

Mission and Vision of the Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University

The mission of the Wilkes Honors College is to educate students to the highest intellectual, experiential, and ethical levels, preparing them to thrive and contribute wisely to the general welfare of human society and the planet. Our vision is to be widely recognized as the nation's premier, public honors college with a diverse and flourishing student body of 800-1000 students involved in interdisciplinary

Strategic Goals and Action Plans

Goal 1: To increase the national and local visibility of the Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University (WHC). We are poised to raise the profile of the college, campus, and the university in the coming years by participating in a branding of the campus as a center of excellence known for its pathway from a STEM high school (Max Planck Academy) to an all-honors curriculum at the lower division, and first-hand experience with interdisciplinary research, neuroscience, and data science at the upper division and graduate levels. The campaign will include enhancing our social media presence, pursuing new advertising in local media

them to faculty and research opportunities on campus. We will continue to work together with Henderson High School, College of Science, Max Planck Florida, University Advising Services, and Student Affairs to develop a campus-wide curricular, research training, and student support plan to meet the needs of the incoming Max Planck Academy students. **An MOU outlining these collaborations between FAU High School, the Wilkes Honors College, the College of Science, and Office of the Provost was signed 8/8/2019.**

Goal 4: To improve retention and graduation rates. The WHC fall 2017 FTIC retention and progress rates were 84.7% and our fall 2014 four-year graduation was 60.8% (81.8% six-year graduation rate). We seek to improve our retention and progress rates to 90%, our four-year graduation rate to 75%, and our six-year graduation rate to 90% by implementing a variety of retention strategies. Beginning this fall, we will form an enrollment management and retention committee chaired by the associate dean. This committee will initiate standing bi-weekly meetings with key staff members from student affairs, academic affairs, housing, CAPS, and financial aid to track and assist students before they reach a crisis state or consider leaving FAU. The committee will provide recommendations for campus-based initiatives to further improve recruitment and retention. All first-year students will not only receive summer advising from a WHC faculty advisor, they will also have dinner and a one-on-one meeting prior to the first week of classes with their assigned faculty academic advisor. All faculty advisors will receive additional Starfish training to track advisees. In addition, for the first time in Fall 2019, UAS advisors will provide academic success coaching to WHC students and the WCH will pilot test peer advising coaches in conjunction with UAS. We are also revamping the first-year forum course to include mental health and wellness and other college success components and increasing first-year student access to our interdisciplinary co-

Goal 6: To promote pedagogical innovations across campus and the university. The WHC will increase pedagogical innovations while also expanding curricular STEM offerings by partnering with the College of Science in pursuing NSF, NIH, and HHMI funding for high-impact practices such as course-based undergraduate research experiences, learning communities, and a tiered student mentoring system. With increases in enrollment, we will need creative strategies for scaling up teaching and mentoring and conducting ongoing assessment of new strategies. As a small, flexible environment, the WHC offers an ideal environment for beta