



Open the door to

PARTNERSHIPS

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Open the door to
PARTNERSHIPS

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA



CONTENTS

04	Our Journey
05	The Partnerships Team
06	Goals, Achievements & Outlook
08	Community Engagement
10	Corporate & Foundation Engagement
12	Global and National Security Institute
14	Cyber Florida
18	Institute of Applied Engineering
20	Corporate Training & Professional Education
24	Youth Experiences
28	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
30	Testing Services

OUR JOURNEY

The Office of University Community Partnerships (UCP) at the University of South Florida (USF) is dedicated to fostering meaningful collaborations between the university and the local community. Our mission is to create impactful and sustainable partnerships that address community needs and enhance the academic and civic engagement of students, faculty, and staff.

Through a variety of initiatives, UCP brings together university resources and community assets to tackle pressing social issues, promote economic development, and improve the quality of life for all. By leveraging the expertise and passion of the USF community, we strive to make a positive difference through service, research, and outreach.

Our programs include community-based research projects, service-learning opportunities, and events that encourage active participation and mutual benefit. UCP is committed to building strong, reciprocal relationships that empower both the university and the community to achieve shared goals.

Whether it's through volunteering, internships, or collaborative projects, the Office of University Community Partnerships is dedicated to fostering a culture of engagement and making a lasting impact in our local and global communities.



THE PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

The UCP team consists of a core staff along with internal offices that facilitate and strengthen collaborations between the university and its external partners. The team is structured as follows:

Office of University Community Partnerships

Core Staff Teams

Partnership Operations	Marketing & Project Management	Office Administration
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Internal Groups

Community Engagement	Corporate & Foundation Engagement	Military and Government	Lifelong Learning
Community Outreach	Philanthropy	Global and National Security Institute	Corporate Training & Professional Education
Community Engaged Learning & Faculty Engagement	Economic Development	Institute of Applied Engineering	Office of Microcredentials
		Cyber Florida	USF Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
			Youth Experiences
			Testing Services

Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Unit focuses on cultivating, developing, and sustaining mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships through outreach and support of nonprofit, non-government, and affinity organizations and community engaged learning.

Corporate & Foundation Engagement

Corporate Partnerships supports corporate and private foundation partners interested in connecting with the university for a wide range of collaborations, including talent development initiatives, faculty research, brand-building opportunities, and economic development support across our region.

Military and Government

Our Military and Government partners are dedicated to fostering collaboration between USF, civilian government agencies and military forces. By integrating resources, expertise, and strategic initiatives, they aim to enhance national security, improve disaster response, and drive innovation in defense technologies.

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning is comprised of five distinct entities, working together to expand USF's educational offerings to the community, with a particular emphasis on workforce development and economic growth.



Synapse Summit

2024 GOALS

In support of our mission statement, the Office of University Community Partnerships initially prioritized the following goals:

- 1 Develop a university-wide strategy for ensuring the greatest impact of our partnership and engagement efforts.
- 2 Develop integrated internal and external marketing and communications plans to communicate our value, influence, and partnership impact to strengthen USF's regional, national, and global reputation as a social and economic engine for change.
- 3 Brand the office as the easy-to-access and welcoming digital and physical "front door" for partnership inquiries across all three campuses. Streamline process requests from all industry and community sectors.
- 4 Develop a comprehensive menu of partnership options and create clear guidelines for handoffs to appropriate USF offices. Initiate new partnerships, deepen and improve existing partnerships, and create a smooth pathway to capitalize on USF's ability to offer service, talent, training, technical expertise, and strategic alliances.
- 5 Catalogue existing partnership activities to calculate impact and return on investment.
- 6 Provide concierge service and "warm" handoffs to prospective partners. Work with internal offices to streamline frictionless partnership agreements, ensuring connection to relevant expertise and services and the full "menu" of partnership possibilities.
- 7 Leverage USF's Core Commitment to Lifelong Learning (e.g., from youth education programs to undergraduate and graduate degree programs to employee skill development and The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).
- 8 Research and implement best practices from other public metropolitan research universities through benchmarking visits and membership in professional organizations.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Working with the Office of the Provost, UCP successfully advocated for an additional Outstanding Community Engaged Teaching Award and doubled each award's prize to \$2000.
- UCP has assembled a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary steering committee to spearhead USF's yearlong self-study in community engagement. As a part of the study, the committee will be responsible for completing USF's reapplication for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement.
- UCP partnered with USF World and the Muma College of Business to host the first International Business Forum. The forum highlighted the growing, global-oriented economic environment in Tampa Bay and the roles USF plays, such as partnerships with Port Tampa Bay, Tampa International Airport, and others. The forum also demonstrated USF as a pipeline of talent as well as a research partner for the many global sectors represented.
- The team created a new website to host the "menu of services", along with providing access to our internal partners.
- The Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system project began in March and officially launched in early July. To date, we have added more than 20,000 partner organizations.
- The office developed the "Partner with USF" brand. This was, and continues to be, utilized across print materials and various promotional items.
- UCP co-hosted a partnership lounge at the Synapse Summit in February. Along with greeting guests and hosting subject matter expert presentations, the team created a "passport" to engage external partners with USF departments during the Summit.
- UCP co-sponsored an exhibitor booth at NATO Edge, marking the first time this prestigious event was held in the United States. Tampa was chosen as the host city due to its unique colocation of Central Command (CENTCOM) and Special Operations Command (SOCOM), highlighting the city's strategic importance.

OUTLOOK FOR 2025

- ▶ Finalize and promote a uptown neighborhood vision and action plan
- ▶ Utilize our newly launched CRM to produce institutional reports with key metrics
- ▶ Deepen engagement with faculty and Colleges
- ▶ Facilitate smooth and coordinated launch of university campus projects
- ▶ Support new Leadership USF pilot program and expand Executive Education
- ▶ Support the launch and development of the President's Global Leadership Council
- ▶ Develop an integrated marketing and communications plan

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USF's work within the community engagement unit of the Office of University Community Partnerships is focused on cultivating, developing, and sustaining university community partnerships that are mutually beneficial and reciprocal, consistent with the **Carnegie definition of community engagement**. We are proud to be a campus designated by Carnegie with the Elective Classification for Community Engagement.

We work with community organizations, specifically, non-profits, non-government organizations, schools, and affinity organizations to assist them with a variety of organizational needs and capacity building. Some examples include assisting with building organizational capacity with finding interns, faculty experts, research projects, and space. General community outreach and showing up for events in the community being hosted by our community partners and a variety of non-profits in the community is also a meaningful aspect of our work.

Another aspect of the community engagement unit is working with faculty members to encourage the creation and enhancement of Community Engaged Learning (CEL) courses which are tied to specific learning and reflection related to civic engagement, addressing social issues.

The CEL courses are grounded in a reciprocal relationship between USF and a community partner to collaboratively plan and implement initiatives created to meet the challenges identified by that partner. This collaboration between USF and its local community is for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. There are approximately 35 CEL courses provided for students to choose from, ranging from *Doing Local History: Tampa Bay to Food Justice to Essentials of Healthcare Leadership and Management*, to name a few.

As we learned this first year, there is a lot more work to be done, hence, in the coming year we look forward to adding a new Director of Outreach and Graduate Program Assistant to the central community engagement team to continue to build out our community engagement strategy and expand the critical support to our communities in the greater Tampa Bay region.



94 events attended

July 2023-June 2024

22
INTERNAL
EVENTS

23.4% OF
TOTAL EVENTS

72
EXTERNAL
EVENTS

76.6% OF
TOTAL EVENTS

ANNUAL MONTHLY EVENT AVERAGE:
7.83

Average events
per month
July 2023-
December 2023:

4.83

Average events
per month
January 2024-
June 2024:

10.67



121% increase in monthly event average from fall to spring semesters

Second half of year was **36% more** than the annual monthly average

“The partnership between The Skills Center and the Office of University Community Partnerships has been a powerful force in creating opportunities for youth empowerment and development. Over the past year, we’ve seen the incredible impact this collaboration has had on the community, and I’m confident that our partnership will continue to grow stronger, reaching even greater heights as we work together to foster positive change for the next generation.”

ANGELA MOORE, MSM, HRM
CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER, THE SKILLS CENTER

Organizations we’ve made connections with this past year:

- ▶ Children’s Home Society of Florida
- ▶ City of Tampa
- ▶ For Hearts Worldwide
- ▶ Girls Inc. of Pinellas
- ▶ Hillsborough County Public Schools
- ▶ Hispanic Professional Women’s Association
- ▶ Hispanic Services Council
- ▶ MLK Parade Foundation, Inc.
- ▶ Tampa Bay Latin Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Tampa Bay Wave
- ▶ The Skills Center
- ▶ Think Big for Kids
- ▶ Urban League of Tampa

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION ENGAGEMENT

The USF Foundation saw a record-breaking year of philanthropic giving through exciting partnerships with companies, private foundations, and individual friends of the university. Initiatives leveraged the strengths of both USF and our external partners to maximize our collective impact in support of students, ground-breaking research, and the broader community. A few examples of these collaborations are highlighted below.

Supporting our Students

- USF Federal Credit Union announced more than \$1 million in new support to USF through a combination of scholarship endowments and title sponsorships of 10 signature events. That gift funds scholarships and student/alumni programming within the Alumni Association, USF Health, the Muma College of Business, the Sarasota-Manatee campus, Affinity Programs, and Veteran Success.
- Naples-based Arthrex continued its history of support for USF students with philanthropic support for **62 scholarships for students** with financial need in the College of Engineering, the Judy Genshaft Honors College, and the Muma College of Business.
- The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay brought an **exciting new partnership** to the USF College of the Arts, providing need-based aid for conference travel, study abroad, and project materials for USF Theatre students.
- Corporate partners visited the USF Research Park for a talent development panel discussion with USF Student Leaders to determine how to best attract and retain USF graduates in financial service and technology roles. After the panel, student leaders showcased a wide range of students leadership organizations to employers interested in partnerships to enhance their recruitment pipelines.



Supporting our Research

- USF and Tampa Electric honored a long history of collaboration with the announcement of the **TECO Clean Energy Research Center** at the University of South Florida in May. The organizations have been collaborating since TECO first turned the lights on at USF in 1956.
- USF received a gift from the Joy McCann foundation to support the application of spectral signature technology to locate and eradicate disease-carrying mosquito species. This work is implemented in collaboration with mosquito control departments of local county governments and in Uganda.



Supporting our Community

USF College of Engineering faculty members further developed an exciting manufacturing workforce development program in East Tampa, made possible by a grant from the Truist Foundation. The program is designed to explore new educational programming that responds dynamically to the evolving needs of industries like manufacturing and helps individuals boost their families' financial trajectories through upskilling and career support. This partnership is part of a larger effort to support the development of the East Tampa community and the growth of a robust manufacturing talent pipeline for the region.



Florida Blue partnered with USF Health this year to fund the university's BRIDGE Clinic with the goal of increasing medical student exposure to current health disparities in our community and to improve healthcare outcomes.

GLOBAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE

The Global and National Security Institute (GNSI) provides actionable solutions to 21st-century security challenges for decision-makers at the local, state, national, and global level, focused on the intersection of security policy and technology. It operates across science and technology, human dynamics and social behavior, and cybersecurity. Highlights from this year include:



Expanded staff, including an **Academic Director** who oversees the masters and fellowship programs.



Launched the **GNSI Fellows Program**, including 13 Faculty Senior Fellows, 29 Non-Resident Senior Fellows, and 5 Non-Resident Distinguished Fellows.



Acquired **The Journal of Strategic Security** a double-blind, peer-reviewed, academic journal with an 15-year history of research excellence. Currently ranked in the Top 20 of Military Journals according to Google Scholar.



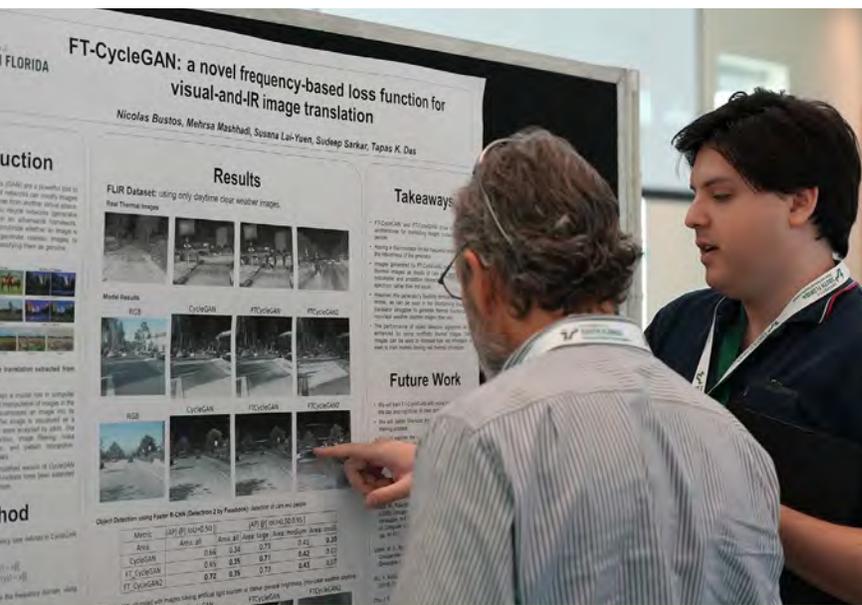
Formalized the creation of a 1-year Masters Program, focusing on Professional Military Education (PME) for officers across all branches of our military (eventually including foreign military officers), as well as other agencies and organizations in the national security industry.



Continued and extended our publishing platforms, including launching of two podcasts, two video series, a newsletter, conference reports and research articles.



Executive Director General (Ret.) Frank McKenzie has been called upon nearly 50 times by global and national media networks to provide insight and analysis on worldwide security issues.



GNSI works with and produces a wide variety of events with the intention of bringing together scholars, researchers, and practitioners with policymakers to ensure that decision-makers can access the most current and complete knowledge possible. This year's events included:

► **February 6-8, 2024**

St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs:
Re-Thinking

► **March 5-7, 2024**

GNSI Tampa Summit 3 // 9th Great Power Competition Conference:
Artificial Intelligence in the Era of Strategic Competition

► **April 10, 2024**

GNSI Policy Dialogues:
The Iran Enigma: Navigating Strategy and Security

► **May 15, 2024**

GNSI Policy Dialogues:
Endangered Freedoms: Transnational Repression in North America

► **September 24-25, 2024**

GNSI Tampa Summit 4 // 10th Great Power Competition Conference:
Untying the Gordian Knot: Envisioning Peace in the Middle East

CYBER FLORIDA

Cyber Florida at USF is an organization dedicated to positioning Florida as a national leader in cybersecurity through education, research, and outreach. We work across the public and private sectors to enhance Florida's cyber talent pipeline through workforce development initiatives, foster and promote cutting-edge applied research, and help educate organizations, businesses, and individuals for safer connecting in cyberspace.

CyberWorks Prepares Workforce

CyberWorks addresses our nation's critical cyber workforce shortage by preparing career-changers for new roles as cyber defense analysts. This intensive 22-week program prepares learners to enter the cybersecurity workforce as Tier 1 Security Operations Center (SOC) Analysts through expert online instruction and hands-on learning. Funding provided by the National Security Agency National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) Workforce Development Program allows Cyber Florida to provide scholarships to learners to participate at no cost.

Cyber Florida provided training and mentorship to **32 adult learners**

Learners attended **13 professional development sessions**

Learners attended the Cyber Florida **Sunshine Cyber Conference** in March 2024

Grants

Cyber Florida was awarded a \$200,000 grant under the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Regional Alliances and Multistakeholder Partnerships to Stimulate (RAMPS) Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development (RAMPS Program). The RAMPS Program seeks to build multistakeholder workforce partnerships of employers, schools and institutions of higher education, and other community organizations to align the workforce needs of local business and nonprofit organizations.



New Seed Fund Pilot Program Launched to Promote Innovation

Four nascent, Florida-based start-ups focused on using artificial intelligence for critical infrastructure security improvement received \$60,000 each and access to regular mentoring by Cyber Florida Entrepreneur-in-Residence Ryan Paterson.

Security Operations Center Apprentices Program (SOCAP) Provided Exceptional Training Experience for USF Students

Consisting of ten permanent and four grant-funded student cybersecurity analysts, the program team diligently **HANDLED 1,555 CYBER-RELATED TICKETS** and **SUPPORTED OVER 1,700 INDIVIDUALS** through the CyberHub platform across eleven K-12 school districts and five higher-education institutions.

SEVEN STUDENT CYBERSECURITY ANALYSTS obtained an impressive **11 CERTIFICATIONS**. This includes CompTIA Security+, Practical Junior Penetration Tester, ReliaQuest Cybersecurity Labs, Hack the Box Certified Defensive Security Analyst, Hack The Box Certified Pro Lab Genesis, and Security Blue Team Level 1 SOC Analyst. Additionally, four of the students secured summer internships at organizations such as Bank of America, Google, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), and Inter & Co.

Cyber Florida Supporting Innovative Research

In 2023-2024, Cyber Florida established a formal process for USF faculty to solicit support for high-impact research proposals, meaning proposals from principal investigators (PIs) that are either (a) collaborative and large-scale (> \$2M) or (b) CAREER and YIP proposals from junior faculty. Cyber Florida funding supported:

- *Grant writers to work on proposal preparation*
- *Peer review by established experts*
- *Travel support for face-to-face meetings toward team build-up and project planning*
- *Travel support to visit federal funding agencies and meet with program managers*
- *Hiring external mentors to work with junior faculty for CAREER and YIP proposal development*

Two proposals received federal funding:

PI: *Giacomo Micheli, USF Math/CAS*

CAREER: *Rank Metric Codes from Drinfeld Modules and New Primitives in Code Based Cryptography – NSF CAREER Proposal*

Cyber Florida provided mentor support to the PI who requested it.

Proposal awarded: \$500,000

PI: *Jean-Francois Biasse, USF Math/CAS*

RTG: *Applied Algebra at USF – NSF Proposal on Research Training Groups*

Cyber Florida provided grant writer support, and identified a high-quality grant evaluator, both of which were requested by the PI.

Proposal Awarded: \$2,497,545

High school cybersecurity students from across the state interact with working professionals at the inaugural CyberLaunch event in Orlando, Florida.



Operation K12 Making a Difference across Florida

Cyber Florida invested over \$20 million in 31 projects, expanding access to cybersecurity education for 88,000 students and educators statewide.

Most notably, on March 1, 2024, Cyber Florida and the Florida Center for Instructional Technology proudly hosted the inaugural **CyberLaunch Competition** in Orlando, Florida. The event marked a resounding success, with **More than 900 students from 97 schools and 44 districts** uniting to test their cybersecurity skills, overcome new challenges, and network with potential employers in the cyber industry.

As Florida's first statewide high school cybersecurity competition, CyberLaunch aimed to introduce high school students to the universe of cybersecurity careers through the fun of a statewide competition. Among the organizations represented were Google, Intel, Dell, Lenovo, ThreatLocker, the U.S. Navy's Naval Air Warfare Center, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Partnerships and Policy Team Accomplishments

The Cyber Florida Partnerships and Policy Team signed numerous beneficial MOUs this fiscal year, including the 12th Judicial Circuit, MITRE, TIV, Memri, FDLE, and Florida Makes, expanding and enhancing our collaborative partnerships across the state.

The team successfully hosted a one-day academic symposium on the threat of China in cyberspace as well as an AI Public Policy symposium.

Cyber Florida hosted a roundtable of Tampa Bay Area Cybersecurity companies with the UK consulate with an aim to provide economic development support. In addition, the team participated in a UK trade mission to educate UK companies on USF and the State of Florida's efforts to increase cyber workforce talent.

TOP 4 FINISH

DOE'S CYBER FORCE COMPETITION

100+ teams

TIED FOR FIRST

CAE'S VIVID COMPETITION

65 teams

RUNNER UP

CCDC SOUTHEASTERN REGIONALS

just behind UCF, beating
teams like Clemson and UF



USF
CyberHerd

Cyber Florida Helps CyberHerd Move to Front of the Pack

The CyberHerd team was formed in August 2023. Dr. Marbin Pazos-Revilla is the coach and Dr. Sriram Chellappan is the faculty advisor for the team. Notable accomplishments are listed on the left. In addition, CyberHerd won many local tournaments too. The team is actively training and is hoping for more significant wins in the next year.

Cyber Florida Brings Back Its Annual Conference

Now branded “Sunshine Cyber Conference”, the event took place on March 27-28 at the Tampa Convention Center with nearly **600 ATTENDEES** and more than **50 BREAKOUT SESSIONS** spanning topics for non-technical leaders and cyber practitioners alike.

Featured keynote speakers were:

- *Winn Schwartau, a well-known cyber visionary*
- *Tamiko Fletcher, CISO for Kennedy Space Center*
- *Bianca Lewis, a 17-year-old cyber prodigy and founder of Girls Who Hack*

*Fireside chat with
Cyber Florida Director
Ernie Ferrarresso and
the White House Office
of the National Cyber
Director Acting Deputy
Director Jake Braun*



*Cyber Florida
Executive Director
General (Ret.) Frank
McKenzie cuts the
ribbon signifying the
official partnership
with Simspace
managing the new
ARCS Range program*



INSTITUTE OF APPLIED ENGINEERING

Dedicated to advancing national security, the Institute of Applied Engineering (IAE) has provided the Department of Defense with diverse capabilities, safeguarding and enhancing the capabilities of our warfighters. Additionally, it has propelled USF into the realm of space exploration through the deployment of a satellite network. Given its unique narrative and contributions to national security, policymakers and academics focused on problem-solving should comprehend the innovative model embodied by the IAE.

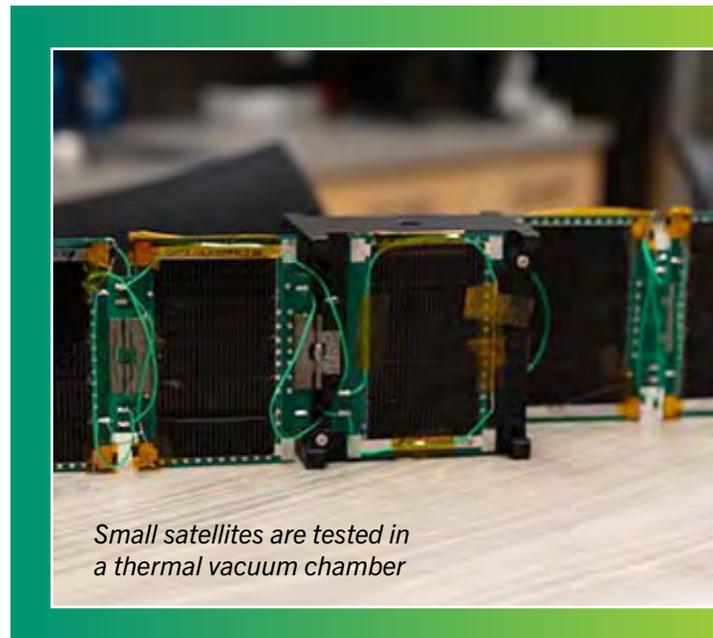
The Rapid Experimentation Lab

The Rapid Experimentation Lab accelerates technology development for the U.S. Department of Defense through collaborative engineering efforts.

The lab brings engineers from different specializations together significantly reducing the time to build prototypes for the U.S. Special Operations Command under an \$85 million contract.

The lab focuses on integrating electronics with their enclosures, allowing for efficient collaboration and testing before presenting prototypes to the Department of Defense.

Read more [HERE](#).



Small satellites are tested in a thermal vacuum chamber

New Partnership to Broaden Nation's Research Expertise

USF has joined a new network facilitated by the Tougaloo College Research and Development Foundation to collaborate with HBCUs in securing research funding and contracts, particularly from the U.S. Department of Defense. This makes USF the first university in Florida to join a network that connects research institutions with HBCUs, aiming to secure research funding and contracts with the federal government.

Since its inception in 2018, the USF IAE has secured over \$95 million in federal contracts for various research projects.

Read more [HERE](#).

Collaboration with the U.S. Army Research Lab (ARL)

USF has entered a five-year partnership with the U.S. Army to advance defense research and provide student internships, enhancing the talent pipeline for future military needs.

This collaboration will focus on global and national security research, offering significant opportunities for USF faculty and hands-on learning experiences for students.

USF researchers will work with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Army Research Laboratory on projects like autonomous control algorithms for unmanned aerial systems and advanced antenna technology.

DEVCOM ARL will provide USF with advanced laboratory equipment and research facilities, as well as internship opportunities for students.

Read more [HERE](#).



Jing Wang, professor of electrical engineering, and graduate student Ugur Guneroglu conduct research in the USF Center for Wireless and Microwave Information Systems [Photos by Torie Doll, University Communications and Marketing]

Study on Brain injuries in U.S. Special Operations Forces

A study led by the USF IAE and U.S. Special Operations Command found that repeated exposure to low-level blasts can cause brain injuries, often undetectable by conventional diagnostic methods.

The research found higher blast exposure correlated with changes in brain structure, function, and neuroimmunology, along with

increased levels of the protein tau, which could aid in developing portable diagnostic tests.

The team aims to design a larger study to develop diagnostic tests for repeated blast brain injuries, with the ultimate goal of providing earlier treatment options to protect the long-term brain health of military personnel.

Learn more [HERE](#).

CORPORATE TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Office of Corporate Training and Professional Education (CTPE) is focused on noncredit training programs that assist individuals in upskilling or reskilling throughout their careers.



CTPE was selected by **Amazon Logistics** to create and deliver instruction for a tailored process improvement training curriculum for their newly formed AMZL Lean Excellence Program.

This Spring the CTPE team wrapped up a multi-year engagement with the national office of **Big Brothers Big Sisters America (BBBSA)** for their Leadership Institute. CTPE developed a training program to reduce turnover in a critical role within the BBBSA organization. The curriculum explored various roles required to successfully empower their agency team to grow, and impact the youth, families, and communities their agency serves.



CTPE and Youth Experiences leadership worked with the President's office, Athletics and University Communications & Marketing to assist with hosting a float for the January 27 Gasparilla Parade. The CTPE team managed the day of logistics, student volunteers and assisted with planning for the USF Float.



The CTPE office created a training division to provide security and intelligence training opportunities presented by the Security Training Collaborative (STC).

This led to a powerful strategic partnership between USF's Office of CTPE and Security Management International's CARVER Training Institute.

USF is proud to announce the formation of the USF Security Training Collaborative.

Part of this partnership includes bringing on cohorts of interns from USF and other universities in areas of strategic intelligence, cybersecurity, global operations, and other areas associated with intelligence and security. These interns have historically gone on to careers in the intelligence community agencies.

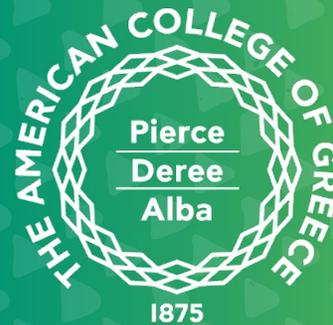


CTPE is pleased to announce the Office of Microcredentials, a newly developed partnership between the Office of Corporate Training and Innovative Education, facilitating the issuance of microcredentials. Microcredentials offer a flexible approach for learners to acquire targeted skills, enhancing employability in dynamic job markets. This service, available organization-wide, serves as a force multiplier, empowering all USF departments to address professional training efficiently and effectively.

Read more [HERE](#)



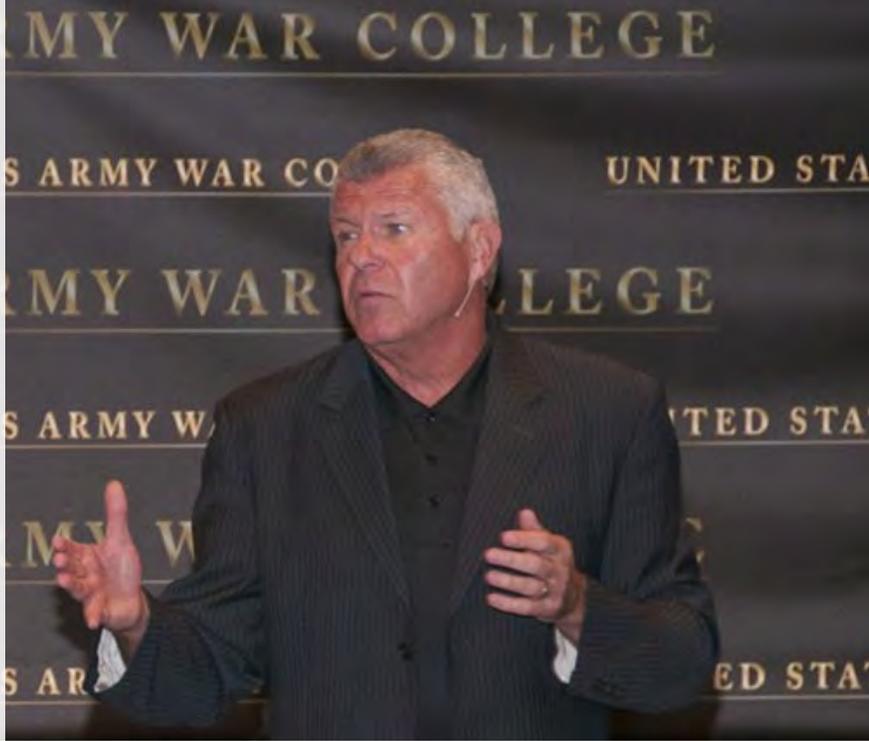
CTPE delivered process improvement training to Tampa General Hospital's Oncology Operations team at the USF Health CAMLS building. The cohort was 35 members from TGH's Cancer Institute and private practice Cancer Center of South Florida. This session is part of a larger TGH initiative to implement process improvement methodologies across the entire organization. Michael Silver, VP of Oncology Operations is the first unit leader to start upskilling his team at TGH and has already spoken with John Couris, TGH CEO, about his efforts and support of CTPE's training program.



The American University of Greece is the oldest American-accredited college in Europe and the largest private college in Greece. For the past three years, CTPE has been fostering a thriving partnership that continues to expand its reach.

For the second year in a row, we welcomed a group of 15 graduate students for specialized training courses. The entire USF community rallied together to support this endeavor, culminating in a visit to the USF St. Petersburg and Tampa campuses, including the Muma Biometrics lab and Innovative Education Studios, where students had the unique opportunity to explore the Tampa Bay area and engage with industry leaders.

CTPE launched workshops on operational stress, leadership, trauma awareness, resilience, and self-care with Bob Delaney. Delaney gained prominence for his experiences as an undercover agent with the New Jersey State Police, where he infiltrated the Mafia. His journey through this intense undercover work led him to grapple with post-traumatic stress disorder, which he later addressed and managed.



CTPE hosted the 48th Annual Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) November 12-14, 2024. This live on-site course welcomed **48 economic developers** from across the United States and as far away as South Asia. Despite back-to-back Hurricanes, **39 participants** from across Florida attended along with participants from California, Delaware, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. For the second year in a row, CTPE welcomed an international student all the way from Indonesia! This year's cohort featured **4 recipients of the Florida Economic Development Council's Mickie Birdsall Scholarship program**, funded by Duke Energy.



CTPE was ranked nationally as the #1 for enrollments in the SHRM Essentials of Human Resources program and #12 of the top education partners by the Society for Human Resources Management. CTPE has consistently been recognized for this remarkable achievement. In a field with over 270+ Education Partners delivering the SHRM Learning System course annually, attaining a place in the Top 20 is a testament to the success of the program.

#1
for
enrollments

#12
of the top
education partners

In 2024, USF CTPE proudly partnered with leading organizations across diverse industries to deliver impactful corporate training solutions. Key highlights include:

- Enhanced leadership skills for **52 participants** from organizations like the U.S. Army Materiel Readiness Division and HCI Group through tailored leadership workshops.
- Empowered **159 professionals** with process improvement training—spanning participants from across the United States and Europe—through partnerships with Amazon Lean Excellence, Amazon Global Fleet & Products, LifeNet Health, and U.S. Airforce 6th Force Support Squadron.
- Delivered specialized training, such as PMP Exam Prep, to **22 participants**, including clients like Facebook (Meta).
- Addressed technological and operational efficiency needs through innovative programs, such as the **84-participant** Outlook with AI workshop for Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

Participants	Program	Client
14	USF Design Thinking	TECO
14	PMP Exam Prep	USF Institute of Applied Engineering
18	LSS Yellow Belt	TGH Oncology
17	LSS Yellow Belt	Cancer Center of South Florida
24	LSS Yellow Belt	Amazon Lean Excellence
21	LSS Yellow Belt	Amazon Lean Excellence
21	LSS Green Belt	Amazon Lean Excellence
10	LSS Black Belt	Amazon Lean Excellence
9	LSS Black Belt	Suncoast Contractors
84	Outlook w/AI WS	Florida Association of District School Superintendents
22	Leadership WS	U.S. Army Materiel Readiness Division
5	LSS Black Belt	U.S. Airforce 6th Force Support Squadron
10	Elevating Your Fundraising Initiatives	Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
30	Leadership Essentials	HCI Group
10	LSS Black Belt	Amazon Logistics TPA1
13	LSS Green Belt	LifeNet Health
18	LSS Green Belt	Amazon Global Fleet & Products
30	LSS Workshop	Florida Department of Health- Marion County
8	PMP Exam Prep	Facebook (Meta)

YOUTH EXPERIENCES

The mission of the Office of Youth Experiences (YXP) is to establish and strengthen important connections and foster mutually beneficial relationships between USF and the community. The office actively promotes the academic achievements of USF's colleges and programs, facilitates recruitment efforts, and works closely with community stakeholders to create valuable opportunities for children and their families.

Cyber/IT Pathways Grant Completion

In collaboration with Cyber Florida, the Florida Center for Instructional Technology (FCIT) completed the \$21M statewide Cybersecurity/IT Pathways Grant, representing an unprecedented investment in cybersecurity education and workforce development from the governor, the legislature, and the Florida Department of Education.

This grant involved more than 30 sub-awards to school districts, state colleges, and state universities, directly impacting more than 30,000 participants across the state.

The grant funded 1,200 scholarships, 1,000 industry certifications and microcredentials, the development of 20 new courses, 47 new learning modules for existing courses, new or updated lab equipment in K-12 schools, state colleges, and universities, and the execution of many summer camps, boot camps, and other training and education events.

GATI

Great American Teach In

Youth Experiences coordinated USF's participation in the Great American Teach-In.

210+ FACULTY AND STAFF VOLUNTEERS from all three USF campuses to **150 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS** in 3 local school districts, reaching more than **13,000+ K-12 STUDENTS.**

“ It was a great and positive experience to be a voice in the community, promote higher education, and talk to students who may be the face of USF in the future.

“ Thank you both for organizing such a wonderful event! It was truly a great experience participating in the Great American Teach-In (GATI) and having the opportunity to inspire and connect with young mines at Nelson Elementary. Thank you again for this meaningful initiative, and I look forward to staying connected for future opportunities!

“ Thank you all for coming and your great presentation! We definitely want to continue this for our yearly GATI!”

“ Thank you so much for matching us. Lisa did a great job and the kids were so engaged and learned so much. It also helped that she brought Snowbird with her because who doesn't love a dog? It was great and I would love to continue to have USF speakers come to our school. Thank you

Summer Camps

During the summer of 2024, USF Youth Experiences promoted enrollment in more than 40 different summer camps across all USF campuses and directly served more than 1,000 campers at YXP-hosted camps (a 66% increase from summer 2023). Partners included the Muma College of Business, the School of Music, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, USF Emergency Planning, the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, Cyber Florida, the Stavros Center for Economics Education, Pinellas Access to Higher Education, USF Rec and Wellness, the School of Music, the School of Fine Arts, and the Judy Genshaft Honors College. We also partnered with school districts and community non-profits and distributed more than \$100,000 in summer camp scholarships.



1,000+

CAMPERS

during the summer of 2024

66%

INCREASE

from summer 2023 to 2024

Cyber Launch: Statewide High School Cybersecurity Competition

In collaboration with Cyber Florida, FCIT's Operation K12 team planned and executed the largest meeting of high school cybersecurity students and teachers in state history. On March 1, the Cyber Launch High School Cybersecurity Competition was held in Orlando. The event included over 900 students and 130 educators, representing 97 schools in 44 school districts with participation from more than 160 industry partners.

*feedback from
the educators...*

I loved watching all of my students bond. I know this was about cybersecurity, but I am from a Title 1 school. Watching the excitement my kids had for the overall experience was priceless."

My students had no exposure to cybersecurity despite being excellent programmers and app developers. The exposure the conference gave them really grew their understanding of cybersecurity.

The entire experience was amazing for students and teachers! I was impressed with how well-organized the event was and how smoothly it went.

We want kids to know that USF is here, is approachable, is not just that place behind a fence. We want kids to say, “that’s a place I’ve been, and it’s a place I can go.”

We use these event to build awareness of summer camps and other youth programming and provide a positive engagement with the community.



Bulls Family Fest

The Bulls Family Fest is an annual celebration where families and the public can immerse themselves in the diverse offerings of colleges, departments, and student organizations from USF. We are thrilled to extend our gratitude to all the organizations and corporations that participate in Bulls Family Fest. Collaborating with these community entities, we’ve witnessed their remarkable engagement with families and the broader community.

Youth Experiences hosted over **4,000 CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**, including over 100 exhibitors and more than 100 volunteers.

Watch the [Bulls Family Fest 2024 highlight video](#)

Rocky’s Run 5K

Youth Experiences hosted **510 RUNNERS** from **16 STATES** and more than **70 FLORIDA CITIES**, including participants from every county served by USF.

View [Rocky’s Run 2024 highlight video](#)



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USF (OLLI) is a member-based learning community of adults age 50+. We offer classes, workshops, lectures, events and social networking. We provide high-quality, low-cost learning opportunities for seasoned adults across West Central Florida.

Our mission is to provide intellectual stimulation, social interaction, service opportunities, and outreach to the university and the greater community.

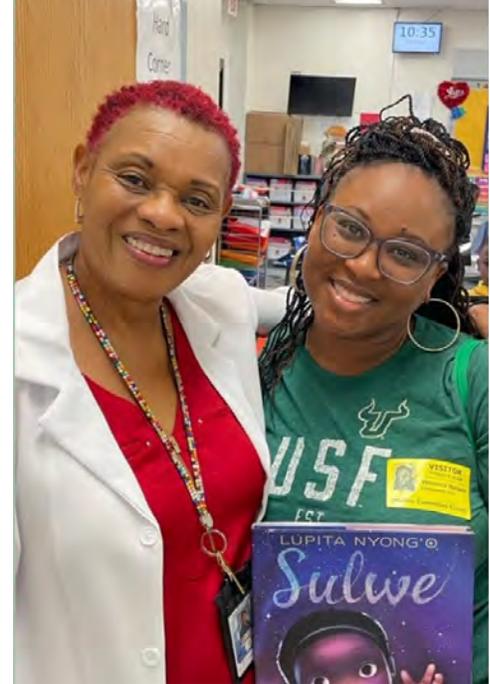
It is our vision to be a world-class learning community, accessible to and meeting the needs of a diverse and growing population of older adults.



OLLI welcomed esteemed USF President Rhea Law to the first Open House of the year, which was met with great enthusiasm and gratitude.



OLLI director, Veronica Maxwell was invited to join the university's Age-Friendly University Board. OLLI was featured in the [press release](#) about this new designation for USF to highlight the program for older adults in our surrounding communities.



OLLI director and member participated in the university's Great American Teach-In at 2 local elementary schools. Veronica presented books to HeadStart classes after reading and sharing about lifelong learning. Penny, an OLLI member spoke to her classes about dog safety and demonstrated dog tricks to the kids. She spoke about the beautiful journey of lifelong learning.



OLLI has established a new partnership with Baycare Hospital – Wesley Chapel to expand classes in Pasco County



OLLI has established a new partnership with Saint Leo University to offer classes taught by their faculty in Fall 2024



OLLI was prominently featured in the **USF Magazine Spring 2024 edition**



OLLI jointly submitted proposal to collaborate on Cybersecurity Grant with USF Department of Behavioral Sciences

TESTING SERVICES

Testing Services supports the university's strategic efforts to ensure student success and program innovation by administering entrance and placement exams, certification and licensure exams, distance learning exams and pre-employment exams for numerous agencies, businesses, and institutions.

The office accommodates USF and non-USF customers, and delivers more than 1,000 exams per month. Students and professionals alike may take advantage of Testing Services' portfolio of exams.

Highest volume Pearson Vue Select Testing Site in the country, averaging

1,200 PEARSON VUE EXAMS PER MONTH

and generating between

\$16,000 AND \$20,000 IN REVENUE PER MONTH

Administered a total of

17,341 EXAMS

from July 2023 through April 30, 2024

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