Florida Gulf Coast University

Practitioner Instructor Program

The U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering Practitioner Instructor Program (PI or \(\pi\)) will enhance students' educational experiences by appointing seasoned professionals from relevant fields to teach and mentor the next generation of engineers and designers.

For the Students

PI Program instructors, who will hold the title of “Professor of Practice,” will bring extensive professional experience into the classroom. These new faculty will introduce the newest methods and techniques used in the field. They will discuss the latest issues confronting their various disciplines and bring to the classroom real-world examples of some of the most challenging problems and opportunities in modern professional practice.

The PI Program will make FGCU’s students even more valuable to potential employers. FGCU students will not only have the strong core knowledge and skills gained through the current FGCU engineering curricula, but they will also be equipped with the wisdom and experience of top-caliber PI Program Professors of Practice.

Our full-time engineering faculty will also benefit significantly from their interactions with veteran Professors of Practice.

For more Information

To learn more about the program or funding opportunities, please contact:

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Florida Gulf Coast University is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.
Making PI a Reality

Any contribution you make will bring the unique FGCU engineering PI Program closer to fruition. Individuals, companies and organizations may wish to consider the following levels of investment:

$15,000 – PI Program Associate
- Acknowledgement in FGCU’s Pinnacle magazine
- Name of donor added to the acknowledgement plaque in Holmes Hall
- Name of donor on the PI Program web page

$30,000 – PI Program Partner
- All Associate-level benefits
- Personalized thank-you plaque for donor’s office or home
- Name of donor and logo on PI Program web page

$60,000 – PI Program Principal
- All Partner-level benefits
- Name of donor logo and hyperlink to company’s homepage on PI Program web page

$300,000 – Named PI Program Instructor
- All Principal-level benefits
- Creation of a permanent, donor-named PI Program Professor of Practice position, as well as the first right each year to nominate a candidate to be appointed to that position during the upcoming academic year

$3.14 million - PI Program Benefactor
- Entire PI Program named in donor’s honor
- Permanent recognition of donor’s legacy

The Goal

Inspired by the numerical value of pi, the college is looking to raise a minimum of $3.14 million to establish the Practitioner Instructor Program Endowment for the Florida Gulf Coast University U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering. A portion of the annual interest from the endowment’s principal will be used to bring exceptionally qualified mid- to senior-level professionals to campus to teach selected courses in engineering, business, design and other related fields.

As an endowed program, the PI Program will be a permanent enhancement to the already highly regarded FGCU College of Engineering. It is anticipated that the PI Program will support a minimum of 10 full-semester courses taught by the Professors of Practice each academic year.

Interest from the endowment will provide support for the other special aspects of the PI Program, including field trips, guest lecturers, instructor travel expenses, state-of-the-art instructional equipment, course materials and other course-related enhancements.

Courses taught within the PI Program will be first-class offerings, which will enable FGCU students to enter, and succeed in, the real world. The College of Engineering PI Program could serve as a model of synergistic interaction between academia and successful professional practice.

PI Program Summary
- Permanent annual enhancements to all engineering programs
- Renowned practitioners teaching full FGCU courses
- Benefits to FGCU students and full-time faculty
- Model of synergistic interaction between academia and professional practice
- Mark of distinction for FGCU