Welcome to the 19th Annual Federal Government Statewide Conference!

As Chair of this year’s Federal Government Conference Planning Committee, I am deeply honored to extend a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests, federal agency representatives, career professionals, students, and alumni. This annual event represents a cornerstone of our commitment to fostering a collaborative environment where knowledge, opportunities, and networks converge to empower the next generation of federal employees.

Our mission to bring together federal agencies, students, alumni, and community stakeholders for this conference remains both a priority and a privilege. We are incredibly fortunate to have a diverse lineup of speakers and panelists who bring a wealth of experience and expertise. Their participation underscores the commitment of these agencies to invest in and support emerging talent.

The conference planning committee and the Career and Talent Development team have worked tirelessly to curate a program that is not only informative but also inspiring. We encourage our students, alumni, and career development colleagues to lean into their curiosity, ask questions, and make the most of every opportunity to engage with our federal agency guests. Networking is a key component of this conference, and we hope you will take full advantage of the chance to connect with professionals who can provide guidance and support as you pursue your career aspirations.

The success of this conference is due in no small part to the dedication and support of the federal agency representatives who are here today. On behalf of the planning committee, I extend our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support of FIU, its students and alumni, and the local community participants attending the conference. The federal government plays a crucial role in shaping the policies and programs that affect the lives of millions of Americans. By fostering a pipeline of talented and dedicated individuals into federal service, we are contributing to the development of a more effective and responsive government. The connections made and the knowledge gained during this conference will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the careers of our participants and the agencies they will one day serve.

To our students and alumni, I encourage you to approach this conference with an open mind and a willingness to learn. The insights you gain and the relationships you build here will be invaluable as you navigate your professional journey.

To our career professionals and federal representatives, thank you for your commitment to supporting the next generation of federal employees. Your expertise, mentorship, and willingness to engage with our participants are what make this conference a truly unique and impactful experience. Your presence here is a testament to the importance of collaboration and the shared goal of strengthening our federal workforce.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in making this conference a success. From the planning committee and the Career and Talent Development team to the federal agency representatives and participants, your collective efforts and enthusiasm are what make this event possible.

Welcome once again to the 19th Annual Federal Government Statewide Conference. Let’s make this a memorable and impactful experience for all.

Adriana Pinera-Cruz
Federal Statewide Conference Chair
Florida International University
As IRS’s Human Capital Officer, he provided executive leadership and direction to nearly 2,000 professionals to manage recruitment, hiring, employee development, retention, performance management, payroll, employee services, workforce relations, employee engagement, and recognition programs for more than 80,000 IRS employees.

Prior to IRS, Bailey served as Southeast Regional Administrator with the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in Atlanta, Georgia. He provided executive leadership to orchestrate the execution of all 15 federal nutrition assistance programs that provided more than $25 billion in benefits each year through cooperating state agencies.

Prior to this position, he served as the FNS Deputy Administrator for Management and Information Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, where he provided executive oversight of information technology, human resources, contract management, and logistics and facility services. Prior to FNS, he served as Director of Human Resources Management at the U.S. Forest Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he led more than 600 staff who provided human resources management policy and operational services for nearly 50,000 employees.

Bailey is an Air Force veteran and served as an Air Force civilian in a wide range of leadership positions, including the Civilian Deputy and Staff Director to the 96th Air Base Wing Commander at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. In this role he co-led more than 5,000 service members in providing essential base operating support and services for more than 20,000 personnel and family dependents, six wings, and 50 associate units.

Bailey holds an undergraduate degree from Park College (now Park University), in Parkville, Missouri, and a Master of Arts degree in communications from the University of Oklahoma.

Robin D. Bailey Jr., MA
Chief Operating Officer
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Vladimir Díaz has made it his mission to serve the American people throughout his distinguished career in the Federal Government. With a deep commitment to public service, he has dedicated himself to advancing key initiatives and fostering positive change within various governmental agencies.

As a recognized subject matter expert on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), as well as marketing and communications, Vladimir has leveraged his expertise to drive impactful programs and policies. His career spans notable roles at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Commerce. In each of these positions, he has championed DEI initiatives, ensuring that the principles of fairness and representation are integral to the operations of these critical institutions.

Vladimir’s contributions have not gone unnoticed. His exceptional work has garnered accolades from the White House, Congress, and the Federal Executive Board, underscoring his influence and dedication to public service. These recognitions reflect his unwavering commitment to improving government functions and promoting inclusive practices.

His academic background is equally impressive. Vladimir earned a master’s degree in marketing from Johns Hopkins University, equipping him with advanced knowledge and skills that have been instrumental in his professional achievements. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in management from the State University of New York, laying a solid foundation for his career in public administration and leadership.

As a first-generation college graduate, Vladimir takes immense pride in his educational journey. He understands the transformative power of education and is passionate about sharing his knowledge and experiences with others. Vladimir loves educating people on how to harness their talents and skills to pursue fulfilling careers in public service. His dedication to mentoring and empowering others reflects his belief in the potential of every individual to contribute meaningfully to society.

Throughout his career, Vladimir Díaz has exemplified the values of service, inclusivity, and excellence. His ongoing efforts continue to inspire and make a significant impact on the lives of many, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to serving the American people.
CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH | GC BALLROOMS

9:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.
Check-In
Please Arrive Promptly

9:30 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.
Conference Welcome Opening
Speaker: Anthony Rionda
Associate Vice President, Strategic Communications, Government and External Affairs

9:50 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.
Keynote Speaker
Speaker: Robin D. Bailey Jr., MA
Chief Operating Officer
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Intro: Anthony Rionda,
Associate Vice President,
Strategic Communications, Government and External Affairs

10:45 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.
Success Story and Navigating usajobs.gov
Speaker: Vladimir Diaz,
Community Relations Officer,
Homeland Security Investigations
Intro: Dr. Ruth E. Pacheco,
Executive Director, Integrated Industry Partnerships and Career Readiness,
Innovative Education and Student Success,
Division of Academic & Student Affairs

11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.
Lunch
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M

PANEL: STEM Careers in the Federal Government
Agencies: Office of Naval Intelligence, National Parks Service,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PANEL: Investigation and Cybercrime Careers in the Federal Government
Agencies: United States Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service,
United States Capitol Police, Homeland Security Investigations,
Drug Enforcement Administration

PANEL: Calling ALL MAJORS: Careers in the Federal Government
Agencies: Office of Naval Intelligence, Department of
Health and Human Services, Peace Corp,
Federal Highway Administration, United States Marine Corps

2:15 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.

PANEL: Myth vs. Reality of Landing a Federal Job
Agencies: Drug Enforcement Administration, United States
Office of Personnel Management, Office of Naval Intelligence

PANEL: Communications, Arts and Humanities Careers in the Federal Government
Agencies: Smithsonian Institution, National Parks Service,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PANEL: Student Internship/Fellowship Panel
Agencies: Office of Naval Intelligence, Pickering Fellowship,
FBI Honors Internship, Featuring current and former interns of:
Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Southern Command

3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Resource Fair: Network with Federal Agencies
After the panel discussions on government employment, we will be hosting a
Resource Fair featuring representatives from many of the agencies present.
AGENCIES FEATURED

**AmeriCorps**
AmeriCorps is the federal agency that brings people together to tackle the country’s most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. AmeriCorps VISTA is an excellent opportunity for anyone 18 or older who is looking to kickstart their professional career in nonprofit management.

**Bureau Of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (D.C.)**
ATF is a law enforcement agency in the United States’ Department of Justice that protects our communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.

**Bureau of Reclamation**
Established in 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation is best known for the dams, power plants, and canals it constructed in the 17 western states. These water projects led to homesteading and promoted the economic development of the West.

**Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), Office of Professional Responsibility**
The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) investigates allegations of employee misconduct and criminal activity to maintain public trust and accountability of the CBP workforce.

**Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency**
Mission Through vetting, industry engagement, education, and counterintelligence and insider threat support, secure the trustworthiness of the United States Government’s workforce, the integrity of its cleared contractor support, and the uncompromised nature of its technologies, services, and supply chains.

**Defense Intelligence Agency, Analysis Career Field**
Explore a career where you make an impact on national security! Here at DIA, we produce the cutting-edge analysis, and scientific and technological expertise employed to prevent and decisively win wars. As one of the few all-source intelligence agencies, our global mission requires a diverse workforce.
AGENCIES FEATURED

**DHS - Homeland Security Investigations**
Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is the principal investigative component of DHS and is responsible for investigating, disrupting, and dismantling transnational criminal organizations and terrorist networks. HSI’s workforce consists of more than 10,000 employees assigned to more than 237 offices across the U.S. and more than 93 offices around the world.

**DHS - Office of the Principal Legal Advisor**
The Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) is the largest legal program in DHS, with more than 1,300 attorneys and nearly 300 support personnel with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Pursuant to statute, OPLA serves as the exclusive representative of DHS in immigration removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, litigating all removal cases including those against criminal noncitizens, terrorists, and human rights abusers.

**DoD SMART Scholarship Program**
The SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program, supported by the Department of Defense, provides STEM students with a unique opportunity to receive scholarships and guaranteed employment with the DoD upon graduation. It covers full tuition, offers annual stipends, and is open to undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral students in 21 STEM disciplines.

**Drug Enforcement Administration, Miami Field Division**
The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations.

**Everglades National Park**
Everglades National Park protects the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States with more than 1.5 million acres of sawgrass prairies, pine rocklands, and an extensive mangrove estuary leading to Florida Bay.

**Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)**
The FBI is an intelligence-driven and threat-focused national security organization with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities. The mission of the FBI is to protect and defend against intelligence threats, uphold and enforce criminal laws, and provide criminal justice services.
AGENCIES FEATURED

**Federal Highway Administration**
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that supports State and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the Nation’s highway system (Federal-aid highway program) and various federally and tribal-owned lands (Federal Lands Highway Program).

**Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Criminal Investigation**
IRS Criminal Investigation (CI) serves the American public by investigating potential criminal violations of the Internal Revenue Code and related financial crimes in a manner that fosters confidence in the tax system and compliance with the law.

**Office of Naval Intelligence**
Naval Intelligence offers you the chance to tackle real world challenges. Come and explore the possibilities of a civilian career, from engineering, computer scientist, intelligence analyst just to name a few. You will be working with talented people around the globe, receive competitive pay and benefits.

**Peace Corps**
In the Peace Corps, we take a different approach to making a difference. Our Volunteers are inspired by impact that is hands-on, grassroots-driven, and lasting. From leading health campaigns to boosting local entrepreneurship to teaching digital literacy, the Peace Corps offers a range of opportunities for our Volunteers to take on new challenges.

**Social Security Administration**
The Social Security Administration assigns Social Security numbers, and administers the Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs. They also administer the Supplemental Security Income program for the aged, blind, and disabled.

**Transportation Security Administration (TSA)**
Serve the Nation. Secure Your Future. After the attacks of 9/11, tens of thousands joined TSA to strengthen our transportation systems and protect the American people. Today, we are still fiercely committed to our mission and our country.
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States. We are more than 20,000 government employees and contractors working at more than 200 offices worldwide. Our Mission: USCIS upholds America’s promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity, and respect for all we serve.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Refugee and International Operations Field Office

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States. We are more than 20,000 government employees and contractors working at more than 200 offices worldwide.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

With more than 60,000 employees, CBP is one of the world’s largest law enforcement organizations and is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. while facilitating lawful international travel and trade.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA is a federal department responsible for developing and executing policy on farming, agriculture, forestry, and food. It aims to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, promote agricultural trade and production, work to assure food safety, protect natural resources, foster rural communities and end hunger in the United States and internationally.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services enhances and protects the health and well-being of all Americans. We fulfill that mission by providing for effective health and human services and fostering advances in medicine, public health, and social services.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD’s mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business.
AGENCIES FEATURED

U.S. Department of Labor - Wage & Hour Division
The DOL mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security
The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State. Operating from a global platform in 29 U.S. cities and more than 170 foreign countries, DS ensures the United States can safely and securely conduct diplomacy.

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services
The Office of Audit Services (OAS) provides auditing services for HHS, either by conducting audits with its own audit resources or by overseeing audit work done by others. Audits examine the performance of HHS programs and/or its grantees and contractors in carrying out their respective responsibilities and are intended to provide independent assessments of HHS programs and operations.

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations
The Office of Investigations (OI) mission is to protect the integrity of the programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OI conducts criminal, civil, and administrative investigations of fraud and misconduct related to HHS programs, operations, and employees.

U.S. Marine Corps Officer Selection, Marine Officer Selection Team
Experience what Forbes and Inc. Magazine have called “The best leadership and management training program in America.” For freshmen and sophomores, all training takes place in the summer. This consists of two separate six-week paid leadership and professional development courses at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA.

United States Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is calling on those who want to help protect American interests and secure our Nation. DHS Components work collectively to prevent terrorism; secure borders and our transportation systems; protect the President and other dignitaries.
United States Capitol Police, Law Enforcement
The United States Capitol Police (USCP) is a federal law enforcement agency located in Washington, DC. We protect and secure Congress so it can fulfill its constitutional and legislative responsibilities in a safe, secure, and open environment.

United States Secret Service, Recruitment Division
We have an integrated mission of protection and financial investigations to ensure the safety and security of our protectees, key locations, and events of national significance. We also protect the integrity of our currency and investigate crimes against the U.S. financial system.

US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is one of the U.S. Department of Transportation's many operating administrations. PHMSA’s mission is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives.

Veterans Benefits Administration, Office of Human Capital Services
In the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), our employees are our most valuable resource. Working with VBA, you will have a direct, positive impact on the lives of Veterans and their families. Whether it’s assisting servicemembers transition out of military service, processing claims for benefits, or helping Veterans earn a degree or buy a new home, your work is essential in ensuring Veterans receive the benefits they’ve earned!
THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Homeland Security Investigations

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

FIU College of Arts, Sciences & Education
FIU College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts
FIU Division of Academic & Student Affairs
FIU Graham Center
FIU Jack. D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy
Miami Dade College
Miami Jackson Senior High School
FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
The Humanities Edge, FIU
SPECIAL THANKS TO
OUR FEDERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Adriana Pinera-Cruz, Career and Talent Development
Andrea Cuadra, FIU Career and Talent Development & College of Arts, Sciences & Education
Ayxa Vecino, FIU Division of Academic & Student Affairs
Darren Gregory, FIU Career and Talent Development
David Telleria, FIU Career and Talent Development
Eduardo Caldera Jr., FIU Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy
Efigenia Gonzalez-Duran, FIU Career and Talent Development
Isabel Capella, FIU Career and Talent Development
Jacqueline Feliz, FIU Career and Talent Development
Jairo Ledesma, Miami Dade College
John Sotham, FIU Career and Talent Development
Marianne Lamonaca, The Humanities Edge, FIU
Marine Ghazaryan, FIU Career and Talent Development
Natasha Holloman, FIU Career and Talent Development
Nelly Leon, FIU Career and Talent Development
Rodolfo Preciado, FIU Career and Talent Development
Dr. Rosa Chang, FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
Sabrina Cannata, FIU Division of Academic & Student Affairs
Sarah Hadeed, FIU College of Arts, Sciences & Education
Sonia Hernandez, FIU Division of Academic & Student Affairs
Yisell Cirion, FIU Career and Talent Development