



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG



2025
OneUSF
**UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH
CONFERENCE**



Welcome to the

OneUSF Undergraduate Research Conference

April 24, 2025

St. Petersburg Campus

USC BALLROOMS

SPEAKER INFORMATION



Saundra Johnson Austin, EdD. **Director, Office of Student Engagement** **USF Research & Innovation**

Dr. Johnson Austin has dedicated her career to promoting and advocating for student success. She has held leadership positions in secondary, post-secondary, non-profit, industry, engineering public policy, and community development sectors. Her research is grounded in the effective implementation of STEM curricula in middle schools. She is the recipient of The Pennsylvania State University Outstanding Engineering Alumnus Award for Civil and Environmental Engineering. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University, an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California.



Christian Hardigree, J.D. **Regional Chancellor**

Christian Hardigree was named regional chancellor of USF's St. Petersburg campus in May 2022. She previously served as the founding dean of the School of Hospitality at Metropolitan State University (MSU) in Denver, which is the third largest and only open-access institution of higher education in Colorado.

At MSU, Hardigree led the transition to a free-standing school and developed/implemented departmental structures, school strategic plan and initiatives, and other deliverables. She secured more than \$3,775,000 in external funds to support the school and led faculty through curriculum redesign of six degrees and majors, eight minors and nine certificates.

Prior to her role at MSU, Hardigree served as the founding director and professor of the Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. She oversaw more than 260 majors with a total enrollment of more than 1,500 students. She also worked for Parnell & Associates as a senior litigation attorney and partner focusing on employment discrimination, arbitration, mediation and labor-management relations. In 2012, she was selected as a faculty institute senior teaching fellow at University of Nevada Las Vegas, where she also received the Sam and Mary Boyd Distinguished Professor for Service Award in 2011 and the Boyd Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award in 2010.

A researcher and frequent conference presenter, Hardigree received her juris doctorate from Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and a Bachelor of Science, cum laude, from William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration at University of Nevada Las Vegas.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 24

Time	Event
Outside of the USC Ballrooms 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Check-In
USC Ballrooms 10:00 a.m.	Light refreshments and Opening Remarks: Dr. Sandra Johnson-Austin
USC Ballrooms 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Poster session
Palm Room (Next to USC Ballrooms) 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Oral Presentations
USC Ballrooms 11:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.	Lunch Awards presentation by Dr. Christian Hardigree
1:00 p.m.	Conference concludes



Scan QR Code
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Conference Program



ORAL PRESENTATION SCHEDULE: PALM ROOM

Time	Activity	Presenter
10:30 a.m.	The Posthumous Body Politic: A Tale of Two Popes	Chelsea Wigington
10:45 a.m.	Determining the Binding Affinity of The Crystal Structure of West Nile Virus Methyltransferase Through Computational Analysis and in-silico Molecular Docking	Jewelina Keller
11:00 a.m.	Restoring the "Eyesore": Bayboro Harbor's History and the Case for Restoration	Oliver Laczko
11:15 a.m.	How The US's Latin American 30 Years of Peace, Ceased Through the Overt Occupation of the Dominican Republic	Parker English
11:30 a.m.	But Daddy, I Love Tin: How Bolivia Managed Soft-Balancing With the United States in the 1950s	Peyton McManus
11:45 a.m.	The Role of Citizenship in the Poor Living Conditions of the Chinese Xinjiang Uyghur Muslims	Rysun Chu

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