

**Valencia College Foundation**  
**Report to the District Board of Trustees**  
**February 2017**

**Central Florida Educators Federal Credit Union makes \$125,000 pledge**

The Future Teachers Academy, a cohort-based program for students interested in elementary education, aims to address Osceola County's critical teacher shortage. The Central Florida Educators (CFE) Federal Credit Union has contributed \$125,000 to support the Osceola Campus FTA. The initiative to inspire tomorrow's teaching professionals was also featured on the front page of the *Osceola News-Gazette*.

**Growing our fundraising capacity: new philanthropy staff members**

Dr. Jennifer Mezquita, former Alumni Association president and board member, joined the foundation team as director of annual giving and alumni engagement. In addition to five years in mortgage banking, Jennifer has worked for 12 years in higher education at Valencia and UCF. She is a proud Valencia alumna and will work to create a robust annual giving program.

Barbara Shell, a 13-year Valencia veteran, has embraced the new role of senior engagement and special gifts officer, where she is responsible for the arts, the college's internal campaign and Take Stock. She served for 14 years in public affairs and development roles for three North Carolina health organizations.

Also joining the foundation is Brian Henties, who has a unique combination of corporate, small business and fundraising experience. He spent nine years as senior program manager for the Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at Rollins College and will serve as Valencia Foundation's director of corporate partnerships.

**Emmy Torres returns to lead the alumni association**

Emmy Torres, who was named the 2016 Mary S. Collier Distinguished Graduate, has been selected as president of the college's alumni association. Emmy is pursuing a bachelor's degree at Rollins College, with a major in international relations and a minor in sociology. During her Valencia tenure, she worked on the Osceola campus and held many leadership roles in student organizations. She initiated the first Hispanic Heritage Festival to Promote Education with the purpose of raising scholarship funds for all Valencia College students.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- Thursday, March 9, 11:35 a.m. networking/lunch, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. meeting, **Board Forum**; Grand Bohemian Hotel, 325 S. Orange Ave., Orlando
- Thursday, April 13, 11:35 a.m. networking/lunch, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. meeting, **Full Board Meeting**; East Campus, Building 5, room 111/112.
- Wednesday, May 10, 8:30 a.m. networking/breakfast, 9 a.m. meeting, **Foundation Finance Committee**; Citrus Club.
- Saturday, May, 20, **Taste for Learning**; Rosen Shingle Creek.