



FIU - Colombia Summit 2021

Agenda

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021

Time: 2:00PM – 5:00PM EST / 1:00PM – 4:00PM COT

Location: via Zoom

Registration Link: [CLICK HERE](#)



Colombian Time	Eastern Standard Time	Summit Portal (Zoom) Opens	
12:30PM	1:30PM		
1:00PM	2:00PM	<p>Welcome Remarks on Behalf of FIU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of FIU-Colombia Relations • Why Colombia? • What are We Trying to Accomplish? 	<p>Luis Solis Rivera Interim Director, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and Former President of Costa Rica</p> <p>Pablo G. Ortiz, Ed.D. Vice President, Office of Regional and World Locations</p>
1:10PM	2:10PM	<p>Greeting by Colombian Cónsul General in Miami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Florida-Colombia relations 	<p>H.E. Pedro Agustín Valencia Laserna Cónsul General, Consulado General Central de Colombia en Miami</p>
1:25PM	2:25PM	<p>Priorities of MinCiencias</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internationalization of Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) • Development of Joint Projects with International Partners 	<p>Susan Benavides Head of Internationalization, Colombia Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MinCiencias)</p>
1:40PM	2:40PM	<p>FIU-Colombia - Examples of Current Collaborations and Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health/Global Health Consortium • Environment/Conservation Projects 	<p>Carlos Espinal, M.D. Director of Global Health Consortium and Professor, Public Health</p> <p>Elizabeth Anderson, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Earth and Environment; PI Tropical Rivers Lab; Fulbright Specialist to Colombia (2015)</p>

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AGENDA

COT	EST	Breakout Sessions	
2:00PM	3:00PM	<i>Please click on the concurrent session's title to view the affiliated call for action.</i>	
1.		<p>Calls for Collaboration: Advances in Ultra-High-Performance Concrete for Upgrading and Repairing Aging Structures</p> <p>Development of Comprehensive Guidelines, Specifications and Procedures for Managing Bridges</p> <p>Accelerated Bridge Construction</p>	<p>Atorod Azizinamini, Ph.D. Professor and Director, Moss School of Construction, Infrastructure and Sustainability</p> <p>Islam Mantawy, Ph.D. Research Assistant Professor, Structural, Construction, and Geotechnical Engineering</p>
2.		<p>Call for Collaboration: Supporting Human Rights Through Forensics – Searching for the Missing and Disappeared in Colombia</p>	<p>Kevin Lothridge, M.S. Executive Director, National Forensic Science Technology Center; Director, Global Forensic and Justice Center</p>
3.		<p>Call for Collaboration: Comparative Study of Primary Care (Patient-Physician Relationship) system in the US, China, and Colombia</p>	<p>Nan Hu, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Biostatistics</p>

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COT	EST	Breakout Sessions (Continued)	
2:00PM	3:00PM		
4.		Call for Collaboration: Safeguard Against Viral Outbreaks and Superbugs (SAVOS)	Yuk-Ching Tse-Dinh, Ph.D. Director of the Biomolecular Sciences Institute; Distinguished University Professor
5.		Call for Collaboration: Public Policy and National Security Project	Alexander Gocso, M.S. Program Coordinator, Jack Gordon Institute for Public Policy
6.		Call for Collaboration: COIL Course and Leadership Development	Stephanie Doscher, Ed.D. Director, Office of Collaborative Online International Learning
7.		Roundtable: Latin American Affairs Today and Opportunities for Knowledge Exchange	Jose Miguel Cruz, Ph.D. Director of Research, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center
8.		Roundtable: Supporting Faculty and Student Collaboration between FIU and Colombian Institutions	Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, M.S. Director, Global Strategy and Faculty Success, FIU Global Natalia Rubio Parra, B.A. Head of Academic Cooperation, Universidad de los Andes

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AGENDA

COT	EST	Closing Session	
3:00PM	3:15PM	<i>Coffee Break (On Your Own)</i>	
3:15PM	4:15PM	Breakout session reports by program leaders	Breakout Session Leaders
3:40PM	4:40PM	Next Steps	Birgitta Rausch-Montoto
3:50PM	4:50PM	Closing Remarks	Pablo G. Ortiz



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SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND HOSTS



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SPEAKER

Professor, diplomat and politician, Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera served as president of Costa Rica from 2014-2018.

Prior to his election, he was a professor, researcher, Director of the Central American Masters Program in Political Science, as well as Deputy Director of the School of Political Science and Associate Dean of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Costa Rica.

He also worked at the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Chief of Staff to the Minister, and later as Ambassador at Large for Central American Affairs and Director General for Policy. Between 2009 and 2012, he was representative of the Ibero American General Secretariat for Central America and Haiti. In 2016 he was appointed co-chair of the UN Secretary General High-Level Panel on the Economic Empowerment of Women.

Solís is a graduate of the University of Costa Rica and has a master's degree in history and political science from Tulane University. With 30 years as an educator, he has also taught in universities throughout the US and Europe, and in 1999 was a Fulbright Scholar at FIU. He has published extensively in books and professional journals on US-Latin American relations and Central American history and politics.

Professor Solis holds Doctor Honoris Causa degrees from Korean, Chinese, French, US and Costa Rican Universities for his leadership in championing Women equality, Human Rights, Peace and International Law throughout the world.



Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, Interim Director
Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center
and Former President of Costa Rica

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SPEAKER



Pablo G. Ortiz, Ed.d., Vice President
Office of Regional and World Locations

Pablo G. Ortiz is the Vice President for Regional and World Locations and the Vice Provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus at Florida International University (FIU). With more than 27 years of experience in education, Dr. Ortiz brings a wealth of experience in academics and operations to help lead the university in identifying efficiencies and leveraging opportunities for maximizing returns for FIU's regional and world locations. Under his leadership, FIU Global, together with university leaders, have developed an aggressive strategy to position FIU as a globally engaged leader in higher education. The three strategic global priorities of enhancing faculty, student, and institutional success internationally are in direct alignment with the institution's NextHorizon 2025 Strategic Plan.

Dr. Ortiz began his career as a teacher in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), and went on to serve as an elementary, K-8, middle, and high school level school principal for 12 years. Dr. Ortiz has been honored as the school district's only two-time Miami-Dade County Public Schools Principal of the Year in 2006 and 2012. He was also named recipient of the 2012-2013 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership as the top principal in the State of Florida. Prior to his role at FIU, Dr. Ortiz served as the Associate Superintendent for M-DCPS where he spearheaded the expansion of the Education Transformation Office (ETO) to support and improve the district's most fragile schools.

Dr. Ortiz earned his Associate in Arts degree at Miami-Dade College where he was recently inducted in the college's Hall of Fame. He finished his Bachelor of Science degree at Florida International University and has been honored as a Torch Award recipient for outstanding contributions and service in education. He earned his master's and doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

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SPEAKER



**H.E. Pedro Agustín Valencia Laserna, Cónsul General
Consulado General Central de Colombia en Miami**

Appointed as Central Consul General in Miami, Pedro Agustín Valencia Laserna, was born in March 1978 in the illustrious city of Popayán. An economist from the Universidad de los Andes, with a specialization in Security and Defense Economics from the same university, and a master's degree in Economics from the Universidad Javeriana, he is a professional with extensive experience in the public sector, recognized for his successful performance in planning strategy, process design and project management. His leadership style motivates collective progress, and he is convinced that disciplined, serious and methodical work always leads to positive results.

He has served in the Ministry of National Defense and the National Intelligence Directorate, where he held the position of Inspector General. He has worked with the Mayor's Office of Bogotá, in the social sector, as an advisor and Territorial Director of the Secretariat for Social Integration. He is also a private entrepreneur and has traveled through the financial sector.

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SPEAKER



Susan Benavides, Head of Internationalization
Colombia Ministry of Science, Technology and
Innovation

Lawyer from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, specialist in International Cooperation and Project Management for Development from the Universidad Externado of Colombia, in partnership with Columbia University (USA). Ms. Benavides holds a Master's degree in Science, Technology and Innovation Management and Science Policy from the University of Seville (Spain) and a Master's degree in Research in Interdisciplinary Development Studies from the University of the Andes (Colombia). Ms. Benavides has also completed studies in Project Management for Higher Education Institutions at the Carl Von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Germany) and training in Science Diplomacy at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

At the governmental level, Susan has been linked to institutions such as the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation and Colciencias. Furthermore, Ms. Benavides worked as Director of International Relations and Vice Rector of Research at the University of Santander.

Since September of 2020, Susan Benavides has been the Head of Internationalization of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia.

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SPEAKER



Carlos Espinal, M.D., Director
Global Health Consortium and Professor,
Public Health

Dr. Carlos Espinal is the director of the Global Health Consortium at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work. He earned his degree in medicine at the University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia. He continued his academic career as a fellow at both the New York University School of Medicine and the University of New Mexico School Of Medicine, where he specialized in tropical geographical diseases, epidemiology and malaria vaccine development. Sequentially he also earned a certificate in Public Health and Vaccinology from the Carlos Slim Health Institute in Mexico.

Dr. Espinal's experience in tropical and geographical diseases, epidemiology and malaria vaccine development includes:

- Eight years as a Latin American Regional Adviser in the International Development and Research Center of Canada (IDRC).
- Five years as Adviser on the Malaria Sporozoite Vaccine Development Program at the Navy Research Center, Bethesda, Maryland.
- A PAHO Malaria Adviser on Malaria chemotherapy, drug resistance, and epidemiology.
- Fifteen years at the National Institute of Health and Ministry of Health, Colombia, as a Director of Malaria Branch, Tropical Diseases and Epidemiology.
- Nine years as the Latin American Director of Public Health and Immunization Policy for Sanofi Pasteur based in Washington, DC.
- Member and Chairman of the PAHO Jury Committee for the annual selection of the Malaria Champions in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010-2016).
- Editor of multiple consensus and guidelines on pediatric, adult vaccination, occupational health and travel medicine in Latin America.

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SPEAKER



Elizabeth Anderson, Ph.D. Associate Professor
Earth and Environment; PI Tropical Rivers Lab;
Fulbright Specialist to Colombia (2015)

Elizabeth Anderson is a freshwater conservation ecologist based at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, FL, where she is Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth & Environment. Her work has a strong conservation focus and involves collaborations with other scientists and those in key water resource management roles. Her research has been supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the Tinker Foundation, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and National Geographic. Dr. Anderson received both undergraduate and PhD (Ecology) degrees from the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, GA, USA. She has since worked for the Organization for Tropical Studies as coordinator of international research and study programs for U.S. and Costa Rican students at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica; and as Conservation Sustainability Director at The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, USA. At Florida International University, she worked with the USAID-funded Global Water for Sustainability Program to support pilot projects for integrated water resources management in South America, East Africa and India, and later was Program Officer for East Africa programs. Between 2013-2016, Dr. Anderson served as the Director of International Research Programs in the School of Environment, Arts and Society at Florida International University. In this post, she built partnership programs with diverse collaborators—other universities, government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector—for conservation of globally important landscapes in the Andean Amazon and East Africa regions.

Dr. Anderson is a three-time recipient of a Fulbright from the U.S. Department of State, including a Fulbright Research Award to Costa Rica in 2001; a Fulbright Scholar Award to Peru in 2014; and a Fulbright Specialist Award to Colombia in 2015.

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PANELIST



Atorod Azizinamini, Ph.D. Professor and Director Moss School of Construction, Infrastructure and Sustainability

Dr. Atorod Azizinamini, is the Vasant Surti Professor of Civil Engineering. He is also the Director of Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center ; Director of Moss School of Construction, Infrastructure, and Sustainability; and the Director of Preeminent Institute for Resilient and Sustainable Coastal Infrastructure at Florida International University. He has led several major multi-disciplinary bridge engineering-related initiatives. He is a founder of two major transportation field organizations: the National Bridge Research Organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Center for Accelerated Bridge Construction at Florida International University.

He has developed several bridge engineering products and systems that are being used nationally and internationally. Among the bridge systems that he has developed are the folded plate steel bridge system, composite systems and simple for dead and continuous for live load system for steel bridges. Under the Second Highway Research Program (SHRP2) R19A, established by U.S. Congress, he led the development of the first and most comprehensive document and devoted to the service life design of concrete and steel bridges.

Dr. Azizinamini was a Distinguished College of Engineering Professor and Director of National Bridge Research Organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, before joining FIU in January of 2011. He has published more than 200 technical publications related to structures and bridge engineering. Additionally, has produced more than 50 graduate students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels. He has also taught more than 40 short courses on the design and construction of super- and sub-structures to practicing bridge professionals.

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PANELIST



Kevin Lothridge, M.S., Executive Director
National Forensic Science Technology Center;
Director, Global Forensic and Justice Center

Mr. Lothridge is a well-respected forensic scientist and business leader with more than 30 years of experience in the international forensic community. His science and technical background, coupled with his business acumen and natural leadership abilities has enabled his rise from drug chemist to laboratory director to executive roles in both the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC@FIU) and Florida International University's preeminent Global Forensic and Justice Center (GFJC). His expertise covers multiple areas of forensic science, including drug and explosive chemistry, fire debris analysis, forensic intelligence, and emerging forensic technologies.

Major accomplishments include:

- Successful management and leadership of grant and contract-funded non-profit through tumultuous times of economic and industry change. Identified opportunities and transitioned business to new Department of Defense services.
- Instituted four new programs as part of the DNA initiative at NIJ, including DNA Capacity Enhancement, Forensic Case DNA Backlog Reduction, Missing Persons, and Solving Cold Cases with DNA
- Promoted the development of an advocacy program as President of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) to help the organization to raise its public profile within the governmental community
- Led the development of the Deployable Forensic Laboratory project for the Department of Defense, which aided wartime forensic investigations worldwide by putting fully-functional forensic laboratories in forward operating positions
- Shepherded organization through the acquisition by FIU, increasing opportunities and business contracts

Mr. Lothridge holds a bachelor's degree in Forensic Science from Eastern Kentucky University and a master's degree in Management from National Louis University. He is currently completing a PhD in Forensic Chemistry at Western Sydney University. He has served as president of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) and is a Fellow with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and was awarded ASCLD's Briggs-White award for excellence in 2015.

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PANELIST



**Nan Hu, Ph.D. Associate Professor
Biostatistics**

Dr. Hu earned his Ph.D in Biostatistics from the University of Washington, School of Public Health in 2010. He was an assistant professor in the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Utah, School of Medicine, and an investigator and biostatistician at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) from 2013 to 2019. Dr. Hu has a broad biostatistics/epidemiology background, with specific training and expertise in the areas of survival analysis, longitudinal analysis, meta-data analysis and analysis of missing data. As the investigator in the Cancer Control and Population Sciences (CCPS) at HCI, he was involved in several clinical trials and cohort studies in breast cancer, myeloma, skin cancer, endometrial cancer and brain cancer. He also developed novel methods in cancer diagnosis and efficacy trials. At HCI, he successfully managed and completed two internal grants as the study PI and study results were published in cancer clinical journals.

Dr. Hu implemented new statistical methodologies in biomarker evaluation with longitudinal and survival outcomes. Collaborating with his colleagues, Dr. Hu developed new statistical methods in time-to-event models with time-varying covariates. As an investigator at the statistical coordinating center for Cardiovascular Health Studies from 2006 to 2008, he managed the heart MRI and clinical data of a large follow-up observational study with 6914 participants. Dr. Hu has participated in 20 NIH-funded projects with a total amount of support over \$25,000,000.

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PANELIST



Yuk-Ching Tse-Dinh, Ph.D., Director
the Biomolecular Sciences Institute; Distinguished
University Professor

Dr. Yuk-Ching Tse-Dinh joined FIU in 2012 as the founding director of the Biomolecular Sciences Institute. She currently holds the position of Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She has more than 30 years of experience as a researcher with funding from government industry, and philanthropy. She has provided leadership for the initiation and growth of the BSI research mission. She has also established the Translational Molecular Discoveries Program, which grew out of BSI as an FIU Emerging Preeminent Program.

Tse-Dinh received her PhD in Biological Chemistry from Harvard University in 1982. She was a Principal Investigator in Central Research and Development at E. I. DuPont before she joined New York Medical College as a faculty in 1988. Her research investigates the structure and function of DNA topoisomerases as the basis of discovery for drug leads to treat cancers and infectious diseases. Professor Tse-Dinh has over one hundred papers published in peer-reviewed biochemistry, molecular biology and microbiology journals. She has served continuously on numerous NIH grant review panels since 1991.

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PANELIST



Alexander Gocso, M.S., Program Coordinator
Jack Gordon Institute for Public Policy

Alexander Gocso is a graduate of Florida International University with a BA in International Relations with certifications in National Security and Latin American Studies. With over 6 years of experience in youth education and programming development, Alexander has devoted most of his work experience to helping and working with youth around the world. Currently, Alexander is getting a master's in global affairs and working as a Program Coordinator for Jack D. Gordon Institute of Public Policy by helping create a new security hub platform that focuses on Issues in Latin America.

His work includes monitoring the status of projects and partnerships to analyze data, develop reports, and perform general oversight. Additionally, he coordinates initiatives, administrative and financial activities, and logistical tasks in order to ensure the successful development of the SRH.

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PANELIST



Stephanie Doscher, Ed.D. Director
Office of Collaborative Online International
Learning

Dr. Doscher leads FIU's Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiative and hosts the Making Global Learning Universal podcast. Doscher is also Program Evaluator for FIU's Title VI-funded Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean National Resource Center, a Faculty Fellow with the Center for Leadership, and was a founding Change Leader for FIU's AshokaU Changemaker Campus initiative. She holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration from FIU, and the global learning rubrics she developed as part of her dissertation are currently being used by educators around the world. Doscher also holds an M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Western Washington University and a B.A. in History from Emory University.

Doscher's work focuses primarily on organizational leadership, professional development, and integrative curricular and co-curricular design to enable global learning for all. Her research interests include teaching and assessment strategies for global learning and the relationship between global learning, comprehensive internationalization, social innovation, and inclusive excellence. She has presented and published papers on these and other topics in numerous international conferences and journals. Selected publications include, "Why the Future is Bright for Internationalization" in University World News, "Universal Global Learning, Inclusive Excellence, and Higher Education's Greater Purpose" in AAC&U's Peer Review; "Defining Global Learning at Florida International University" in AAC&U's Diversity & Democracy; and "Education for Sustainable Human Development: Towards a Definition" in Theory and Research in Education.

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PANELIST



Jose Miguel Cruz, Ph.D., Director of Research
Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean
Center

José Miguel Cruz is the Director of Research at the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) at Florida International University. He is an expert in the areas of criminal violence, gangs, police, democratization, and public opinion in Latin America. He has published over 100 hundred scholarly articles and four books on political culture, violence, and gangs. Some of his work has been published in the Journal of Peace Research, Social Forces, Sociology Quarterly, International Journal of Drug Policy, Latin American Research Review, Perspectives on Politics, and others. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University, a master's degree in public policy from Oxford University, and a degree in psychology from the University of Central America.

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PANELIST & CO-HOST



Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, M.S. Director
Global Strategy and Faculty Success, FIU Global

Birgitta “Gitta” Rausch-Montoto serves as Director of Global Strategy and Faculty Success. Her primary focus is on developing international and intercultural bridges between internal and external partners, implementing operational policies and procedures, and aligning the university’s strategic global efforts with institutional priorities. She currently serves as Chair of the International Travel Committee and administers the Global Business Travel Insurance coverage for employees. In her role as Fulbright Program Campus Liaison, she has supported dozens of faculty with successful award applications, boosting FIU’s overall participation in the program. In addition, since 2014, she has been chairing the university-wide Textbook Affordability Task Force which implements initiatives to ensure college affordability and meet the State’s compliance requirements.

Gitta joined FIU in 2004 as Executive Assistant to the 4th President, Dr. Modesto Maidique. In 2006 she was appointed Chief of Staff in the Office of the Provost, leading the office staff, coordinating the Provost’s standing Deans and Chairs Advisory Councils and Operations Committee meetings, and managing Board of Trustees Academic Policy & Student Affairs committee agendas as well as senior level appointment searches. Between 2009-2015 she assumed the role of Chair of the Commencement Committee and successfully conducted over 80 grand graduation ceremonies.

FIU is Gitta’s two-time alma mater: she earned a Bachelor of Administration with a focus on International Business and a Master of Science in International and Intercultural Education. Before permanently moving to the United States, she was a banker (Bankkauffrau) by training in her native Germany. She is fluent in German, English and Spanish.

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PANELIST



Natalia Rubio Parra, Head of Academic Cooperation
Universidad de los Andes

Mrs. Natalia Rubio Parra currently serves as Head of Academic Cooperation at the Office of International Affairs at Universidad the los Andes (Colombia). She is in charge of the articulation of academic opportunities for national and international cooperation with the creation of new partnerships along with the management of administrative processes, to facilitate student and faculty mobility, as well as the internationalization of research and academic programs. She holds a B.A in Philosophy, minor in German Language and Culture, with fifteen years of experience in management of higher education institutions in the fields of: internationalization, academic cooperation, marketing and recruitment, events organization and communications.

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CO-HOST



Tani Snyder, Coordinator Administrator Services
Office of Regional and World Locations

Tani Snyder serves as the Coordinator Administrator Services for the Office of Regional and World Locations at Florida International University. Her tasks are largely in correlation with FIU Global, assisting in international affairs such as managing the international delegation visits to the FIU campuses, event planning and the Fulbright Program. Her other tasks focus on COMPASS, or the Communication Protocol for Accountability and Strategic Support, an institutional initiative to use data to drive institutional decisions as part of a continuous model of improvement.

Tani holds a BA in International Development from Portland State University and a MS in International and Intercultural Education from FIU. She is currently enrolled in the Curriculum and Instruction PhD program and intends to focus on Refugee Education.

Originally from France, Tani has a great taste for travelling around the world, which she did for two years after graduating from PSU. She is heavily involved in nonprofit work, especially with UNICEF, where she presided the FIU campus initiative which was awarded Best Campus Initiative in the US in 2019.