

Press Release

\$2 Million Gift Enables FGCU To Establish The Lucas Center for Faculty Development

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FORT MYERS, Fla. -- Florida Gulf Coast University President Wilson Bradshaw has announced a pledge of \$2 million by David Lucas that will establish The Lucas Center for Faculty Development at Florida Gulf Coast University. The Center will transform the university's Teaching, Learning and Assessment Initiative by expanding training and mentoring opportunities for faculty throughout their teaching careers. This commitment to faculty development will assist the university in its continued growth in academic excellence within the classroom, leading to student success and better learning outcomes.

"I have been involved with FGCU since before the university opened its doors," said Mr. Lucas, "and have always been interested in supporting education. In thinking about how I might continue my support of FGCU, the idea of playing a part in helping faculty improve their teaching skills resonated with me. It was an easy decision to make."

"We are honored once again to be the beneficiary of David Lucas' generosity to the University," said President Wilson Bradshaw. "This transformative gift will support our faculty and students in the teaching-learning process, the heart of what we do at FGCU."

The Lucas Center for Faculty Development will focus on offering faculty training in a range of areas: instructional design, classroom management, learning theory, assessment, and teaching techniques. It also will expand the training offered so that it will be relevant to all stages in a faculty member's teaching career.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Toll created the current Teaching, Learning and Assessment Initiative, with the long-term goal of establishing a center dedicated to faculty development.

"Through this tremendous gift, our faculty will have the benefit of a full range of resources in support of their instructional roles," said Dr. Toll. "Development opportunities are essential in order to assist new faculty as they begin their careers, as well as for experienced faculty as they strive for continuous improvement. Of course, the ultimate beneficiaries of Mr. Lucas' generosity are our students, whose superb academic experiences at FGCU will rival the top universities in the state and across the nation."

Linda Serro, professor of Literacy and the director of the new Center says that Mr. Lucas' gift will give FGCU the opportunity to explore creative ways to enhance the classroom work of faculty as the university continues to be a center of teaching excellence.

"This generous gift from Mr. Lucas will allow us to support and expand the excellent teaching that takes place in many of our classes and significantly support our newest faculty colleagues as they develop their teaching expertise," she said. "His gift is a wonderful statement of his belief in our university's mission and Mr. Lucas' vision to impact all of our students through quality

teaching."

Mr. Lucas has an extensive history with FGCU. He was a founding member of the FGCU Board of Trustees, and serves on the FGCU Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Lucas and his wife Linda are strong advocates for the university and generous donors in supporting the university and its many programs and initiatives.

For more information, contact Dr. Ron Toll at rtoll@fgcu.edu.