September Downtown Update

Dear friends,

I can’t believe it’s already the end of September. Hurricane season certainly has kept us all on edge, but I’m happy to report that our work at UCF Downtown has continued nonetheless.

The City of Orlando is working to complete the storm water infrastructure that will allow UCF to begin work on the Dr. Phillips Academic Commons. Work on the foundation of the building is anticipated to begin in late October. At that time, the developer will also begin site work on the privately owned student housing building, which will include space for UCF student services and classrooms. The UCF Parking and Business Services team is working with architects on the design of the new 600-space parking
garage, which will include a campus store and additional campus support services. All facilities continue to move forward toward our fall 2019 opening date.

A New Trailblazing Team

This summer, UCF Downtown established a new team called the “Trailblazers.” Charged with investigating opportunities specific to the programs anticipated to be at the downtown campus in fall 2019, this group is exploring ways to increase each program's prominence and impact. So, who are they and what do they do?

MEET THE TRAILBLAZERS

Finding Synergies and Opportunities
Also assisting the Downtown team is the Urban Innovation and New Media Task Force, which met in late August to explore UCF Downtown’s academic program alignment and structure. Facilitated by “Gert” Garman, we challenged the group to think about opportunities offered by an urban campus, external trends that may affect academic programs downtown, future disciplinary and interdisciplinary trends and connections between programs.

Just this week, the Task Force met again to identify broad social challenges that could be addressed by the first cluster of programs working downtown. Prior to our next meeting on Oct. 11, we will request additional information from program leadership to help identify ways programs would be enhanced by being in an urban setting.

UCF, FAMU Student Studying Together Downtown
Already, UCF is partnering with other institutions downtown. Just five blocks from UCF Downtown is the Orange County Courthouse, a proximity that has Cynthia Schmidt thrilled about the anticipation of holding classes in the Dr. Phillips Academic Commons in fall 2019.

In fact, Schmidt, lecturer and director of UCF’s Center for Law and Policy in the Department of Legal Studies, is working with a select group of UCF students, co-teaching “The Killing of Trayvon Martin – Legal and Social Perspectives on the Civil Rights Implications for American Criminal Justice” at FAMU College of Law with Dean LeRoy Pernell.

Increased Security at the Center for Emerging Media

Safety continues to be UCF’s top priority, and since the start of the fall semester, increased security has been added at the Center for Emerging Media. UCF Police Department Lieutenant Christine Gigicos recently addressed safety at the growing campus.

We thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support of UCF Downtown, and hope to see you on campus soon!
Questions?

You can reach us at ucfdowntown@ucf.edu.