student Advisory Council for graduate students. Tuesday's events will be held in the [Morgridge International Reading Center](#) and the [Art Gallery](#) on the main UCF campus.

- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Registration and Check-In
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.** Welcome Address: Timothy Letzring Ph.D., Senior Associate Provost
- 2:05 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.** Presentation: "Graduate Student Mental Health and Wellness" Elizabeth Klonoff, Ph.D. Vice President for Research and Dean College of Graduate Studies, UCF
- 2:50 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.** Refreshment Break
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Panel Discussion: "Building Community, Mental Health, Mentorship, and Advising"
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** Reception (Art Gallery)
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Dinner



Daniel Denecke, Ph.D.

Lead Program Director for the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) and Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) programs in the Division of Graduate Education at NSF



Daniel Denecke, Ph.D. is the Lead Program Director for the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) and Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) programs in the Division of Graduate Education at NSF. Prior to joining NSF, Dr. Denecke served at the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) for 15 years in various roles including Vice President of Best Practices and Strategic Initiatives. At CGS, he led multi-year, multi-university evidence-based best practice studies on topics ranging from Ph.D. completion and attrition, research ethics, international STEM graduate collaborations, and enhanced professional development for STEM careers. He has received 10 years of continuous grant funding from NSF and served as PI on approximately \$8 million in grants from federal, private foundation (Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Ford Foundation, Lumina Foundation), and industry (TIAA, Pfizer) sources. Dr. Denecke is the lead author of nine books on research results reported on by a range of media outlets including Nature, Science Magazine, Science Careers, the Atlantic, US News and World Report, the Chicago Tribune, CBS radio, and the Washington Post.

Day 2: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Day 2 events will be for all conference attendees (deans, staff, and graduate students). All Wednesday events will be held in the UCF [Student Union](#) Pegasus Ballroom on the main UCF campus.

	Breakfast at hotel or on your own
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Check-In
8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.	Welcome
8:35 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Keynote Address: “Strategic Initiatives in Graduate Education” Daniel D. Denecke, Ph.D. Program Director, Division of Graduate Education, Directorate of Education and Human Resources, National Science Foundation
9:20 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Meditation Minutes
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Judge Check In/Poster Setup: Statewide Graduate Research Symposium (Poster Session)
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Judging: Statewide Graduate Research Symposium (Poster Session)
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Participant’s Choice/Networking: Statewide Graduate Research Symposium Participants
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Award Presentations and Closing Remarks

Statewide Graduate Research Symposium

Poster Presenters

Cianna Clinkscale	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Christelle Haygood	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Kevin Jones	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Ali Bakhtiari	Florida International University
Luis Caicedo Torres	Florida International University
Lidya Cerritos	Florida International University
Haley Dawson	Florida International University
Jessica Dominguez	Florida International University
Delia Garcia	Florida International University
Blaire Kleiman	Florida International University
Chiamaka Okafor	Florida International University
Karinna Rodriguez	Florida International University
Gaurav Harshe	Florida State University
Edie Sanders	Florida State University
Jay Seigler	Florida State University
Charlisa Whyms	Florida State University
Nadia Aboutalebianaraki	University of Central Florida
Seoyun Choe	University of Central Florida
Maged Elshatoury	University of Central Florida
Katherine Harris	University of Central Florida

Statewide Graduate Research Symposium

Poster Presenters

Julio Montanez	University of Central Florida
Keidra Navaroli	University of Central Florida
Mrudul Nilangekar	University of Central Florida
Sarah Nouredine	University of Central Florida
Christian Vazquez	University of Central Florida
Heather Blackwell	University of Florida
Tyler Bowling	University of Florida
Rayven Crisafulli	University of Florida
Tanmaya Mishra	University of Florida
Corey Perkins	University of Florida
Brandon Applewhite	University of Miami
Brittney Davis	University of Miami
Kayla Minesinger	University of Miami
Larissa Montas Bravo	University of Miami
Sameena Sheikh-Wu	University of Miami
Leonor Teles	University of Miami
Jasmine Elise Graham	University of North Florida
Anthony Hall	University of North Florida
Andrea Gann	University of South Florida
Nataly Innamorato	University of South Florida

Statewide Graduate Research Symposium

Poster Presenters

Angkana Lertpoompunya University of South Florida

Amanda Lewis University of South Florida

Scott Miller University of South Florida

Mostafa Nasr University of South Florida

Niraliben Patel University of South Florida

Jonathan Rodriguez University of South Florida

Leanne Stepchinski University of South Florida

Gabriella Ulloa University of South Florida

Sydnee Hammond University of West Florida

Benny Segovia Ruiz University of West Florida



Three Minute Thesis Presenters

Ryan Nedd	Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
Derrick Standifer	Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
Olayinka David	Florida International University
Chris Omni	Florida State University
Daryn Sagel	Florida State University
Bonieta Melani	University of Central Florida
Aantaki Raisa	University of Florida
Joan Brown	University of Miami
Olivia (Liv) Williamson	University of Miami
Aditya Chakraborty	University of South Florida
Jing Chen	University of South Florida
Charles Cox	University of West Florida
Kelly Dunn	University of West Florida



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