ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

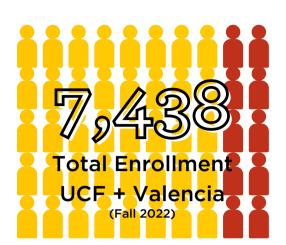




ABOUT

Together, UCF and Valencia College have created a campus in the heart of downtown Orlando focused on inspiring individuals to achieve their dreams. This transformational project kick-started Orlando's public-private Creative Village. Both schools increase access for students, provide pathways into high-demand career fields, foster meaningful collaboration with our neighbors and improve countless lives through the power of education.

BY THE NUMBERS



Sections of Co-listed Courses Offered

15 Acres 354
Academic
Programs

250
Faculty +
Staff

unique visitors to
UCF Downtown
website

external news stories about UCF Downtown



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

On March 9, 2023, UCF held its second annual Black and Gold Day at Jones High School. The event introduced over 1,000 students to the many opportunities available at UCF through classroom presentations, spirit competitions, tabling from over 15 registered student organizations, departments, fraternities and sororities. Lunch entertainment included a DJ, performances by the UCF Spirit Team and NPHC fraternities/sororities, photo opportunities, and more.



An ERASMUS+ grant agreement between Ilmenau University of Technology (Germany) and the Nicholson School of Communication and Media provided funds for the exchange of faculty members from each institution to visit the host institution to collaborate and guest lecture for approximately 10 days.

Elisabeth Wagner-Olfermann, research assistant and doctoral candidate visited UCF Downtown from February 27 - March 3, 2023. Dr. Christina Schuman, Program Coordinator of the BA program in "Applied Media and Communication Studies" and the international MA program "Media and Communication Science" at Ilmenau University of Technology, visited UCF Downtown from March 27 - 31, 2023. Both faculty members met with administrators, faculty, and staff, guest-lectured and participated in undergraduate and graduate classes, toured the campus and presented their research through Zoom to graduate students and faculty.

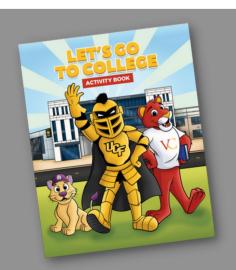


NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



Irene Pons, senior lecturer of Legal Studies, continued her alternative spring break and experiential learning project "A Break for Impact." This effort, which brings light to the severity of human rights and legal issues on the US/Mexico border, resulted in short films, two documentaries and a documentary series that discusses relevant research issues—such as immigration, human trafficking, and other major topics. Her students won a Sun Coast Regional Emmy for the episode "Eyes of the Night." They also earned 7 more Emmy nominations for subsequent seasons. The project is planning to release additional videos that were filmed recently. In addition, they have been selected to 23 international film festivals and won five film festival awards.

Six students attended the 2023 trip where they got to meet with Border Patrol, City Commissioners, Rescue Mission El Paso, Keeper's Kitchen, as well as toured migrant shelters, interviewed asylum seekers, and guest lectured in a pre-law class at the University of Texas El Paso. The students also participated in a news briefing with El Paso Matters, and prepared and served meals to over 300 migrants. To date, more than 600 students have been impacted through six UCF courses.



As part of the OCPS ACE Engagement Plan, a custom activity book was designed and printed for OCPS Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) students featuring mascots from UCF (Knightro), Valencia College (Puurcy), the ACE School Lion. The activity book highlights the educational pathway for students and was distributed to Rosen Preschool students and OCPS ACE K-2 students.

- Graduate Video Game Design in the World (Princeton Review)
- **2** Graduate Emergency and Crisis Management

Top Undergraduate Game Design Programs in

- 6 the World (Princeton Review)
- **18** Graduate Nonprofit Management
- **24** Public Budgeting and Finance
- **26** Public Management and Leadership
- **46** Public Administration Graduate School
- 46 Best Public Affairs Programs
- **47** Graduate Health Care Management

Source: US News & World Report, unless otherwise noted



UCF's College of Business was ranked as one of the Best Part-Time MBAs for 2023

During the 2022-2023 academic year, UCF Downtown held 220 co-listed classes for undergraduate students. Co-listed courses allow students to take their general education program courses – like English, math and science – with a Valencia faculty member and are offered at the reduced state college course rate.





The Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA) enrolled its 1,000th graduate student in Fall 2022.

FIEA Studio 500 was credited in the new virtual reality, NFL Football video game "NFL Pro Era" in partnership with StatusPRO.

Legal Studies hosted the 2022 Moot Court Tournament Partnerships, which attracted teams from as far as Singapore. The department also hosted Law Day with three Appellate Judges and six attorneys from the Central Florida area to try three cases in front of more than 100 students. The guests also took questions and gave career advice.



School of Public Administration Professor Christopher Emrich and his team of graduate and postdoctoral researchers set out to the city of Cape Coral, Fla. following Hurricane Ian to collect critical impact data. Their goal was to provide empirical evidence on where exactly hurricane storm surge flood waters reached throughout the city during the storm's peak, which is essential data needed when planning for recovery and mitigating future storm impacts.

Over the course of six days, the team traveled across Cape Coral identifying debris lines, seed lines and other clues on mostly public and vacant land to flag and measure high water marks throughout the city. In total, Emrich's team flagged more than 150 high water marks using direct measurements. Emergency management professionals are already reaping the benefits of the team's labor, as their data will become



part of the official USGS database for immediate access by anyone interested in undertaking flooding, hydrology or storm surge modeling.



Maria C. R. Harrington, Associate Professor of Digital Media was the invited presenter for the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques 22 conference in Vancouver, Canada. The course included a 3-hour lecture on methods and processes of creating virtual nature models from GIS data and botanically correct plants. She also co-published this course with two UCF students: Chris Jones, a GalMs undergraduate, and Crissy Peters, a FIEA graduate student.

The Executive MBA Class of 2023 traveled to Prague, Czech Republic and Athens, Greece in Spring 2023 for their week-long International Residency. The International Residency is a global immersion program designed to provide students with experience in working in an international business environment.



The Nicholson School of Communication and Media has two visiting scholars:



Zheng Tang, Professor, School of Journalism, Remin University, Beijing, is visiting from December 8, 2022 through February 7, 2024 working with Professor Yu in the area of Health Communication. Professor Tang is currently working on a project regarding immigrant workers and their health conditions in labor-intensive jobs.

Juan Chen, Professor, College of Journalism and Communication, South China University of Technology, is visiting from January 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024 also working with Professor Yu in the area of Health Communication. Professor Chen is focusing on how psychological distance and narratives can impact women's responses to breast cancer messages.



Jim Beckman, Professor of Legal Studies, coordinated the publication of the LS Law Journal—including eight articles from the top student submissions. Students compete to publish their research in this competitive, high-quality journal that is shared with various stakeholders, including law schools. It is rare for a university to publish the work of an undergraduate in a law journal, and it



is even more uncommon for a university without a law school to maintain and publish its own fully Undergraduate Law Journal — but UCF's Department of Legal Studies does it annually.

Gideon Shbeeb, Associate Instructor in Games and Interactive Media, spearheaded the creation of a Webcourse designed to help prepare undergraduate Game Design students for successful participation in game design competitions.





David Negrin, Lecturer in Games and Interactive Media, organized a successful Game Design Workshop showcase; Games and Interactive Media faculty Dan Novatnak, Associate Instructor, and John Murray, Assistant Professor, organized a successful Web Design student showcase. Both were part of the yearend Nicholson School of Communication and Media celebration.



John Murray, Assistant Professor in Games and Interactive Media, was part of a \$5 million NSF grant (Greg Welch, PI). The Virtual Experience Research Accelerator aims to improve diversity and representation in research involving virtual and augmented reality. Murray will serve as the project's Systems Lead, leading systems research, development, and operation based on his work on two previous systems for research studies and virtual reality funded by the school through the Buhr Graduate Fellowship.

READ MORE



Jennifer Sandoval, Associate Professor in Communication, is the co-investigator for the \$2 million National Science Foundation Leading Culture Change Through Professional Societies of Biology, or BIO-LEAPS, program award. The project aims to work toward a more inclusive field of marine sciences.



Melissa Longman, a student enrolled in dual Master of Public Administration and Master of Nonprofit Management programs, took Angela White-Jones' grant writing course. Longman, a social worker by trade, also serves on the executive board of the David Posnack Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Davie, Fla. After completing White-Jones' grant writing class, she drafted a grant proposal for HireAbility, an initiative through the David Posnack JCC that would use a food truck as a vehicle to



provide adults with developmental disabilities an opportunity to learn marketable work skills in a community-facing environment. The food truck would also serve as a recruiting tool for the participants, as people can see them practicing in-demand food service skills that might lead to long-term employment. Longman received \$1.5 million in federal funding for the project.

READ MORE



Jennifer Sandoval, Associate Professor in Communication, was named National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Gulf Coast Program Gulf Scholar Program Institution Awardee. She secured a \$450,000 grant to develop a transdisciplinary program at UCF along with Kristy Lewis, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology.





The Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy supported students with \$135,000 of fellowships and scholarships during the academic year.

A new study led by a team of UCF researchers is collecting evidence that will contribute to expanding treatment and access to medication for people in the justice system who struggle with opioid-use disorder. In problem-solving courts, an interdisciplinary team led by a judge works collaboratively to manage cases, aiming to reduce criminal offenses by using therapeutic approaches to address addiction and other underlying issues.



The goal is to rehabilitate those with substance use disorder who have been accused or convicted of drug-related crimes or have lost custody of children due to drug use. Courts will mandate treatment for substance use disorder, and many court participants have opioid use disorder. Barbara Andraka-Christou, an Assistant Professor of Global Health Management and Informatics is the project's principal investigator.

The team's research is being funded by a two-year \$110,000 grant from the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network, which is part of the National Institutes of Health's Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative. One of the goals of this initiative is to test strategies to expand effective treatment and care for people with opioid-use disorder in partnership with justice systems and community-based treatment providers.



Yue "Gurt" Ge, an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Administration, has been chosen as part of the 2021-23 cohort in the National Center for Atmospheric Research's Early Career Faculty Innovation Program. Ge and his team will soon begin studying the partnerships between weather forecasters and critical infrastructure operators. The Early Career Faculty Innovation Program award recognizes early-career faculty and supports their research and education endeavors through a multi-year grant. Ge was awarded \$100,000 for his project.



A new collaboration between UCF and the City of Orlando aims to strengthen the area's response capabilities by developing portable resilience hubs that offer power, internet and air conditioning for residents. Through this project, Resilience, Education and Advocacy Center for Hazard (REACH) preparedness hubs will be developed thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) Civic Innovation Challenge program. They could be deployed any time a disaster — whether natural or human-made — strikes.

Leading the project is a team of UCF faculty, including School of Public Administration Assistant Professor Kelly Stevens and Associate Professor Yue "Gurt" Ge, Learning Sciences and Educational Research Assistant Professor L. Trenton Marsh, and College of Engineering and Computer Science Professor Liqiang Wang and Pegasus Professor Zhihua Qu.



Tim Ravich, Associate Professor of Legal Studies, used a National Science Foundation grant to host an Aviation and the Law conference in March, bringing together faculty and students from across the nation.



Claire Connolly Knox, UCF School of Public
Administration Associate Professor and Founding
Director of the university's Emergency and Crisis
Management program, received the Kay C. Goss
Innovation & Technology Award from the Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Higher
Education Program at its annual symposium in June. The
award recognizes those who demonstrate an ability to
"inspire, promote, and develop emergency management
programs, professors and students through innovative
methods and technologies."

Staci Zavattaro, Professor in the School of Public Administration, was named a Richard P. Nathan Public Policy Fellow by the State University of New York's Rockefeller Institute of Government for the 2022-23 term. Zavattaro is one of six researchers from around the country selected for this year's Nathan Fellowship cohort, which aims to select experts with "cutting-edge policy expertise" to partner with the Rockefeller Institute's researchers to address contemporary issues in the public sector. This year's fellows will address an array of public policy challenges, from gun violence and public health to local government fiscal management and environmental justice.





Nan Yu, Professor in Communication, won First Place at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's, Mass Communication and Society's Division Teaching for her Idea Competition Project: Need for connectedness while learning online: Understanding learning preference and effectiveness during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.



Peter Smith, Professor of Digital Media, working with Limbitless Solutions received the global 2022.ORG Impact award in the Health and Healing Nonprofit Category. In total, 947 organizations and individuals submitted entries from more than 68 countries across seven award categories, including Community Building, Environmental Stewardship, Health and Healing, and more. As the winner of the Health and Healing category, Limbitless Solutions received a \$10,000 donation to support their groundbreaking work creating and donating personalized 3D-printed prosthetic arms to veterans, first responders, and young children, and more.



Smith and School of Visual Arts and Design colleague Matt Dombrowski also received a 2023 Unity for Humanity grant to advance their training video game work with Limbitless (from Unity corporation).

Through a National Science Foundation Fellowship Maria Harrington, Associate Professor of Digital Media, received funding for a professional development workshop for Learning Analytics in STEM Education Research (LASER) Institute, 2022-2023. The competitive application allowed her to receive funding for travel and intensive training in data science, machine learning, and social network analysis algorithms applied to learning analytics.



Professor and Founding Director of the School of Global Health Management and Informatics Su-I Hou, who has dedicated her career to healthy aging, was selected as one of just 49 2023 fellows by The Gerontological Society of America, the world's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, patient care and education in the field. Fellow is the highest level of membership the society gives, and acknowledges continued excellence and dedication to the field of gerontology.



Hou also traveled to Ben-Gurion University in Israel in December 2022 to share her research into healthy aging. She made the trip through her Fulbright Specialist Award, which allowed her to work with graduate students and faculty at Ben-Gurion's School of Public Health and its master's program in gerontology to share information on living models that allow seniors to age within their community – rather than in nursing homes and institutions. She is also working on forming research, educational and global exchange collaborations with Israeli population health experts and advocates.

Top Paper Awards were granted to:

Jihyun Kim, Human Communication faculty

National Communication Association

"I trust my robotic health advisor:

Understanding people's trust and intentions."

Michael Strawser, Human Communication faculty
Bridget Rubenking and Erica Rodriguez Kight,
Media Production and Management faculty
Broadcast Education Association
"Learning from a live stream: An examination of
motivations, information behaviors, and perceived
credibility across live streaming video and prerecorded videos on social media."



UCF DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

The Addition Financial Downtown Library had $\frac{19,952}{952}$ visits, with $\frac{1,393}{952}$ interactions at the information desk.

610+ books and media were checked out.

709 items were sent out from the Downtown Library and more than 766 items were received.

Finally, more than 3,567 hours were logged on the desktop computers in the library, which were used more than 2,800 times.

UCF POLICE

Members of UCFPD along with Recreation and Wellness staff co-hosted an open police forum at UCF Downtown. Students, faculty and staff members had the opportunity to have an open dialogue with members of the PD and engage in meaningful campus conversations.



Officer Maya Tolentino received the ASIS International 2023 Protectors Awards for her contribution to Community Policing. From helping young writers express their creativity through storytelling with Page15, to packing and distributing food at Livingston Street Church of God's mobile food drives, to being a regular customer of Black Bee Honey (a youth entrepreneurship program through the Parramore Kidz Zone), Ofc. Tolentino truly embodies community policing.

The Police Department hosted Honey the Mini Therapy Horse and escorted her throughout UCF Downtown to meet with students, faculty and staff. Mini was able to bring a sense of calm, comfort and happiness to students during finals week.

STUDENT SERVICES



The Leadership in Public Service (PAD 2007) course was designed in fall 2022 and launched in spring 2023. This course provides students the opportunity to learn about various aspects of the City of Orlando and the Parramore community through personal research, presentations, interviews, group site visits to selected city departments, agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, and includes a 15-hour service-learning requirement.

A new co-listed New Student Experience (SLS 1122) course launched in Fall 2022 and is open to both UCF and Valencia students. SLS 1122 supports student success through self-discovery, encouraging students to investigate the interests, strengths and personal values that they hold which align with their educational and career goals. The course places an emphasis on orientation to campus, integrated student success skills, and the development of an individualized education plan.



STUDENT SUCCESS

2,100

attended

First Year Programs implemented its first face-to-face Summer/Fall 2022-2023 Academic Year Downtown Orientations in the history of the campus. This included 14 Downtown Orientations with 49 Transfers and 187 FTIC students.

FIRST STOP









In partnership with Valencia College, First Stop launched integrated information sessions and tours for prospective downtown students. It hosted 177 prospective students and quests over 12 sessions.

STUDENT OUTREACH SERVICES





Interacted with nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ 00 students through events, including Downtown Scholars Initiative and National Achievers Society.

The Downtown Scholars Initiative (DSI), in its second year at Jones High School, saw a 353% increase in applications from year 1 and currently has 26 students in the 2nd pre-college cohort, a 62.5% increase. In addition, DSI has expanded communication efforts to OCPS leadership, Parramore community leaders, and higher education professionals at the state-level.

Student Outreach Services established and launched an Orange County Public School Academic Center for Excellence Engagement Plan, aimed to educate, engage and excite K-8 students. This partnership includes "day on campus" experiences, a book character parade, and more. This plan has impacted over 300 students.

STUDENT OUTREACH SERVICES



In March, UCF National Achievers Society (NAS) attended the Florida State Summit and Brain Bowl. The UCF delegation won 6 awards including 3 first place awards for Largest Parent Alliance Delegation, Voices and Oratory Contest, and State Presidency. The delegation also placed second in Math 11-12, third in History 9-12, and fourth in Math 9-10.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Student Engagement hosted its second annual Downtown Day of Service which saw 40 faculty, staff, and students visit 4 locations across the Parramore community, including the Boys and Girls Club, 910 Livingston Street Church, the Christian Service Center, and SALT Outreach @ the Christian Service Center.



Career Services held 13 events with more than 350 students in attendance.

60 advising appointments were held and 80 resume and cover letter critique meetings occured.

TESTING AND ACCESSIBILITY

Testing & Accessibility Services works with downtown students, faculty and staff to provide accommodations to all students on campus. Accommodations ensure that students with disabilities are not disadvantaged in their education simply because of their disability.





WELL-BEING

RWC@Downtown had more than 4,600 students, faculty and staff access its facility more than 20,000 times.





Student Care Services served 403 students through student meetings, care calls and other outreach events.

219 pantry bags were distributed to students with food insecurity.

Counseling and Psychological Services served 153 students downtown.





Student Health Services had 143 patients.

Wellness and Health Promotion Services, including HIV testing, biofeedback, wellness coaching sessions and presentations, were offered 440 times.



UNIONWEST STUDENT HOUSING

UnionWest Student Housing management transitioned from UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life to Campus Advantage, a private property management company that specializes in the student housing industry. Downtown Student Services (DSS) provided leadership and support throughout the transition including move-in support, ongoing partnership meetings, and the establishment of Housing Liasion Role.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





The Parramore Community Engagement Council (PCEC) celebrated several achievements, including:

- Addition Financial Foundation provided a 10_9000 grant to the Council to support its mission.
- PCEC held several events in the community, including a mental health resource fair, an educational seminar from local law enforcement discussing mental health responses, and financial literacy training series. It also participated in key community events, including the City of Orlando MLK Day Parade, and sponsored an OCPS ACE teacher appreciation breakfast and luncheon.
- PCEC changed from a community organization to a registered Florida Not for Profit Corporation. The FAMU College of Law Economic Justice Clinic is assisting PCEC in obtaining federal 501(C)3 status.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hosted the College of Business' Inaugural HR Summit on March 29 to a capacity group of 200 Central Florida HR professionals and guests. Led by the College's Department of Management faculty, this half-day conference featured panel discussions and faculty-led sessions on the latest HR topics.





FIEA Faculty helped to organize a pilot robotics club and video game education programs for OCPS ACE.

Cheryl Briggs, FIEA faculty, also held Motion Capture workshops for the Center for Research and Education in Arts, Technology, and Entertainment (CREATE) and OCPS ACE elementary students.

UCF Downtown Police patrol officers distributed several sports balls to members of the Parramore community including kids from OCPS ACE. With the assistance of GROW Healthy Kids, UCFPD was able to make a positive difference in children's lives by increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy living.





The IDEAS partnership committee established a Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida, Hughes Branch engagement plan and hosted the first Downtown Community Police Forum featuring current and former UCF Downtown Officers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Nicholson School of Communication and Media alumnus Scott Anez was the 2023 Hall of Fame inductee. Anez graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio-Television in 1988. He has spent his career in Orlando as a well-known radio and sports on-air personality. He is currently the host of Orlando's Morning News with Scott Anez, which airs on WBDO-AM/FM.

Alumna Maeven Rogers, Chief Sustainability and Resiliency Officer for the City of Palm Coast and Michelle Dusseau, Lecturer of Human Communication, hosted a public event "Communicate Your Purpose," highlighting how essential it is to effectively communicate our need for change and taking a deep dive into understanding the power of language and delivery.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

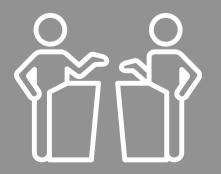


Ruth Kessa, a School of Public Administration public affairs doctoral student, was named a Mellon Fellow by the University of Illinois-Chicago's Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative. The fellowship, a joint venture between the University of Illinois-Chicago and the Inter-

University Program for Latino Research, provides doctoral students at Hispanic-Serving Institutions with financial, technical and mentorship support to aid in their dissertation research on Latino studies. The program seeks to "strengthen the field of Latina/o studies by building a network of successful early career academics, researchers and professionals." Kessa's research focuses on policymaking and disaster vulnerability for the nations of Hispaniola.

Kessa and her fellow UCF Public Affairs doctoral student Ratna Okhai were also recognized by the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) with the competitive Founders' Fellowship for 2023. The pair are among just two dozen students recognized with the honor. As the field's most prominent scholarly organization, ASPA rewards high-achieving students and young professionals with financial, networking and membership incentives through the fellowship program.





Under Visiting Lecturer of Legal Studies
Christy Foley's advisement, 16 students who
make up the Mediation Team competed in
tournaments throughout the year and hosted
an international mediation tournament in
February 2023 for the International Academy
of Dispute Resolution. The team also hosted
the 2023 Mediation Tournament Partnerships
and attracted teams from as far as Colorado.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Lauren Gros '22MECM, who earned her master's in emergency and crisis management, is now a member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where she advises on policy relating to emergency management.





Games for Change, a nonprofit that empowers game creators and social innovators to drive real-world change using games and technology that help people to learn, improve their communities, and contribute to make the world a better place, hosted a competition that brought together university students from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central America and South America to collaborate and create games related to the theme of inclusivity in a week-long virtual event.

Digital Media students Ema Purmensky, Ainsley "Lee" Elmer, and Erica Winfrey were awarded the Most Creative Award, Impact Award and Visual Excellence Award, respectively.

FIEA students Angela Humphrey and Mackenzie O'Brien were awarded the Iron Galaxy Diversity in Games Scholarships, focused on supporting students of game development from underrepresented backgrounds.





Adrienne Boatright '22, a digital media alumnus who is currently pursuing a master's in interactive entertainment, and Luis Santiago, an undergraduate digital media student, were awarded Electronic Arts (EA) Inclusion in Gaming Endowed Scholarships.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

The UCF School of Global Health Management and Informatics has seven students who plan to graduate this year accepting highly sought fellowships in health administration that can propel them into the next stages of their administrative careers.

The 2022 Fellowship Recipients include:

- Brenden Brown, Houston Methodist
- Audrey Lyons, Advocate Aurora Health
- Deborah Maldonado, Nemours Children's Hospital
- Jared Metz, Tampa General Hospital
- Ashley Pierre, Mount Sinai Hospital
- Victor Rubio, Jefferson Health New Jersey
- Kishan Shah, Duke Health's Private Diagnostic Clinic

