

19th Annual Florida International Leadership Conference



April 4th – 6th, 2025
Camp Geneva
Fruitland Park, FL

Sparkling Global Change Under the Stars



Schedule

Friday

12:00pm – 2:00pm	Arrival and Check in	Hideaway Lodge
2:30pm – 3:15pm	Peer Leader Meeting	Pavilion
	Advisor Speed Meeting	Lodge
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Team Building Activity	Sports Field
4:45pm – 5:30pm	Video Contest – School Prep Meeting Time	
5:45pm – 6:00pm	Welcome	Dining Hall
6:00pm – 7:15pm	Dinner	Dining Hall

Keynote Address. 7:45pm – 8:45pm

Agents of Change: Approaching Leadership with Action and Awareness

As emerging and active leaders, developing and maintaining emotional intelligence (EI) into leadership and management styles can both increase success and build intrapersonal wellness in complex communicative environments. After a brief overview of EI development, and some tips for continued growth, we will engage in a discussion of “Activist Typologies” that will help decode and determine not only what change agency can look like, but how transformational leaders empower themselves and their team to avoid performative action and engage in meaningful strategies. Finally, we will discuss the science behind burnout, and some tools for self-management in the midst of doing work that doesn't have an accessible or definable endpoint.

*Dr. Michelle
Dusseau,
University of
Central Florida*

Lodge

9:00pm – 11:30pm	Bonfire	Hideaway Bonfire Pit
	Glow Sports	Sports Field
	Coffee House	Classroom A

Cabin Quiet Hours: 11:30pm – 7:30am

*If you are in your cabin between these hours, please be mindful of others and keep noise to a minimum

Schedule

Saturday

8:00am – 8:50am	Breakfast Remember to wear your FILC shirt!	Dining Hall
9:00am – 10:15am	Guest Speakers Address: Finding Your True Colors Ariel Ortiz and Kelly Poppen, Advisors <i>Florida International University</i>	Lodge
Breakout Session I 10:30am – 11:30am		
MARKETING YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES <p>Ready to showcase your global experiences? This workshop will help you translate your international experiences into valuable career assets. You'll learn how to highlight the skills you've gained and craft job application materials that make you stand out to employers. By focusing on your global experiences and leadership potential, this session will help you confidently position yourself as a global leader ready to succeed in any professional setting.</p>		Classroom A Emma Frierson & Taylor Bryla <i>University of Florida</i>
TALK, CONNECT, LEAD: THE POWER OF LANGUAGE EXCHANGE <p>This session will introduce the audience to Global Talk, a dynamic weekly event that brings students from diverse backgrounds together to share their languages and cultures in an interactive setting. We will showcase videos highlighting past sessions and invite two students—a U.S. honors student and an international student—to share their personal experiences. We will conduct a short demonstration, teaching the audience a few words in Basque through a game, allowing participants to experience how Global Talk sessions work.</p>		Classroom B Anayet Etxegibel Reizu, Elizabeth Beyer, & Kenneth Garcia <i>University of West Florida</i>
BRIDGING CULTURES: EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND ENRICHING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES <p>This session will be based on my personal experiences as an international student and my journey becoming an educator in the American public education system. There will be tidbits about making friends and assimilations to the new culture based on my personal experience as an international student at Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College. This session will enable participants to share their own cross-cultural experiences such as cultural shock, language barriers, and traditions to gain a better understanding of the unique perspectives, experiences, and values that contribute to the richness of academic and social environments.</p>		Lodge Paula Chen <i>Seminole County Schools</i>
11:40am – 12:15pm	Group & School Photos	Lakeside
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch	Dining Hall

Saturday (continued)

Breakout Session II 1:30pm – 2:30pm

LANGUAGE STUDY OVERSEAS (FOR FREE!): THE CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

Come to learn about the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship, a prestigious award that fully funds eight weeks of international travel and intensive language study. The CLS program is acclaimed for the language gains seen by its awardees and best known for a strict language pledge that requires awardees speak only their target language for the length of the program. Former program awardee, Amanda Yeargin, will share her alumni insight to help participants craft a compelling application. **Note: only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply. **

Classroom A

Amanda Yeargin
Valencia College

SOCIAL RESEARCH AS RESISTANCE: KESRF AND THE FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

This session will explore how social research can function as a form of resistance against dominant narratives and structures of knowledge production, with a view to driving social change. It will focus on the Kendrobimukhi Emerging Social Researchers’ Fund (KESRF)—a pioneering initiative that provides competitive research funding, mentorship, and a structured evaluation process for undergraduate social science students in Bangladesh, but the discussion will extend beyond Bangladesh through inviting participants to think about how similar models could be adapted to different contexts. Participants will engage in conversations about how funding, mentorship, and institutional support can shape the future of social research and its role in addressing real-world socio-political challenges.

Classroom B

Mashaekh Hassan
Florida Atlantic University

PATHWAYS TO PEACE: STORYTELLING TOOLS AND GLOBAL MODELS TO LEAD WITH CURIOSITY, BOOST COLLABORATION AND SUSTAIN ENGAGEMENT

Join the conversation and expand your capacity as a leader, as we embrace curiosity and explore what is possible through the example of global youth leaders and Nobel Peace Prize winners collaborating for positive, sustainable change across 171 countries. Learn how you can engage storytelling to amplify your why, build your campus or community team, and foster sustainable futures. More than 1.5 million youth like you have used these tools to initiate more than 120 million acts of peace in hyper-local and global contexts. Now it is your turn. What story spark will you set in motion this weekend

Lodge

Bridgid Shannon
Center for Leadership and Service, Florida State University

Saturday (continued)

Breakout Session III 2:45pm – 3:45pm

THE MARSHMALLOW TOWER CHALLENGE

This interactive session will engage participants in the Marshmallow Tower Challenge, a hands-on team-building activity designed to foster leadership, collaboration, and cross-cultural communication. Participants will be placed in diverse teams and given a set of materials to construct the tallest free-standing tower with a marshmallow at the top. The challenge encourages problem-solving, adaptability, and teamwork, all essential skills for global leaders

Classroom A

Ana Chaviano &
Ariel Ortiz

Florida
International
University

LIVING BETWEEN CULTURES: A JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, AND INCLUSION

Culture shapes how we perceive the world, interact with others, and navigate daily life. This session will explore key cultural differences and similarities between Eastern and Western societies, highlighting how these differences influence social norms, communication styles, and daily experiences. We will delve into topics such as punctuality, accessibility to essential services, governance structures, and interpersonal relationships. Additionally, we will explore how global festivals, traditions, and values reflect a shared human experience despite regional differences. Through engaging discussions, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity, fostering mutual respect and understanding

Classroom B

Sushil Chapai,
Nitin Chityala, &
Milad
Gholamifard

Florida Atlantic
University

HOW TO DEVELOP TRUST OF THE WORKFORCE: WHAT YOU SAY IS WHAT YOU GET

The most important part of communication is understanding. In this workshop, participants will develop their personal leadership philosophy and their life mission statement. They will learn the significant impact arming their team with this knowledge can have on the success of the organization

Lodge

Gregg Mays

Agape Leaders

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Free Time

4:30pm-5:30pm

Advisor Networking Meeting

Lodge

6:00pm –
7:15pm

Dinner

Dining Hall

7:30pm –
8:45pm

Elevator Pitch Competition

Lodge

9:00pm –
11:30pm

Dance Party

Auditorium

Coffee House

Classroom A

Cabin Quiet Hours: 11:30pm – 7:30am

*If you are in your cabin between these hours, please be mindful of others and keep noise to a minimum

Schedule

Sunday

8:00am – 8:50am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
9:00am – 10:15am	Where Do We Go From Here? Peer Leader Activity	Lodge
10:15am – 11:00am	Closing and Awards Ceremony	Lodge
11:30am – 12:00pm	Pack & Clean	Check-out at the Lodge

Participating Schools

College of Central Florida	Ringling College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Santa Fe College
Florida Atlantic University	St Petersburg College
Florida International University	University of Central Florida
Florida State College at Jacksonville	University of Florida
Florida State University	University of West Florida
Hillsborough Community College	URBE University
Indian River State College	Valencia College

Peer Leaders

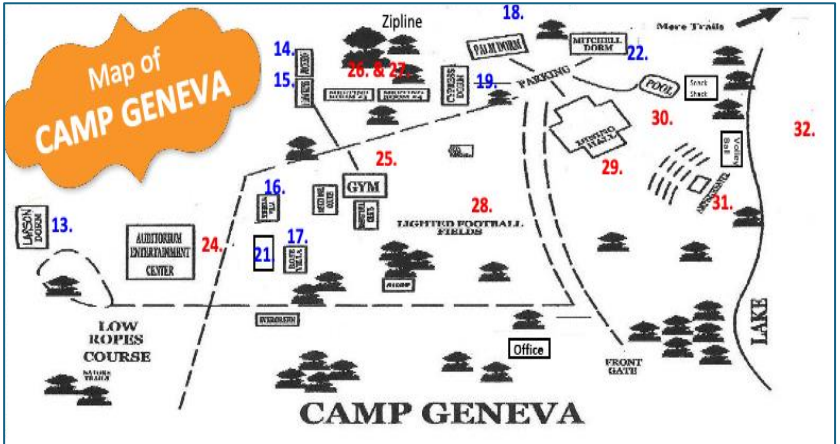
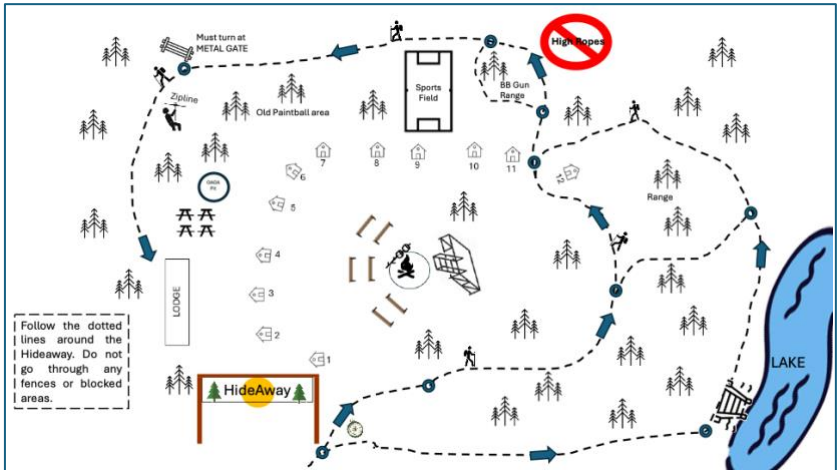
Rithika Nagarajan	ERAU	Singapore
Travante Miller	SPC	Bahamas
Desmonique Miller	SPC	Bahamas
Mohammad Shehroz Ashraf	FAU	Pakistan
Quyen "CC" Nguyen	FSCJ	Vietnam
Rutveek Ingawale	ERAU	India
Natasha Counts	UF	United States
Justin Sumba	IRSC	United States
Annie Lee	FSCJ	China
Jesy DeSosa	UCF	United States

FILC 2025 Committees

Acting Coordinator	Betty Jensen	FSU
Registrar	Laura Pitois	FSCJ
Session Proposal Coordinator	Betty Jensen	FSU
Peer Leader Coordinator	Laura Pitois	FSCJ
Team Building Coordinators	Anayet Etxegibel Riezu	UWF
	Olivia Gardner	UWF
Coffee/Tea House Coordinators	Angela Cole	SPC
	Tyoni Stewart	IRSC
	Shelby Luciani	FAU
	Melinda Avila	FAU
Bonfire/Glow Sports Coordinators	Emma Frierson	UF
	Taylor Bryla	UF
Dance Coordinators	Kenia Pimentel	VC
	Gabriella Giraldo	ERAU
	Tatiana Velasco Bruno	SFC
	Marina Jordan	SFC
Photography	Rachel Garvey	FSU
	Annie Wilson	FSU
Publications Coordinator	Christine Voigt	UF
Advisor Networking	Kelly Poppen	FIU
	Christine Voigt	UF
Elevator Pitch Coordinators	Amanda Yeargin	VC
	Ana Chaviano	FIU

Notes

Maps



Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors!



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
Division of Student Affairs

Betty Jensen

Angelica Rodriguez Jimenez