

## Virtual Town Hall

# College & COVID-19



Teaching and Learning Through Crisis



**FSCJ**

Florida State College  
at Jacksonville

# WELCOME

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## **FSCJ Virtual Town Hall**

### **“College & COVID-19: Teaching and Learning Through Crisis”**

**Friday, October 23, 2020, noon-1:30 p.m.**

Northeast Florida’s premier higher educational institutions—the University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Edward Waters College, St. Johns River State College and Florida State College at Jacksonville—serve the needs of thousands of students and citizens. With the staggering number of cases of the coronavirus in Duval county alone, area colleges and universities have opted to transition most instruction online. Faced with numerous challenges, faculty and staff at each institution have worked diligently and collaboratively to preserve academic continuity for their students over the past seven months.

After launching a primarily virtual fall semester, Jacksonville’s college and university presidents reflect on what have they learned thus far from the COVID-19 crisis, how their institutions are changing and innovating and what they envision for the future of higher education in our area and beyond.



# AGENDA

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#### **Welcome and Event Information**

Dr. Kathleen Ciez-Volz, Associate Provost Curriculum & Instruction, FSCJ



#### **Introduction of the Presidential Panel Guests**

Ms. Lisa Moore, J.D., Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer/Executive Director Employee Relations, FSCJ



#### **Panel Discussion**

Moderated by Ms. Lisa Moore

Dr. John Avendano, President, Florida State College at Jacksonville

Mr. Tim Cost, President, Jacksonville University

Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr., President, Edward Waters College

Mr. Joe Pickens, J.D., President, St. Johns River State College

Dr. David Szymanski, President, University of North Florida



#### **Q&A**

Ms. Lisa Moore and Presidential Panel



#### **Closing Remarks**

Ms. Lisa Moore



ASL interpreters: Tracy Hagemann and Lisa Davis



# PANELISTS

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With more than 30 years of community college experience, Dr. Avendano was previously the president and CEO of Kankakee Community College in Illinois. He also served as the president of the Illinois Council of Public Community College Presidents and the past chair of the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium President's Council in Illinois.

Dr. Avendano was a first-generation college student for whom English is his second language. He received his associate degree from Waubonsee Community College, bachelor's degree in exercise physiology from Northern Illinois University, master's degree in adult continuing education from Northern Illinois University, and his doctorate in educational administration and foundations from Illinois State University

Dr. Avendano has previously served as a board member and chair for the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County, the Grundy-Livingston-Kankakee Workforce Investment Board, Cornerstone Services and the Riverside Medical Center Board. In 2014-15, Dr. Avendano served as co-chair for The United Way of Kankakee County and formally served on the Pioneering Healthier Communities Advisory Committee for the area YMCA. He also served as the presidents' liaison for the Illinois region of Phi Theta Kappa.

Dr. Avendano received the following recognition and awards from Waubonsee Community College: Fab 40, Distinguished Alum, induction into their Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Skyway Conference Hall of Fame. He was recognized by Phi Theta Kappa with the following awards: Distinguished Administrator, Shirley B. Gordon Award and the 2019 Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, Dr. Avendano was inducted into Illinois State University's Educational Administration and Foundations Hall of Fame. He also received the 2017-18 Illinois Community College Trustees' Association Advocacy Award. Additionally, The Daily Journal recognized Dr. Avendano as its 2019 Citizen of the Year.

He and his wife Janet have three children - Michael, Nicole and Marissa.

**Florida State  
College at  
Jacksonville**  
**Dr. John Avendano**  
President



# PANELISTS

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Tim Cost, 60, became President of his undergraduate alma mater, Jacksonville University, on February 1, 2013. Prior to his election, he was Executive Vice President for PepsiCo, the food and beverage world leader with revenues of \$60 billion and 300,000 employees. He has 32 years of senior executive experience at many of the world's top public companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Kodak, ARAMARK, Pharmacia, Wyeth/Pfizer and Centocor/Johnson & Johnson. He was also Chairman of Global Health Care for Washington-based consulting firm, APCO Worldwide. Mr. Cost's executive leadership experience at multiple FORTUNE 500 companies focused on several worldwide industries: consumer goods, health care and managed services.

During his tenure at JU, President Cost is committed to substantial improvements in student success, faculty excellence, campus upgrades and community connections. Since 2013, the University has added more than 40 new programs in health education, engineering, information technology, cyber security, kinesiology and data/computer sciences. The endowment has increased more than 20%, as has the University's campus footprint. JU is consistently ranked as a premier institution (top 10%) for students' return on investment, and has been selected one of "America's Best Colleges" by U. S. News & World Report for the past 15 years. CEO Magazine has ranked the University's Davis College of Business in the Top 25 in the world for value/return on investment. He has led the investment of \$60 million into the University's campus, led a successful \$120 million ASPIRE comprehensive development campaign, and has launched the Florida EPIC program to support STEM education, regional economic investment and job creation.

President Cost, a 1981 Magna Cum Laude Jacksonville University graduate, received his MBA in Finance and Economics from the Simon Business School at the University of Rochester, and is a graduate of Harvard University's Presidential Leadership Program. As a collegiate athlete and four-year letterman on its baseball team, he is one of the top 10 winningest pitchers in JU Baseball history, and as a freshman in his first NCAA appearance, pitched the only 9-inning no-hitter in Jacksonville University history.

**Jacksonville  
University**  
**Mr. Tim Cost**  
President



He received the Jacksonville University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 and was selected a "Distinguished Dolphin" in recognition of Jacksonville University's 75th Anniversary. He has been inducted into the Florida Council on Economic Education's Business Hall of Fame, and has been named "Ultimate CEO" by the Business Journal, one of Florida's "Most Influential Business Leaders" by Florida Trend and "Guardian of the Arts" Award Recipient by Cathedral Arts. He is past Chair of the Jacksonville Civic Council, past Chair of JAXUSA Partnership (economic development), past Chair of the Education Advisory Board of the Northeast Florida STEM Initiative and past Chair of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Strategic Initiative on Community Outreach.

President Cost is a member of many civic, cultural, education and business Boards, among them: Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Civic Council, JAXUSA, Florida Council of 100, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, GuideWell/Florida Blue, Brooks Rehabilitation, Atlantic Sun Presidents Council, and THE PLAYERS Council. He is also former Vice-Chair of Jacksonville Orchestra, and former member of the Boards of Directors of Web.com, SteinMart, the NCAA Division 1 Board, WJCT and JaxSports. He and his wife of 37 years, Stephanie, are the parents of two children, Melanie and Drew.

# PANELISTS

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Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr. assumed responsibility as the 30th President & CEO of Edward Waters College (EWC) in Jacksonville, Florida on July 16, 2018 post a unanimous vote by the College's Board of Trustees. Founded in 1866, EWC is distinctively the state of Florida's first independent institution of higher learning as well as Florida's first higher educational institution established for the purpose of educating African- Americans. Just 37 years of age at the time of his appointment, Faison's selection made him the youngest President of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in America.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, President Faison's career exploits include distinguished professional experiences as a higher education executive administrator, educator, and attorney. He was most recently the General Counsel & Vice President of External Affairs at Tuskegee University where he served as the university's chief legal officer and provided principal oversight for its legislative and governmental relations functions. Prior to that, he served as Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs at Virginia Union University (VUU) in Richmond, VA where he helped lead the university in achieving increases in overall student enrolment and retention having founded the VUU College for African-American Men (VCAAM). Dr. Faison also previously served as Special Assistant to the President for Legal & Legislative Affairs, Community Affairs, and Economic Development at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS where he later became University Chief of Staff before being named Vice President of Institutional Advancement (interim) & Executive Director of the MVSU Foundation. As a scholar-educator, Faison has held professorial appointments at both the undergraduate and graduate level(s) in various academic disciplines including Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Business Administration. He is also a former state prosecutor having served as an Assistant District Attorney prosecuting criminal felony drug cases under the auspices of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia.

President Faison graduated Magna Cum Laude from Albany State University (ASU) with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English where he was an ASU Presidential Scholar, ASU Velma Fudge Grant University Honors Program Graduate, and upon graduation was awarded for being the highest-ranking student in the University's Department of English & Modern Languages. He earned his Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from The University of Georgia School of Law (UGA) and was a member of the UGA School of Law Executive Moot Court Board & UGA Law Moot Court team. He is a licensed member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to practice before each of its appellate courts including the federal bar in Georgia. Faison has completed post-doctoral study as a graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School of

**Edward Waters  
College**  
**Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr.**  
President



Education's Institute for Educational Management (IEM) and was a Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI) Institute Fellow of the American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU). Additionally, he is a graduate of AASCU's New President's Academy. Dr. Faison also holds the Certification in Fundraising Management (CFRM) designation from The Fundraising School of Philanthropy at Indiana-University-Purdue-University at Indianapolis.

President Faison maintains active memberships with various local and national civic, professional, and community organizations. In February 2020, Dr. Faison was appointed by Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry to serve as a member of the JEA Board of Directors. He also serves as a trustee member of the Jacksonville Chamber, is a member of the Jacksonville Civic Council, Leadership Jacksonville, the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, and was recently named an institutional director of the UNCF Board of Directors. Faison has received regional and national recognition for his outstanding leadership and achievements per his selection as a member of The Business Journals Influencers: Rising Stars 100; the National Bar Association (Top 40 Attorneys Under 40) the Jacksonville Business Journal (Top 40 Under 40) and has been specially recognized and honored by both of his alma maters—The University of Georgia and Albany State University—as amongst each of its respective 40 most distinguished alumni under 40.

He is the son of Alderman Faison, Sr. and Dr. Jewel J. Faison, and brother to Dr. Morgan Zacheya- Jewel Faison. President Faison has been blissfully married for thirteen years to Mrs. Tyciee L. Faison, who is also a seasoned higher education administrator, educator, and ordained minister.

# PANELISTS

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Joe H. Pickens, J.D., received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wofford College. He went on to the University of Florida and earned his Juris Doctorate degree.

He served the College as Special Counsel to the President from 2005-2008. In 2008, Dr. Robert McLendon retired, having served as College President for 36 years. In September, 2008, after a three-month presidential search conducted by the College Board of Trustees, Mr. Joe Pickens was selected as College President. He accepted the position and began work on November 1, 2008.

During the eleven plus years that he has served as President, Mr. Pickens has spearheaded many initiatives including the College's transition from a community to a state college, the College's first Bachelor degrees, the creation of an honors program, and the expansion of the College's mission to provide nontraditional community educational opportunities throughout the service district.

Prior to becoming College President, Mr. Pickens spent eight years in the Florida House of Representatives. During that time, he served as Chair of the Public Lands and Water Resources subcommittee, the Education Appropriations Committee and the Schools and Learning Council. Then Representative Pickens also chaired the House Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Reform.

Mr. Pickens' Career Achievements include:

- President of SJR State – since 2008
- District 21 Florida House of Representatives 2000 - 2008
- Chairman of the House Education Appropriations Committee
- Chairman of the House Schools and Learning Council
- General Counsel for the North East Florida Educational Consortium
- Attorney for the Putnam County School Board

His Recent Achievements and Community Involvement include:

- One of the "People You Should Know in NE Florida" by Florida Trend Magazine 2018.



## St. Johns River State College

Mr. Joe H. Pickens, J.D.  
President

- 2013 Recipient of the Inaugural National Exemplary CEO/Board Relations Award presented by American Association of Community Colleges
- Florida Chamber of Commerce, A Honor Roll, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
- Florida School Boards Association, Legislator of the Year, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Florida School Boards Association Lifetime Achievement Award (1 of only 4 recipients along with Lawton Chiles, Toni Jennings, and Frank Brogan)
- Past Chairman of the Florida College System Council of Presidents
- Board Member - Southern Regional Education Board
- Multiple Paul Harris Fellow
- Florida Association of District School Superintendents, Legislator of the Year, 2004-2006
- Associated Industries of Florida, Champion for Business Award, 2005
- Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Liberty Bell Award, 2005 and Career Hall of Fame Recipient
- Past Chairman, Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Mr. Pickens is married to his wife Carole. He has two daughters, Bailey and Ellis, and one son, Hill.

# PANELISTS

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Dr. David M. Szymanski is the sixth president of the University of North Florida. He joined UNF in the summer of 2018 and was inaugurated in February 2019.

Committed to student success, President Szymanski has spearheaded initiatives to ensure that all students have the resources they need to succeed, on campus and after they graduate. This includes boosting programs to enhance student wellness and to provide students with opportunities to gain leadership experience and engage in the community.

President Szymanski recognizes the vital role that UNF plays in the region as the top source of talent and innovation for area businesses. He has worked to build partnerships to advance academic excellence at UNF, ensuring that students not only learn on campus but have abundant and meaningful real-world opportunities outside of the classroom to gain experience in their fields.

A new Strategic Plan for the University was commissioned by President Szymanski and approved by the Florida Board of Governors in January 2020. The ambitious plan aims to creatively build on UNF's current successes while expanding partnerships, enhancing research and development, and creating rigorous programs that give UNF students an even greater competitive advantage.

Before joining UNF, President Szymanski served as dean of the Carl H. Lindner College of Business at the University of Cincinnati. During his tenure, enrollment in the business college grew significantly, as did retention and graduation rates. Prior to his time at UC, he was the director of the Center for Retailing Studies at Texas A&M University where he was a professor of marketing.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics at the University of North Carolina Asheville, a Master of Arts in economics at Vanderbilt University, as well as a Master of Business Administration and Ph.D., both in marketing, at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

President Szymanski and his wife, Maria, have a son, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

## University of North Florida

**Dr. David Szymanski**  
President



# MODERATOR

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As Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer/ Executive Director Employee Relations, Lisa provides Collegewide leadership as a part of the President's Cabinet. Her primary responsibilities include institutional human resource policies and practices, community outreach commitments, and overall student success and recruitment strategies. In her new role as chief DEI officer, she is tasked with leading efforts to demonstrate the importance and value of a diverse and inclusive college environment and actively engage students, faculty and staff to further behaviors, attitudes and policies that support diversity, equity and inclusion

Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Georgia State College and earned her Juris Doctor from Mercer University School of Law. Lisa served in varying capacities both inside and outside of academia. She has served as circuit director for the County Court mediations program as well as the Guardian ad Litem Program in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Lisa also served as Director of Policy and Compliance for Duval County Public Schools before coming to FSCJ.

Lisa has served at FSCJ for 13 years. She was first the Director of Policy and Compliance in the Office of General Counsel and then moved to Executive Director for Employee Relations and then became College Equity Officer. Most recently, Lisa served as the Executive Director, Talent Acquisition and Management.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. Lisa loves to travel and enjoys watching sports, especially baseball and softball. She also enjoys reading, bingeing Netflix documentaries and docudramas and anything on HGTV. Lisa considers herself a foodie and loves discovering new restaurants and foods.

## Florida State College at Jacksonville

**Ms. Lisa Moore, J.D.**  
Chief Diversity, Equity  
and Inclusion Officer/  
Executive Director  
Employee Relations





# FSCJ

Florida State College  
at Jacksonville

