

# Florida International Leadership Conference



**FILC**

MARCH 27-29, 2026

CAMP GENEVA

FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA



# SCHEDULE

## Friday

12:00 pm- 2:00 pm	Arrival and Check-In	Hideway Lodge
2:30 pm- 3:15 pm	Peer Leader Meeting	Pavillion
	Advisor Speed Meeting	Lodge
3:30 pm- 4:30 pm	Team Building Activity	Sports Field
4:45 pm- 5:45 pm	Scavenger Hunt	Lodge
6:00 pm- 7:00 pm	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:30 pm- 7:45 pm	Welcome	Lodge
7:45 pm- 8:45 pm	Keynote Address	Lodge
	<b>Leadership Without Borders: The Animal in You</b> <b>Kelly Poppen   Florida International University</b>	
	<p>In this interactive keynote, students will explore how culture shapes leadership styles, communication, and teamwork across the world. As global environments increasingly bring together people with different perspectives, experiences, and cultural approaches, understanding how to collaborate effectively across cultural differences is an essential leadership skill. Through reflection, discussion, and a fun animal-style leadership activity, participants will discover their own unique leadership strengths. Students will leave with a deeper understanding of their leadership potential and greater confidence in using their strengths to lead in academic, professional, and global settings.</p>	
9:00 pm- 11:30 pm	Bonfire	Hideaway Fire Pit
	Karaoke	Classroom B
	Coffee House	Classroom A

Cabin Quiet Hours: 11:30 am-7 am

# Saturday Schedule

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8:00 am- 8:50 am	Breakfast Remember to wear your FILC shirt!	Dining Hall
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9:00 am- 10:15 am	Guest Speaker Address: Finding Your True Colors Ariel Ortiz & Isaac Benavides, Florida International University	Lodge
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10:20 am- 10:45 am	Group & School Photos No hats, jackets, or sunglasses in the group photo	Lakeside
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## Breakout Session I, 10:50 am-11:50 am

### THE MARSHMALLOW TOWER CHALLENGE

This interactive session engages participants in the Marshmallow Tower Challenge, a hands-on activity focused on leadership, collaboration, and cross-cultural communication. Participants will work in teams to build the tallest marshmallow-topped free-standing tower. Students will experience how leadership styles emerge, how decisions are made under pressure, and how cultural perspectives influence teamwork. A guided reflection will follow to allow participants to discuss leadership approaches, communication styles, and global collaboration. This session is ideal for international and study abroad students looking to strengthen leadership skills.

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### LEADING BEYOND BORDERS: HOW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SHAPES GLOBAL LEADERS

This session discusses how international students learn leadership by leading in different cultures. Using my leadership experience in Ghana and the US, I will share how culture affects leadership, communication, and identity. Participants will learn how leading across cultures builds confidence, understanding, and global leadership skills. This session is for international students, student leaders, and educators to learn more about leadership across cultures.

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### LEADING ACROSS CULTURES: FROM DIFFERENCES TO STRENGTHS

Collaboration across cultures is essential in today's academic and professional environments, yet differences in communication styles, hierarchy, and teamwork expectations often create tension in group settings. This interactive session explores how cultural values influence participation, decision-making, and conflict resolution in diverse teams. Through guided activities, reflection, and a multicultural case study, participants will examine common intercultural barriers and discover practical strategies to navigate them effectively. Attendees will leave with tools to transform cultural differences into collaborative strengths and build more inclusive, respectful, and high-performing team environments.

### Lodge

Ana Chaviano &  
Ariel Ortiz

Florida  
International University

### Classroom A

Vera Akyaa Darko

Florida International  
University

### Classroom B

Sakshi Maurya  
Deepak Bastola  
Niamot Ali Md

Florida Atlantic  
University

# Saturday Schedule (continued)

12:00pm-  
1:00 pm

Lunch

Dining Hall

## Breakout Session II, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm

### **LEADERSHIP IDENTITY MAPPING: DISCOVER YOUR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUPERPOWERS**

In this fully interactive session, students will explore how their cultural background, language, experiences, and values shape their leadership identity. We will create a visual "Leadership Identity Map," share stories, and uncover strengths that students already possess but may not recognize as leadership assets. This session is especially valuable for students who may underestimate how much leadership they've already practiced by navigating multiple cultures and engaging in intercultural activities.

### **Lodge**

Christine Voigt  
University of Florida

### **MARKETING YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

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.

### **Classroom A**

Emma Frierson  
Emma Stetter  
University of Florida

### **AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE SEMESTER: HOW STUDENT-LED ACTIVITIES FOSTER A GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

Although staff involvement is critical in a thriving global community, activities designed and hosted by students allow for a much more engaging experience. This session will outline the different student-led initiatives at the University of West Florida that promote cultural exchange and empower students to become leaders on campus. Participants will engage in various activities and discussions inspired by these initiatives to build connections and discover how to implement these activities at their own institutions.

### **Classroom B**

Elizabeth Beyer  
Damien Cruikshank  
Edi Narvaez  
Moncada  
University of Florida

# Saturday Schedule (continued)

## Breakout Session III, 2:45 pm-3:45 pm

### CROSS CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

The purpose of this session is to help participants understand how to lead in a cross-cultural environment. Dr. Mays will use the benefit of his twenty-one-year military career during which he worked directly with military service members from South Korea, Belgium, Turkey, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, England, and Canada among others. The presentation style will be a discussion followed by an interactive activity.

### Lodge

Gregg Mays

Agape Leaders

### YOU'RE HERE... NOW WHAT? NAVIGATING LIFE AWAY FROM HOME

Life in the U.S. doesn't come with a handbook. This session helps international students understand the systems, resources, and support available to them – including health insurance, healthcare access, and student services – so they can focus on thriving both academically and personally. The session will include honest, welcoming conversation for international students about navigating life in the U.S. Topics include insurance, healthcare, and everyday realities – shared in a way that's easy to understand, relatable, and designed to support students during their journey.

### Classroom A

Mohamed Farag

Alliant Insurance Services- ISP

### PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY FOR HUMANISTIC LEADERSHIP

This session introduces a little-known yet fundamental topic that invites students and advisors to think more deeply about leadership. It explores how philosophy can be applied in practical ways to cultivate a form of leadership rooted in the deepest aspects of human identity. The session focuses on four universal philosophical values- truth, beauty, goodness, and unity- and demonstrates how consciously integrating these values into daily life can strengthen ethical leadership. Participants will learn simple, actionable ways to practice these values and enhance their capacity to lead with purpose and humanity.

### Classroom B

Cristian Medina

Valencia College

4:00 pm-	Free Time: Lakefront/Ziplining	Varies
5:30 pm	Advisor Meeting	Lodge
6:00 pm-	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:00 pm		
7:15 pm-	Elevator Pitch Competition	Lodge
8:45 pm		
9:00 pm-	Dance Party	Gymnasium
11:30 pm	Coffee House	Classroom A
	Bonfire	Hideaway Fire Pit

Cabin Quiet Hours: 11:30 pm- 7:00 am

# Schedule Sunday

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8:00 am- 8:50 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
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9:00 am- 10:15 am	Where Do We Go From Here? Peer Leader Activity	Gymnasium
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10:15 am- 11:00 am	Closing and Awards Ceremony	Lodge
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## Participating Schools

College of Central Florida	St Petersburg College
Florida Atlantic University	University of Central Florida
Florida International University	University of Florida
Florida State College at Jacksonville	University of West Florida
Florida State University	Valencia College
Hillsborough Community College	Santa Fe College

## Peer Leaders

Hanaa Zarak	FSCJ
Htet Oo Khin	FSCJ
Elizabeth Beyer	UWF
Kenneth Garcia	UWF
Damien Cruikshank	UWF
Cristian Medina	Valencia
Paula Alvarado	Valencia
Mashaekh Hassan	FAU
Sabira Pathan	FAU
Daniel Moreira	UCF
Claudia Gil Robles	FIU

# FILC 2026 Committees

Dance	Christine Voigt, Marina Jordan, & Tatiana Velasco
Bonfire	Emma Frierson & Emma Setter
Karaoke	Cindy Robinson-White
Team Building	Olivia Gardner & Nicolas Mielke
Coffee House	Melinda Avila & Dalila Sanchez
Photography	Darinda Reddick
Advisor Activities	Kelly Poppen
Elevator Pitch	Olivia Gardner, Mohamed Farag, Katelyn James, Betty Jensen
Session Proposals	Ana Chaviano
Peer Leaders	Michael Herrero
Ziplining	Darinda Reddick
Waterfront	Emma Frierson & Emma Setter

## Special Thanks



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS

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CAMP GENEVA

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