




Future Educator's Response to Emergency Situations (F.E.R.T.E.S.)




INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



F.E.R.T.E.S. Partners

- Kelly Amatucci, Ed.D.
 - Indian River State College
 - Dean of the School of Education
- Major Chris Cicio
 - Director of Law Enforcement
 - St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- Jon Teske
 - Director of Security for SDIRC
 - Emergency Operations Center ESF 1
 - LTC, USAR, MP
- Keith M. Touchberry
 - Police Chief, City of Fellsmere
 - 2nd Vice President, Florida Police Chiefs Association
 - Chairman, FDLE Region XI Training Council
 - Adjunct Faculty, Indian River State College and the Florida Institute of Technology



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Introduction

- F.E.R.T.E.S. is a Treasure Coast area law enforcement initiative in partnership with:
 - Indian River State College (IRSC)
 - The school districts of Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties
 - The Office of Safe Schools



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Purpose

- F.E.R.T.E.S. is an academic program designed to prepare future educators for the work environment they will enter as a result of the passage of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (MSDHSPSA)
- F.E.R.T.E.S. seeks to develop an “emergency preparedness mindset” in future educators so they embrace their responsibilities for safety and security in tandem with education
- F.E.R.T.E.S. is a paradigm shift

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Development

- Development has been ongoing since the summer of 2019 (delays due to COVID)
- Program content is based on best practices offered by law enforcement Subject Matter Experts (SME's), school safety specialists, the Office of Safe Schools, and the School of Education faculty at IRSC
- To date, two groups of interns have completed a basic version of the program
- The full program is scheduled to be implemented this academic year

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Law Enforcement

- F.E.R.T.E.S. addresses the need for Educator and Law Enforcement partnership and collaboration
- Addressing Real Needs and Commission Findings:
 - Introduce and Reinforce Harm Mitigation Strategies
 - Mindset: these are life skills now
 - Situational Awareness
- See something, say something
 - Who can call a code red/active shooter response protocols
- Overview of Pathway to Violence
 - Focused on behaviors (the perfect storm)
 - Opportunities for identification
 - Resources for intervention
- Run, Hide, Fight
 - Why? It is a starting point.
 - Explanations, demonstrations and practical exercises
- This forms the central focus of F.E.R.T.E.S. The entirety of the curriculum feeds and expands on these concepts for all emergencies with the goal of preparing tomorrow's teachers today.

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



School Safety Specialists' Roles and Responsibilities Supporting F.E.R.T.E.S.

- School Safety Specialists (SSS) act as the liaison between the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) and F.E.R.T.E.S.
- SSS brings an educator's point of view to the team always keeping focus on students and teachers
- New teachers in a public or charter school setting including Charter School Compliance
- Share each school district's safety and security initiatives and School Board (SB) policies with the F.E.R.T.E.S. team
- Remind the F.E.R.T.E.S. team of outside organizations that work in our schools (Teachers Unions, Communication Workers of America, Health Department, Building Department, State Fire Marshall's Office, etc.)
- Update the team on SB and HB language from summer OSS conferences
- Facilitate overall collaboration between the colleges, LEAs, OSS, and the classroom teacher

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



TYPES OF SUPPORT for Teachers

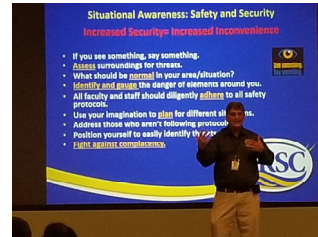
- School Based Security and Office of Safe Schools School Safety Specialists Support
 - **St. Lucie County**
<https://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/departments/safety-and-security/>
 - **Martin County**
[https://www.mcsofl.org/158/School-Resource-Unit#:~:text=The%20School%20Resource%20Officers%20\(%20SRO,students%2C%20teachers%2C%20and%20staff](https://www.mcsofl.org/158/School-Resource-Unit#:~:text=The%20School%20Resource%20Officers%20(%20SRO,students%2C%20teachers%2C%20and%20staff)
 - **Indian River County**
https://www.indianriverschools.org/schools/school_safety
 - **Okeechobee County**
<https://www.okeesherriff.org/school-resource-division#:~:text=law%20related%20issues,-%E2%80%8B,the%20area%20surrounding%20the%20school>
- Drill Compliance
- Guardians <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/guardian-program.stml>
- Single Point of Entry (SPE) <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/school-safety/school-safety-report.pdf> p122
- Cameras, Capital Outlay, and Communications Hardware Examples from Each District
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Support in Schools
- District Specific Reporting Tools – Ask Cooperating Teacher and School Safety Specialists What They Use (like FortifyFL)

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Each District's Standard Awareness Response Protocols

- Standard Response Protocols
- ALERT
- ALICE
- Crisis Alert
- Run, Hide, Fight
- Alyssa's Alert Protocol and Support
- District Active Assailant Response Plans, Emergency Management Plans, Crisis Alert Plans, etc.



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Mental Health Support and Strategies

Strategies to Keep Calm

- For Students:
 - Prevention and Intervention are Key: Review the following information
 - <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools>
 - Melting – Flow: Go Noodle
- For Teachers and Staff:
 - Reminder to take training seriously and keep positive mindset each day
 - Review the Best Practices for Mental Wellness in Florida and find your School District Mental Health Plan
 - <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/mental-health.html>
 - Mindfulness – 60 Minutes with Anderson Cooper



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



The College Perspective

- A set of learning outcomes that were not fully represented in our B.S. Education programs
- Provides concepts and applied learning experiences that prepare future teachers with a foundational knowledge that will be enhanced through school district training and support

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



The Program

- F.E.R.T.E.S. content is delivered throughout the bachelor degree experience
- Embedded modules are designed specifically to support course curriculum through classroom instruction, practical application, observations, and site visits
 - *Classroom Management and Communication course*
 - Two practicums
 - Internship
- F.E.R.T.E.S. can be replicated by any college or university that offers degree programs for future educators



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Live Simulation

Live simulation is a critical component to the program. The simulation exposes future educators to working with LEO's while learning important survival skills. The simulations also offer LE agencies the opportunity to train for an active shooter event.



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



IRSC Student Perspective

- *"This was very helpful and helped me feel empowered and confident. I don't feel like I would be a "bystander" anymore, but rather I would have options and be able to critically think."*
- *"It made me feel more prepared to deal with a situation that I may have not been aware of before. I feel more at ease knowing there are certain steps I can take to keep my students safer."*
- *"It helped me understand the process of escalation of a person who may be a risk."*

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Conclusion

- As a result of F.E.R.T.E.S. program development, potential content was classified into three categories:
 1. Basic: What is taught in a college setting to prepare for employment
 2. Intermediate: What is taught and reinforced once employed during initial certification period
 3. Advanced: What can be taught and learned throughout an educators' career

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Recommendations

- Consider requiring specific safety and security related subjects be learned as part of a future educators' academic program
- Consider requiring specific safety and security related subjects be learned as part of an educator's certification renewal process

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE



Questions



powered by **IRSC**

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE