FEFFOCUS

Volume 19. Issue 1 Winter 2023

President's Message

As this edition of the Focus illustrates. during the Florida Education Fund's 39year history, we not only have achieved our mission to increase the number of Black and Latinx students earning Ph.D.'s, we have helped produce leaders in some of the most important institutions in America. Our graduates now are leaders in major corporations, national non-profits and federal government departments and are tenured professors and university administrators who conduct innovative research and train America's next generation of scholars, business leaders, engineers, and other professionals.

You will read here about three such graduates, Dr. Jacqueline Rodriquez, recently appointed head of the National Center for Learning Disabilities; Markenzy Lapointe, Esq., the country's first Haitian-born U.S. Attorney; and Dr. Micah Johnson, award-winning writer, monologist and social scientist.

Despite the recent economic crisis, we continue to provide resources that will enable others to eventually realize similar success. In fact, we now fund alumni projects that seek to increase the pool of students prepared to pursue Ph.D.'s, like Dr. Johnson's training lab in substance

abuse research that you will learn about here. We also continue to award over 60 Doctoral Fellowships each year and offer necessary support. In 2022, we welcomed 46 new Fellows at our New Fellows Orientation; selected 17 new Dissertation Fellows, including accounting expert Nikki Chappell, whom you will meet here; conducted online writing workshops; and provided financial assistance for Fellows to conduct

dissertation research, participate in professional conferences, and travel abroad.

Program data shows these efforts continue to pay off. Because of our support system, our Fellows earn their Ph.D.'s, on average, within 5.5 years, while the national average completion time is over 7 years. Our Doctoral Program also maintains a retention rate of close to 88 percent, compared to 50 percent nationally.

We've increased endeavors at the pre-college level as well. Through partnerships with the College Board, the Children's Board, PwC, Microsoft, the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, and the State Board of Education, we continue to offer full innovative summer programs, where students in Hillsborough and Miami-Dade Counties and online avoid summer learning loss and improve



Dr. Lawrence Morehouse President & CEO

academic and STEM skills. In this edition, you will read about the funding we have amassed to add such programs for underserved youth in south Hillsborough.

In addition, we have become a favorite STEM provider for multiple non-FEF out-of-school-time programs, like the ONE-

hillsborough initiative you will read about here, for which we annually teach hundreds of underserved school-age youth to code and expose them to computing careers. And now, due to a generous multi-year grant from Microsoft, we offer tech skilling programs for older individuals—those age 18 to 35—and prepare them to earn marketable industry certifications and launch often middle- or high-wage tech careers.

Although we have realized much success throughout our 39-year history, we continue to face significant financial challenges that threaten to halt further progress. Inflation and a decline in investment returns require astute fiscal management. They also make clear that we must continue to innovate and use imagination to create new ways to flourish in a forever changing world.

MDF Alumna Jacqueline Rodriguez Appointed CEO of National Center for Learning Disabilities

In November 2022, MDF alumna Jacqueline Rodriguez, Ph.D., was appointed chief executive officer of the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) based in Washington, D.C. Established in 1977, NCLD provides programs and resources designed to support families, educators,



Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez

and policymakers as they work to serve students with learning and attention issues. Rodriguez took over as CEO this January.

"Every individual with learning disabilities deserves to reach their full potential academically and in their employment," says Rodriguez. "NCLD ensures that

Inside this Issue:

MPLE Alumnus Profile	2
McKnight Alumnus Profile	3
McKnight Alumni News	4
McKnight Fellow Profile	5
Pre-College News	6
FEF CodeMasters and Upskill News	7
Contact Information & Upcoming Events	8

continues on page 4

Page 2 FEF FOCUS

FEF's MPLE Alumnus Markenzy Lapointe Sworn in as United States Attorney

In January 2023, FEF's Florida State University Law School Minority Participation in Legal Education Scholar (MPLE) graduate Markenzy Lapointe, Esq., swore the oath of office as the first Haitian-born American to serve as a United States Attorney.

Nominated by President Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Lapointe is now one of 93 U.S. Attorneys in the country. The U.S. Attorney is a region's most powerful federal law enforcement officer and is also involved in civil litigation where the United States is a party. Lapointe now helms multiple offices housing nearly 450 attorneys and support professionals responsible for

federal legal matters arising in Florida's Southern District-Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee and Highlands Counties. His offices will likely continue to be among the busiest in the country due to the area's high incidence

of financial fraud, drug trafficking and public corruption.

Lapointe's rise to the pinnacle of the legal profession is a quintessential depiction of education, hard work, and service leading to extraordinary success. "The opportunity to serve this community and country in this capacity is the greatest honor - I

Lapointe announces federal charges in fraudulent nursing diploma scheme. Photo Credit, Miami Herald

never dreamed of it," Lapointe has said.

Given his humble beginnings and non-traditional path to the profession, Lapointe's ascent to this position indeed could have seemed a most improbable dream. He was born and grew up in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where his mother worked as a street vendor and his father a Markenzy Lapointe, Esq. tailor. He came to Miami at age

16 to live with his mother, who worked as a cleaning lady, and his siblings in the City's increasingly crime-ridden and



the Miami office of international law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner, where he specialized in commercial, criminal and product liability cases. There he also added to a wealth of trial,

> arbitration and mediation experience and continued to build a strong professional reputation.

After graduation, Lapointe

won a prestigious two-year po-

sition as law clerk for Florida

Supreme Court Justice Harry

Anstead, after which he joined

the Miami U.S. Attorney's

Office and handled federal

cases ranging from narcotics

felonies to mortgage fraud. He

left the federal prosecutor's

office after four years to join

From 2017 to 2023, he worked as a partner in the Miami office of global law firm Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, where he

handled high-stakes

litigation and criminal investigations and also co-chaired the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee to promote advancement of attorneys from diverse backgrounds.

Throughout his career, Lapointe has been recognized for his commitment to public service and dedication to ensuring public safety and equal justice, and for his pro bono efforts-including a case where he helped reunite a baby severely injured in Haiti's earthquake with her parents. As such, he won the Dade Legal Aid Society's Put Something Back Pro Bono Award in Child Advocacy in 2010 and more recently the Daily Business Review's Most Effective Lawver Award for Pro Bono in Family Law.

"I have been fortunate to work on a variety of commercial litigation and product liability matters that serve a broad base of clients while still attending to the pro bono and community service work I cherish...Lawyers always have a responsibility to represent those who cannot afford to represent themselves," he says.

"I have been fortunate to work on a variety of commercial litigation and product liability matters that serve a broad base of clients while still attending to the pro bono and community service work I cherish...Lawyers always have a responsibility to represent those who cannot afford to represent themselves."

-- Markenzy Lapointe, Esq.

poverty-stricken inner-city area known as Liberty City. His mother, he has said, "always emphasized education was the only way out."

After high school, he joined the U.S. Marines as a reservist while attending Miami Dade College, and also worked as a cab driver and at a bar. In 1990, he transferred

> to Florida State, but had to postpone enrollment when called up by the Marines to fight in the Persian Gulf War's Operation Desert Storm, for which he won National Defense and Southwest Asia Service Medals.

> After his tour of duty in Iraq, Lapointe returned to FSU, graduated with a B.S. in finance in 1993, and then went home to Miami to work at a bank. Two years later, he returned to Tallahassee, enrolled in law school, and, in 1999, earned his Juris Doctorate from FSU.

Volume 19, Issue 1 Winter 2023

Dr. Micah Johnson Uses Training, Skills and Talent to Speak for the Underserved

Between 70,000 and 95,000 children experience homelessness in Florida every year, according to pre-pandemic statistics. These alarming numbers are all too familiar to Dr. Micah Johnson, a sociologist trained in criminology and psychiatric epidemiology, whose research interests encompass childhood trauma, behavioral health, and juvenile justice. Johnson, a 2017 McKnight alumnus, is currently assistant professor of mental health law and policy in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida.



Dr. Micah E. Johnson

"Child homelessness is a huge problem in society. There is an

explosion of poverty in the country, but being poor is a taboo

subject. How do we support these children and create safe spaces?

If young students learn about this in the cafeteria, how do they

process it? We need to help schools become safe spaces. The hardest

part of being poor is not the poverty; it is how people treat you."

Motivated by childhood experiences, Johnson devotes a wide range of talents-his own and those of his students-to empowering disadvantaged children. In addition to his McKnight Fellowship, Johnson's numerous awards include \$2.2 million in career development and training grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), from which he launched his Substance Misuse and Addictions Research Traineeship (SMART) lab in Spring 2021, among other projects. He also has won the Lydia Donaldson Tutt-Jones Research Grant, the University of Florida

Rollo Award, and membership in two honor societies. He has published more than twelve scientific studies as well as two books and in 2021 began performing a dramatic memoir as a TEDx monologue. Through the company he founded in 2016, Johnson Forensic Services, he has conducted literature reviews

and case analyses and testified in court on behalf of state, federal, and private entities.

For Johnson, the road to success was peppered with nightmare-inducing challenges. As a young child, his family moved around the country with his father, a single parent. Being the perpetual "new kid" and obviously impoverished, young Micah was bullied, isolated, and underestimated. In 5th grade, after

the family landed in the Arven, a shelter in New York City, Johnson had some fortunate breakthroughs. He made friends who became loyal allies and connected with a teacher, Mr. Miranda, who introduced his classes to theater and took students to the Apollo in Harlem. That sparked Johnson's interest in theater, in both classical and contemporary variations, like spoken word and rap.

Friendship and some teachers gave him hope, but Johnson struggled with the other circumstances of his life. By the time he was 15, he and two of his

brothers were fending for themselves on the streets. The lack of housing didn't deter him from completing high school and attending community college, financed with loans and scholarships. To receive his aid, Johnson constantly had to prove he lived independent of a guardian, an added burden he overcame.

At FSU, an academic scholarship helped him earn a bachelor's in education before he began his master's at UF, where he also won a McKnight Doctoral Fellowship and completed his Ph.D. In

> the midst of studying, helping family, and pursuing artistic endeavors, Johnson also taught public school and graduate school.

Page 3

Johnson credits McKnight and FEF for enabling him to become a professor. Almost four years into his position at USF, he remains excited

about his career. Above all, he prizes interaction with his stu-

-- Dr. Micah E. Johnson

dents. "There's some burden when you engage and they pour out things they don't tell others; there's the counseling role. It is a huge responsibility that I enjoy as much as speaking on behalf of underserved populations and being an ambassador for poor children."

Johnson's SMART lab recruits gifted underrepresented minority (URM) or disadvantaged students and trains them to become the next generation of elite substance misuse and addiction scientists. SMART specifically addresses NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse's missions to (1) enhance the training of a workforce to meet national and global research needs; (2) encourage individuals from URM backgrounds to pursue careers in research; and (3) advance science on the causes of drug use, improve the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, and advance the research on URM who experience disproportionate consequences.

The SMART goal is to increase the number of highly skilled URM scholars who enter graduate degree programs focused on careers in substance misuse



The Johnson Lab's inaugural SMART START Symposium at USF, 2022

and addiction research. FEF provides funding to the SMART lab and invites its students to participate in MDF conferences and other support services, as part of its efforts to help build a strong pipeline to the doctorate in critical fields.

Page 4 FEF FOCUS

MDF Alumna Jacqueline Rodriguez Appointed CEO of National Center for Learning Disabilities

continued from page 1

mission is fulfilled...I look forward to building upon the incredible research, programming, and advocacy initiatives the organization has endeavored to create more equitable futures for people with learning disabilities and their families."

From an early age, Rodriquez, a Cuban American, was taught to value diversity, to understand that it "makes the world colorful," and she learned to appreciate all aspects of "difference," including diverse cultures, races, and even learning styles and levels of language acquisition. That appreciation, along with her passion for international studies and for teaching and learning, has been a driving force in her education and career.

She earned her B.A. in international affairs and Latin American studies with a concentration in international development, culture, and society from George Washington University. She then completed a master's in special education from American University before returning home to Florida to pursue her Ph.D. in exceptional education with emphasis in global inclusive education practices from University of Central Florida.

While at UCF, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, she supervised pre-service teachers during their internships. She also served as principal investigator and Co-Director for UCF's TeachLivE™ mixed reality virtual lab for pre-service and in-service teachers and was part of a grant team and Co-Director of a summer STEM camp for culturally and linguistically diverse middle school students.

For her dissertation, Rodriguez investigated inclusive teaching practices in schools for Palestinian refugee students located in Jordan while working as an intern for the United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. In her final Ph.D. year, 2013, she won UCF's prestigious Order of Pegasus Award for excellence in academics, service, leadership and research.



Rodriguez presents "Innovative Collaboration: A Mixed Reality Teaching Lab as a Teacher Preparation Tool for the Digital Age" at the 2012 MDF Mid-Year Conference.

Prior to her current NCLD appointment, Rodriguez served as vice president for research, policy, and advocacy at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), overseeing strategy and content development for the association's initiatives. Before joining AACTE, she worked as Assistant Professor of Special Education at the College of William and Mary, where she prepared future K-12 special and general education teachers. She also published and presented widely on equity and access to high-quality education, special education law, and bridging policy to practice. Before that, she taught K-12 special education herself.

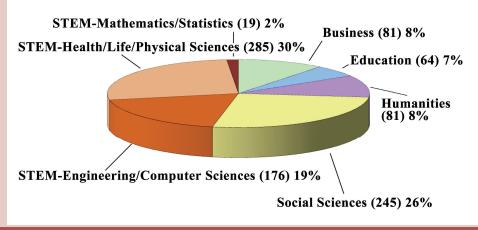
In addition to her current work at NALD, Dr. Rodriguez remains involved in professional associations in the fields of exceptional education and higher education and is an active member of the Council for Exceptional Children.

"I look forward to building upon the incredible research, programming, and advocacy initiatives [NCLD] has endeavored to create more equitable futures for people with learning disabilities and their families."

-- Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez

Since 1984, the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program (MDF) has awarded 1,539 Fellowships to African American and Hispanic students. Since the first Fellow graduated in 1988, an unprecedented 951 Fellows have earned Ph.D.'s. This achievement is all the more remarkable, given that the National Research Council reports the average time for doctoral degree completion as 7 years and 3 months, while MDF graduates boast an average completion time of just 5 years and 6 months.





Fellow Nikki Chappell Studies the Impact of Regulations on Loans in Minority Communities

Once 2022 McKnight Dissertation Fellow Nikki Chappell got settled into the introductory accounting course at her Charlotte, North Carolina, high school, she was hooked and had set her sights on a career in accounting. What she immediately liked about the subject matter was the clarity. "If your balance sheet doesn't balance, you know something's wrong," she says, no ifs, ands, or buts. She aced that course and most others, graduating third in her class while working 30 to 40 hours per week. She then went on to study accounting at Wake Forest because she heard the University ranked among the nation's highest for Fellow Nikki Chappell graduates passing the CPA exam. After earning her

bachelor's and master's in accounting and with CPA license in hand, Chappell embarked on a high-powered public accounting career that would last over twenty years.

She first worked as an auditor at international accounting firm Deloitte & Touche, where she examined financial statements of highly regulated and large public companies, including utilities, and reported on whether they adhered to accounting and industry regulations. She then took on the role of consultant for a few years with a firm set up for working moms while she underwent the adoption process for her daughter, Latondra, a child with special needs. She then joined a smaller regional accounting firm and did a stint at Bank of America before joining TIAA. At TIAA, she oversaw the accounting for several of the firm's investment management subsidiaries in the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, and United Kingdom. She managed each subsidiary's financial reporting, from processing daily transactions to creating the actual statements for audits, all the while ensuring compliance with both U.S. and their home countries' accounting rules and regulations.

After over two decades of practice, she felt "burnt out," but, still desiring to stay in the field, decided to pursue a doctorate. This would allow her to master effective teaching, research,



and publication skills and later pass her love of accounting on to future students. She now matriculates in the Ph.D. program at FSU's College of Business, where, in addition to receiving the McKnight Dissertation Fellowship, she won the American Institute of CPAs Minority Doctoral Fellowship, an award that aims to increase the number of minority CPAs who serve as role models and mentors in the academic environment and university classrooms.

Chappell's dissertation research focuses on how accounting and industry regulations change the

way banks operate. "I worked at a large financial institution during the financial crisis and saw firsthand how the actions of banks can affect the financial system and the economy. I hope to provide research that will help regulators prevent another financial crisis like the one that ensued in 2007-2009," she says. Specifically, she examines how Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-13, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses, Topic 326, Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments (ASC 326) affects bank loan approvals and denials, particularly in minority communities. When told that everyone knows banks discriminate against minority communities, she replies, "when they stop doing it, I'll stop writing about it." Until then, she plans to keep shining a light on the disparities and conducting research that can lead to greater equity.

Upon graduation, Chappell aspires to land a tenure-track professor position at a Research 1 university where she will show students why accounting is so important in business, teach them its fundamentals, and help them make informed decisions on whether to pursue accounting as a career. "I thoroughly believe that you should do what you love. If I can help students learn accounting to help them determine if it is something that they want to pursue, then I have met my goal."

MDF Fellows Help FEF CodeMasters Expose ONEhillsborough Students to STEM

The request came through an unexpected call from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County (CBHC) on February 23, 2022. Can FEF CodeMasters teach robotics to 200+ 1st through 5th graders for one hour, two times per week at each of nine after school sites starting in exactly one month? FEF said yes, of course-even though CodeMasters had never operated an after-school program in Hillsborough and thus had no instructors available to run from site to site, and even though FEF had taught 4th and 5th graders to code for years, but had never intended to adopt its curricula to teach early elementary learners, many of whom had never yet touched a computer keyboard.

But FEF delivered not just on that spring contract—March May 2022—but also on renewal contracts for the summer and

Fellow Wilson Lozano, Jessica Tapp, and Fellow Jenelle Devry learn the new game design

curriculum modified for lower elementary coders.

fall, by first immediately reaching out to several USF STEM MDF Fellows. When Brandi Cook, Wilson Lozano and Angelique St. Fleur, all dedicated teachers at heart, quickly responded, FEF knew the continues on page 7

Page 6 FEF FOCUS

FEF Amasses Multi-Year Funding to Expand Tech Training for Youth in South Hillsborough



FEF VP Lyra Logan teaches game design to families during Gibsonton Elementary's evening Camp-Learn-A-Lot.

One goal of FEF CodeMasters is to help provide more equitable access to a career in technology for school-age students in low-income circumstancesespecially Black and Latinx students, who have fewer onramps to tech careers and are vastly underrepresented in the field. That's why, FEF never hesitates to answer the call to teach coding, show students they can succeed as programmers, and demonstrate how computer science can be used in any career. FEF aims to do so as early as possible, preferably before students reach middle school and form notions about their capabilities and limitations.

For the Gibsonton/Riverview area of Hillsborough County, such a call came in 2019. Late that year, as part of the Hillsborough County School District's CEOs in Schools initiative, FEF Board

member and Chameleon Custom Solutions CEO Ms. Carolyn Lawson adopted Gibsonton Elementary near Riverview. Just over 70 percent of Gibsonton's enrollment is considered minority, and 94 percent is on free and reduced lunch. Committed to providing comprehensive support to the school, Lawson called in FEF Pre-College staff to meet with the school's administrators and discuss offering supplemental educational services for students.

Gibsonton administrators responded most enthusiastically to FEF's coding offerings, and, in December welcomed FEF's Lyra Logan and Monica Montes to the school for a full day of teaching elementary robotics to Gibsonton's entire 5th grade class during national Computer Science Education Week. Since then, FEF has visited the school once or twice each school year to introduce robotics to 4th and 5th graders. In 2023, FEF also started teaching game design to families during the school's Camp-Learn-A-Lot evening program.

From the beginning, students responded so eagerly to the exposure to computing that, in 2021, FEF offered to conduct a summer coding camp for them and sought funding to support the program. Having received grants from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County (CBHC) in prior

years to offer a summer Art+Tech+Sports Camp in Wimauma, FEF applied for and won CBHC funding for a similar camp for Gibsonton youth. Since 2021, FEF has offered that multi-faceted summer camp for elementary students at Riverview Elementary, as Gibsonton has been closed during summers.

While working with both Gibsonton and Riverview-area students in 2021, FEF noticed a lack of quality summer programming available for older, middle schoolaged youth. FEF thus sought additional funding to serve those older students, and, in late 2022, won two three-year United Way Suncoast Community Investment Grants, one for summer programs in Riverview and the other for summer programs in Gibsonton. FEF will offer the first of those programs in summer 2023.

Ideally, this concentrated engagement in the area will lead to further study, higher education and/or potential careers for students in a burgeoning field. Indeed, between 2021 and 2031, computer science jobs are estimated to grow by 21 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. These jobs usually offer a pathway to financial security along with the opportunity to solve critical problems, improve lives, and shape the future of our world.

PwC Volunteers Provide Invaluable Support to FEF's Pre-College Programs

Thanks to FEF Centers of Excellence alumni Jasmine Holmes and Smiley Albert, both accountants at PricewaterhouseCoopers, since 2021, PwC has awarded FEF an annual Reimagination Grant to expand CodeMasters and other pre-college programming throughout Hillsborough County. Thankfully, when PwC funds a project, it puts its



PwC's Smiley Albert and FEF's Lyra Logan (with Bucs' mascot Captain Fear) attend a United Way Suncoast community fair.

people where its money is—through generous volunteerism. In 2022, that volunteer support proved invaluable.

It started in February, when Albert conducted



PwC's Jasmine Holmes talks careers with students attending 10 FEF summer camps.

the statewide Pre-College Summit's 6th-8th grade financial literacy workshop using PwC's Access Your Potential® curriculum. In June, Holmes spoke virtually about her path to her career with students attending 10 FEF secondary school summer camps in Hillsborough, Miami-Dade and online. In November, Albert joined FEF at a United Way-sponsored community fair

MDF Fellows Help FEF CodeMasters Expose ONEhillsborough Students to STEM

continued from page 5

project would work. Those Fellows along with other instructors adjusted their schedules, advised on the curriculum, got trained, and enabled the project to start on time. USF Fellow Jenelle Devry joined the team in the fall.

Their work helped power CBHC's new ONEhillsborough initiative, a compre-

hensive, community-driven plan structured around the social determinants of health, designed to implement holistic and meaningful solutions to long-term systemic issues and disparities that predominantly black and brown communities face. In its initial stages, ONEhills-borough focuses on three zip codes that include under resourced South Seminole Heights, Wellswood, areas along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Hillsbor-

ough Avenue, Palm River and Clair Mel. CBHC brought FEF in along with other non-profits to enhance the areas' existing after-school programs with fitness and nutrition, art and music, and STEM/coding activities. CodeMasters taught more than 200 children each term, helping them begin to build technological self-efficacy by programming robots and creating games.

PwC Volunteers Provide Invaluable Support to FEF's Pre-College Programs

continued from page 6

to raise awareness of FEF CodeMasters and FEF Upskill programming. Finally, in December, several PwC volunteers—Matthew Barron, Juston Brusa, Gabriela Gonzalez, Imonie Magessa, Maria Fernanda Medina, Keval Patel, and Jeannette Said—helped FEF CodeMasters fulfill its Computer Science Education Week in-school commitments to introduce coding to underserved children through robotics.

PwC volunteers Matthew Barron, Juston Brusa, Gabriela Gonzalez, Imonie Magessa, Maria Fernanda Medina, Keval Patel, and Jeannette Saiod help FEF teach robotics to elementary students in-school during Computer Science Education Week.







FEF Upskill Expands Offerings to Include Digital Literacy and Data Analytics Tracks

With FEF's newer Upskill program, launched with a multi-year, annual six figure Microsoft grant in 2021, FEF helps prepare underrepresented young adults throughout Florida for in-demand tech jobs. The program teaches tech, digital and necessary soft skills and connects trainees to mentors and job opportunities. Courses are live online, part-time and at no cost to participants, including books, labs, practice exams, and industry certification fees. Courses through mid-2022 focused solely on certifying trainees in front-end Web development. With new funding from

Opa-locka Community Development Corporation in late 2022, Upskill now offers two new training tracks.

The first track teaches basic digital literacy and work readiness skills. It includes classes on Microsoft's and Google's productivity suites as well as workshops on goal setting, interviewing, and writing resumes and cover letters. Trainees

complete the program prepared to join Upskill's more technical Web development or second new track.

That track focuses on readying participants for the high-demand field of data analytics, beginning with Excel courses that prepare trainees to pass two Microsoft certification exams—Core Data Analysis, Manipulation, and Presentation and Interpreting Data for Insights. Both courses also can lead to a full Microsoft career essentials data analysis certification.

Upcoming FEF Events

March 24-25, 2023

37th Annual Brain Bowl Competitions & Florida National Achievers Society Pre-College Summit, Tampa

August 2023

MDF New Fellows' Orientation, Tampa

Page 8 FEF FOCUS

FEF Board of Directors

Dr. Robert L. Nixon, Chair Dr. Sylvia W. Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer

> Dr. Castell V. Bryant Dr. Dovie J. Gamble Dr. Jaffus Hardrick Ms. Carolyn Lawson Dr. Shandale Terrell Mr. Philippe L. Villain Dr. Claude Villiers

FEF Staff

Dr. Lawrence Morehouse

President and Chief Executive Officer

Lyra Logan, Esquire Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Ms. Toni-lee Brown Program Coordinator

Mr. Charles Jackson, MPA MDF Program Manager

Natoya Martin, CA, CPA Accountant

Ms. Vanessa Miller, MAcc, MBA Accountant

Ms. Phyllis Reddick
Executive Assistant/
Communication Specialist

FEF Focus is a semi-annual publication of the Florida Education Fund. ©2023, All Rights Reserved.

Volume 19, Issue 1 Winter 2023

Layout & Design: Lyra Logan, Monica Montes

Editing: Lyra Logan, Monica Montes, Phyllis Reddick
Writing: Lyra Logan, Lawrence Morehouse, Phyllis Reddick

Staff Photography: Charles Jackson, Lyra Logan

The FEF's mission is to strengthen the larger community by creating and implementing programs and services that lead to greater educational advancement for historically underrepresented groups.

For information on how you may support FEF programs, please call 813-272-2772.

F.E.F.

201 East Kennedy Boulevard Suite 1525 Tampa, Florida 33602

Phone: 813-272-2772 Fax: 813-272-2784

Visit Our Web Site at www.fefonline.org