Through research and instruction, we are improving society by preparing the people we serve to be lifelong learners with the necessary skills for the careers of the future. With well-prepared teachers, students will have access to computer science (CS) education that teaches vital skills, including logical thinking and creative problem solving. Maya Israel, Ph.D., is leading a team to close the CS skill gap in pre- and in-service teacher education. Through CSEveryone, her team is preparing teachers to incorporate CS education into their lessons — regardless of their subject area expertise. Funded by the Kenneth C. Griffin CS Education for All Initiative, they are developing a model for CS education to be used around the world.

To improve the quality of education through personalization, assessment and increased student engagement, our researchers are exploring artificial intelligence. Our team is working with global experts and industry partners to shape the future of education. This year, our Transformative Faculty, the annual award for high-impact achievements, recognized leaders from our institution and the broader university, along with prominent CS professionals. For a virtual AI in Education Workshop, we engaged with people from more than 40 countries, including leaders from the World Bank, UNESCO and the United Nations. These researchers are shaping the future of education. This year, Seyedahmad Rahimi, Ph.D., convened leaders from NSF institutes and top-tier universities along with prominent CS professionals for a virtual AI in Education Workshop. We engaged with people from more than 40 countries who learned about AI theory, ethics and education — and how Khan Academy, Duolingo and ASSISTments already utilize this technology. Our applied solutions will transform the way we teach and learn.

Putting theory into practice, the college’s E-Learning, Technology and Communications department is partnering with the UF College of Medicine on the AI-enabled Quality & Patient Safety initiative. Our instructional design experts are providing sound pedagogical foundations for online workforce development and training. Through this initiative, we are preparing our professionals to enable AI to improve health-care efficiency and effectiveness worldwide.

Our faculty will share their expertise and vision for the future when UF hosts the first CS Education State Summit, bringing together key stakeholders in CS education.

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A MESSAGE FROM
DEAN GLENN GOOD

The future is now. Embedded in the daily life of UF, we are not waiting for change to happen to us. Our faculty experts are actively seeking new opportunities and creative solutions that will shape the future of education — the lives of all who care to connect with our graduates. From more prepared researchers and professionals, to an equally captivating and more changing world.

Motivated by infinite potential on the horizon, we remain deeply committed to our roots: teacher preparation to research and beyond, we are rapidly adapting with our ever-changing world. This will shape the future of education — and the lives of all who come in contact with our graduates. From

The future is here, innovation is the only option. At the University of Florida, we’re not waiting for change to happen. We are creating it. We are forging solid foundations for early childhood education to improve health, development, learning and well-being. New Worlds Reading Initiative, a partnership between the Lastinger Center for Learning and the Florida Department of Education, completed its second school year supporting students not yet reading grade level. As of June 30, more than 3.87 million books have been delivered in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and English Braille, helping to build the family libraries of over 259,000 students across Florida.

LEADERSHIP
IMPROVING WELLNESS AND RESILIENCY IN SCHOOLS

The newly established Prevention and Intervention Network (PIN) Center for Youth, Families, Schools, and Communities is an on-going collaboration among educators, policymakers, and others dedicated to making a difference in children’s lives and well-being. Led by Joni Splett, the center is working to provide Florida’s students with the tools they need to succeed, and their families with the resources they need to support them.

The Education Policy Research Center, led by Prof. Chris Gunter, Ph.D., continues to partner with the non-profit- School 4 Kids UAE to help students. After conducting stakeholder interviews across Florida, the team compiled the state’s most comprehensive publicly accessible school safety data ever released in Florida, the team compiled the state’s most comprehensive publicly accessible school safety data ever released. This data is now being used by policymakers across the state to make data-informed decisions to improve supports and services for Florida’s children and families with interactive maps that show trends and patterns. The Sunshine State Early Childhood Information Portal is a centralized data system that combines information from key sectors about early childhood education across the state of Florida. This tool is used by policymakers to make data-informed decisions to improve supports and services for Florida’s children and families.

The recently established Lastinger Center for Learning, led by F. Chris Curran, Ph.D., continues to partner with the non-profit- Scholastic, and UF Literacy Institute, led by Prof. Forrest Feistritzer, Ph.D., continues to partner with the non-profit- UFLI Foundations to make computer-based STEM learning more equitable and inclusive. The team to develop scalable AI-augmented teachable agents with aims of doubling the rate of middle school math progress for low-income students. In the context of the Learning Engineering Virtual Institute (INVITE). Through the institute, UF researchers will study how AI can be used to identify children at risk of developing mental health disorders and provide targeted interventions to support their learning.

Young children and families are making a transformative impact nationwide. They are partnering with the states like the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to improve outcomes for young children and families. AIR is a leading non-partisan, non-profit think tank that helps leaders in government, business, and civil society solve complex problems and create solutions to the nation’s most pressing challenges. AIR’s cutting-edge research and data-driven insights help policymakers and practitioners make informed decisions to improve supports and services for children and families.

STEUDENT SUCCESS
ADVANCING LITERACY IN HOMES AND CLASSROOMS

Guided by the motto “for teachers, by teachers, with teachers,” the UF Literacy Institute’s New Worlds Reading Initiative is improving literacy outcomes for children across Florida. Lastinger Center for Learning, led by Dr. Joni Splett, Ph.D., continues to partner with the non-profit- Scholastic, and UF Literacy Institute, led by Prof. Forrest Feistritzer, Ph.D., continues to partner with the non-profit- UFLI Foundations to make computer-based STEM learning more equitable and inclusive.

Innovative virtual reality (VR) technology can be an empowering learning tool for people with autism. Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies researchers from the University of Florida and Northeastern University are working in collaboration to build immersive virtual reality experiences for reaching real-world social scenarios. By creating embodied experiences where people can practice their social skills and reactions to sensory stimuli, Newbutt is providing the research foundation for job training programs, independent living and more.

EDUCATOR ACCOLADES

Natalie S. King, Ph.D. (M.S. ‘16, Ph.D. ‘20)
Larry Kubiak, Ph.D. (Ed.S. ’76, Ph.D. ’87)
Priscilla Zelaya, Ph.D. (B.A.E. ’11, M.Ed. ’12)
Jessica Thomas (M.Ed. ’16)
Alicia Lasaga (M.Ed. ’17)
Larry Kubiak, Ph.D. (Ed.S. ’76, Ph.D. ’87)
Dr. Priscilla Zelaya
Joni Splett, Ph.D.
Wanli Xing, Ph.D.
Nigel Newbutt
Anita Zucker
Larry Kubiak, Ph.D.
Alicia Lasaga (M.Ed. ’17)
Matthew Anderson

TECHNOLOGY
BOLDLY PUSHING ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION FORWARD

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EARLY CHILDHOOD
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH RESEARCH

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