

2026

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY AWARDS

Run for the
ROSES

APRIL 9





Welcome & Opening Remarks

Opening Remarks

Mica Mecham,
Director,
Faculty Commons

Provost's Welcome

Dr. Christie Shelton,
Provost and Executive Vice
President, Academic Affairs

President's Welcome

Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr.,
President

Special Acknowledgment

Loring White
Trustee Member, District 1

Vice Provost Welcome

Dr. Staci Stone,
Vice Provost,
Academic Affairs





Faculty Research

ACTIVITY RECOGNITION





Faculty Research Activity

College of Arts, Humanities, and Science

Rashad Ahmed, English

Paul Beezley, Hy & Foreign Languages

Kathryn Catlin, Anthropology

Jed DeBruin, Geography

David Dempsey, MCIS

Christopher Douglas, English

Wendy Freeland, Music

Eric Gamess, MCIS

Joanne E. Gates, English

Arup Ghosh, MCIS

Larry Gray, English

Jess Griffith, English

Jennifer Gross, Hy & Foreign Languages

Lori Hensley, Biology

Tenzing Ingty, Biology

Cecilia Johnson, Biology





Faculty Research Activity

College of Arts, Humanities, and Science

Gabriel Lonsberry, English

Ashley Rattner, English

James Rayburn, Biology

Ryan Burns, History & Foreign Languages

Marija Reiff, English

Mark Sciuchetti, Chemistry & Geosciences

Kimberly Southwick-Thompson, English

David Thornton, MCIS

Julia Tigner, English

Lori Tolley-Jordan, Biology

Monica Trifas, MCIS

Jimmy Triplett, Biology

Reshmi Upreti, Biology

Xiaohuan Xue, MCIS





Faculty Research Activity

College of Business and Industry

Benjamin Boozer, Finance, Economics, & Accounting

Jianping Huang, Management & Marketing

Robert Landry, Finance, Economics, & Accounting

Keith Lowe, Finance, Economics, & Accounting

Yajun Lu, Management & Marketing





Faculty Research Activity

College of Education and Professional Studies

Ahmad Alhammouri, Teacher Education

Candice Byers, Teacher Education

Brandon Gilliland, Teacher Education

Russell Hammack, Teacher Education

Hungwei Tseng, Professional Counseling & Leadership

Ashley Turner, Teacher Education

Aimee Weathers, Teacher Education





Faculty Research Activity

College of Health Professions and Wellness

Chris Clark, Kinesiology
Melissa Duckett, Nursing
Serena Gramling, Nursing
Tammy Killen, Nursing
Kimberly Helms, Nursing

Gina Mabrey, Kinesiology
Kelsey McEntyre, Kinesiology
Stacy Mikel, Nursing
Laura Walker, Nursing
Franco Zengaro, Kinesiology





Faculty Research Activity

College of Social and Behavioral

Sarah Donley, Sociology & Political Science

Shih-Kai Huang, Emergency Management & Public Admin.

Rusty Nall, Psychology

Renee Renda, Psychology

Bri Turgeon, Sociology & Political Science

Sally Zengaro, Psychology





Faculty Research Activity

Library Services

Karlie Johnson, Library

Dr. Laura Pitts, Library

Yingqi Tang, Library



Promotion &
TENURE





Tenure

Tenure Only

Xiaoqiong (Crystal) Wang,
Finance, Economics, & Accounting





Promotion
Associate Professor

Wesley Bishop,
History & Foreign Language





Promotion and Tenure

Associate Professor and Tenure

Arjola Balilaj, Emergency Management

Allison Boswell, Library Services

Grover Brown, Biology

Jennifer Burgett, Kinesiology

Sarah Burns, Music

Ryan Burns, History & Foreign Languages

Kathryn Catlin, Chemistry & Geosciences

Yolanda Chandler, Nursing

Taylor Ellis, Social Work

Yajun Lu, Mangement & Marketing

Dominique Maywald, Social Work

Marija Reiff, English

Ashley Rattner, English

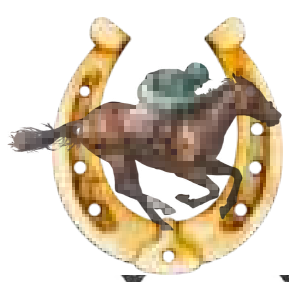
Kimberly Southwick-Thompson,

English

Julia Tigner, English

Ashley Turner, Teacher Education

Heather Wallace, Nursing





Promotion

Rank of Professor

Michael Alvidrez, Teacher Education

Makenzie Bayles, Psychology

Lori Bobo, Nursing

Michael Burns, Biology

Kay Lang, Criminal Justice & Forensic Inv.

John Oles, Art & Design

Monica Trifas, MCIS

Christi Trucks, Career Tech Education & Professional Studies

Kimberly Wickersham, Social Work





Promotion and Tenure
Rank of Professor and Tenure

Nilufer Guler, College of Education & Professional Studies
Teddi Joyce, Communication





Promotion and Tenure
Earned Doctoral Degree



Dr. Seth Johnson, Associate Dean (CAHS)





Special Recognition
2026 TESOL Teacher of the Year



Dr. Rashad Ahmed, English





Special Recognition Lamplighter Award



Dr. Yolanda Chandler, Nursing





Special Recognition

2026 SEATA Education/Administration Reward



Dr. Chris Clark, Kinesiology



Years of
SERVICE





TEN YEARS

Years of Service

Donnie Andrews, Kinesiology

Ben Cunningham, Communication

Daniel Mertens, Management & Marketing

Barbara Norvell, Teacher Education

Christi Trucks, Career Technical Education &

Professional Studies

Cassandra Ward, Management & Marketing

Kimberly Westbrooks, Library





FIFTEEN YEARS

Years of Service

Joseph Akpan, Teacher Education

Jeremy Benson, Music

Serena Gramling, Nursing

Kihyun Kim, Management & Marketing

James McGahey, Professional Counseling & Leadership

Joe Morgan, Chemistry & Geosciences

Andrew Nevala, Music

Jeffrey Nichols, Theatre & Film

Lori Tolley-Jordan, Biology

Jennifer Troncale, Teacher Education





TWENTY YEARS

Years of Service

Gaus Alam, MCIS

Renee Baptiste, Music

Randal Blades, Theatre & Film

Taleah Collum, Finance, Economics, & Accounting

Heidi Dempsey, Psychology

Tina Deshotels, Sociology

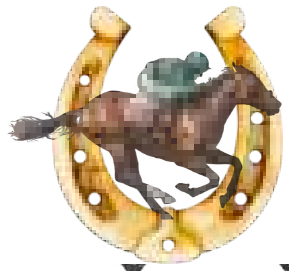
Betsy Gullede, Nursing

Robert Landry, Finance, Economics, & Accounting

Tamara Levi, History & Foreign Languages

Christopher Murdock, Biology

Eduardo Pacheco, History & Foreign Languages





TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

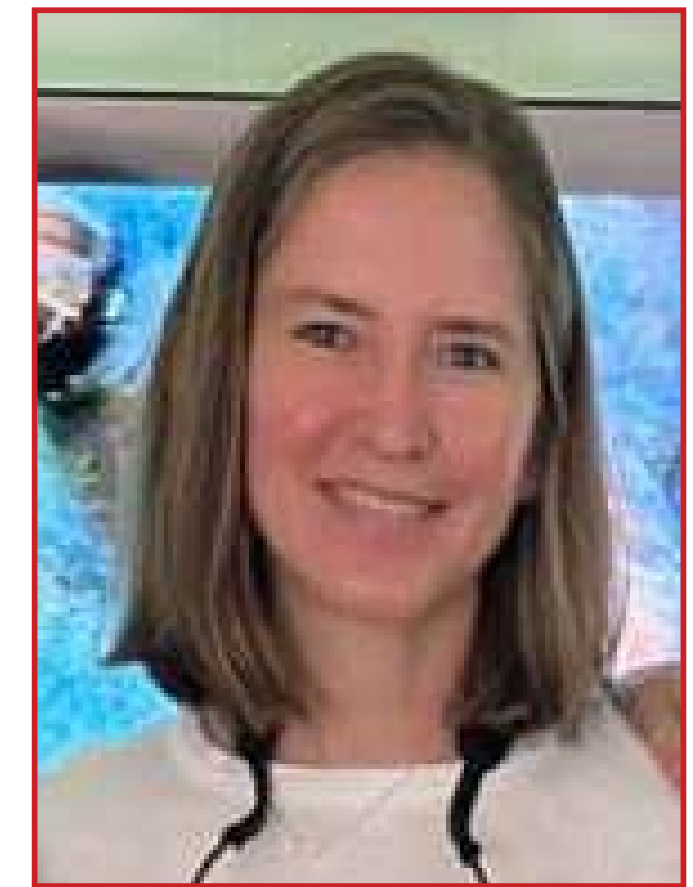
Years of Service



Mr. Jonathan
Adams
Social Work



Ms. Roxana
Conroy
Psychology



Dr. Amy
Franklin
MCIS



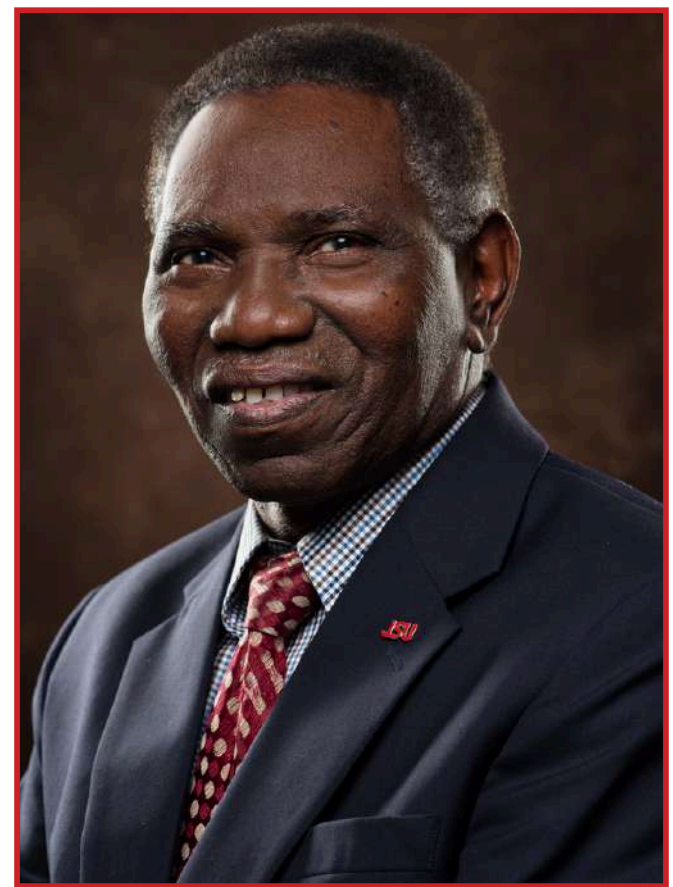


TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Years of Service



**Dr. Jennifer
Gross**
History & FL



**Dr. Mijitaba
Hamissou**
Biology



**Dr. Kory
Hill**
Kinesiology





TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Years of Service



Ms. Cynthia
Jensen
MCIS



Dr. Cynthia
Sneed
Fin, EC, ACC



Dr. John
Sneed
Fin, EC, ACC





THIRTY YEARS

Years of Service



Dr. Jeffrey Dodd, MCIS

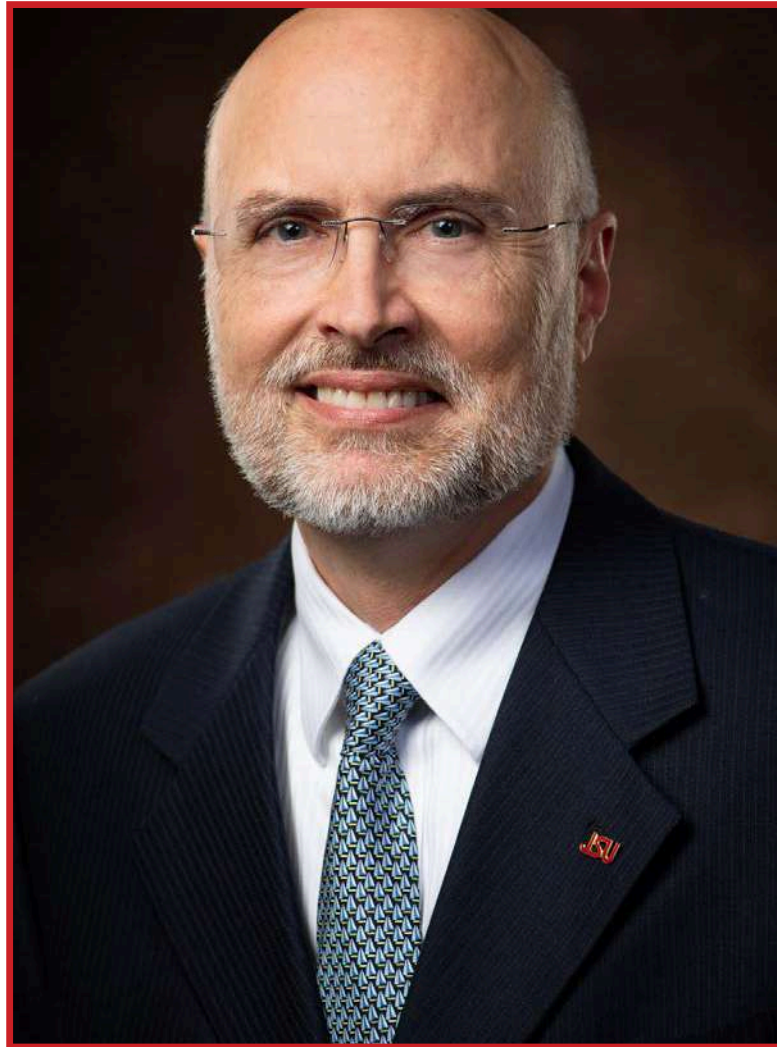


Retiring
FACULTY





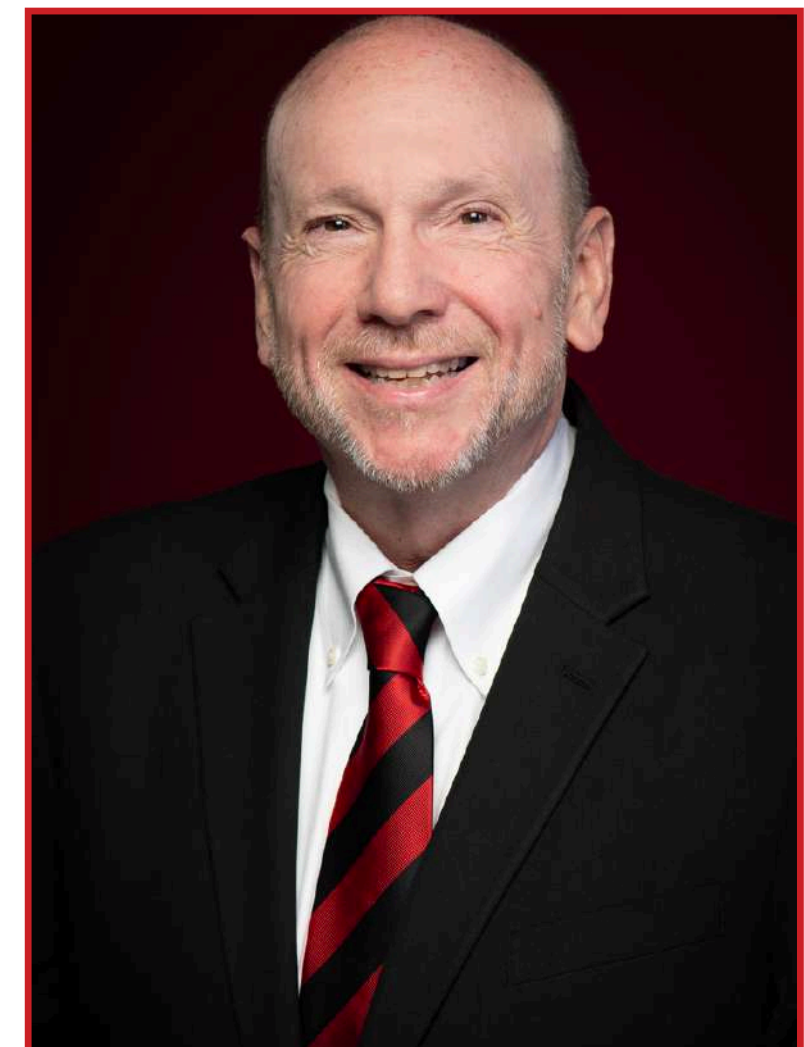
Retiring Faculty



**Dr. Timothy
Barnett**
Political Science



**Dr. Ken
Bodiford**
Music



**Mr. Blair
Callaway**
Music





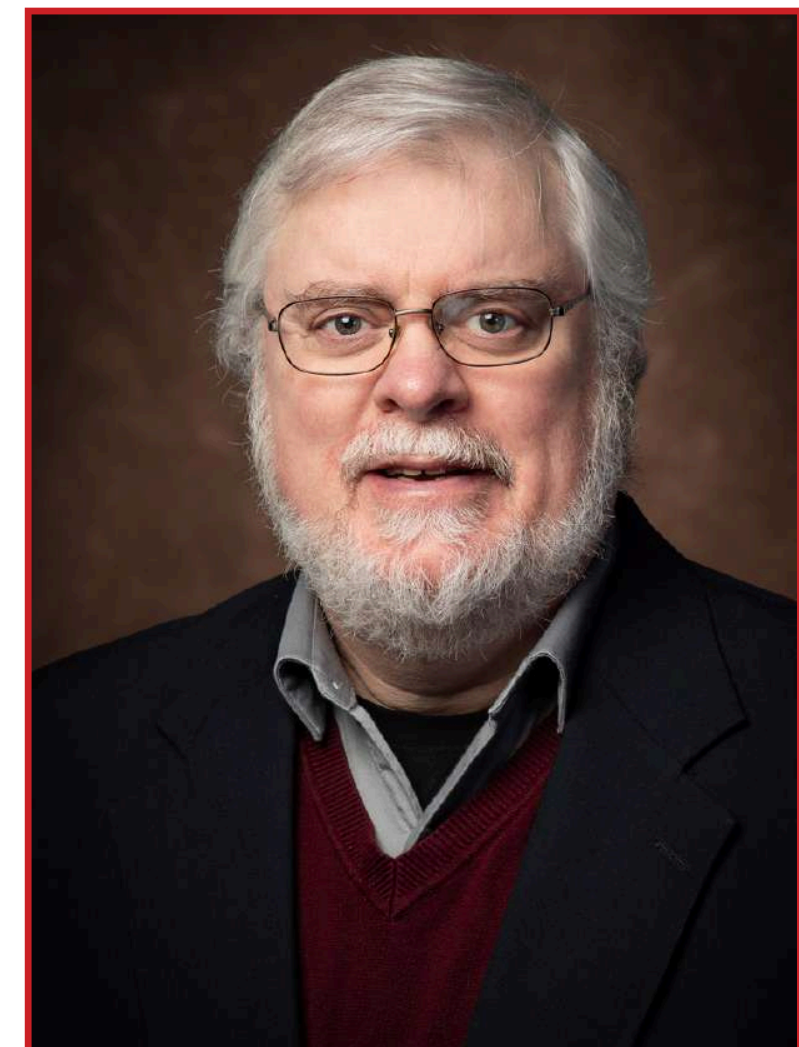
Retiring Faculty



**Dr. Cynthia
Connor**
Teacher Education



**Dr. Brent
Cunningham**
Business & Industry

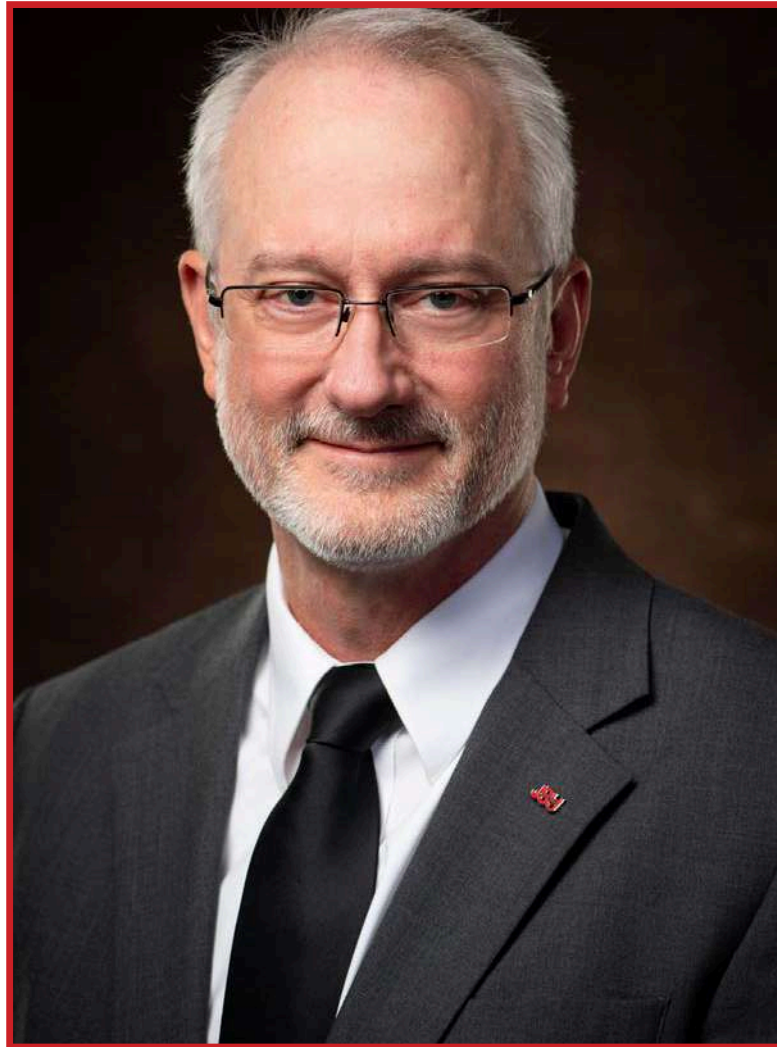


**Dr. Randy
Davis**
English





Retiring Faculty



**Dr. William
Lester**
Political Science



**Dr. Jeffrey
Solomon**
Music



**Dr. Priscilla
Wilson**
Education

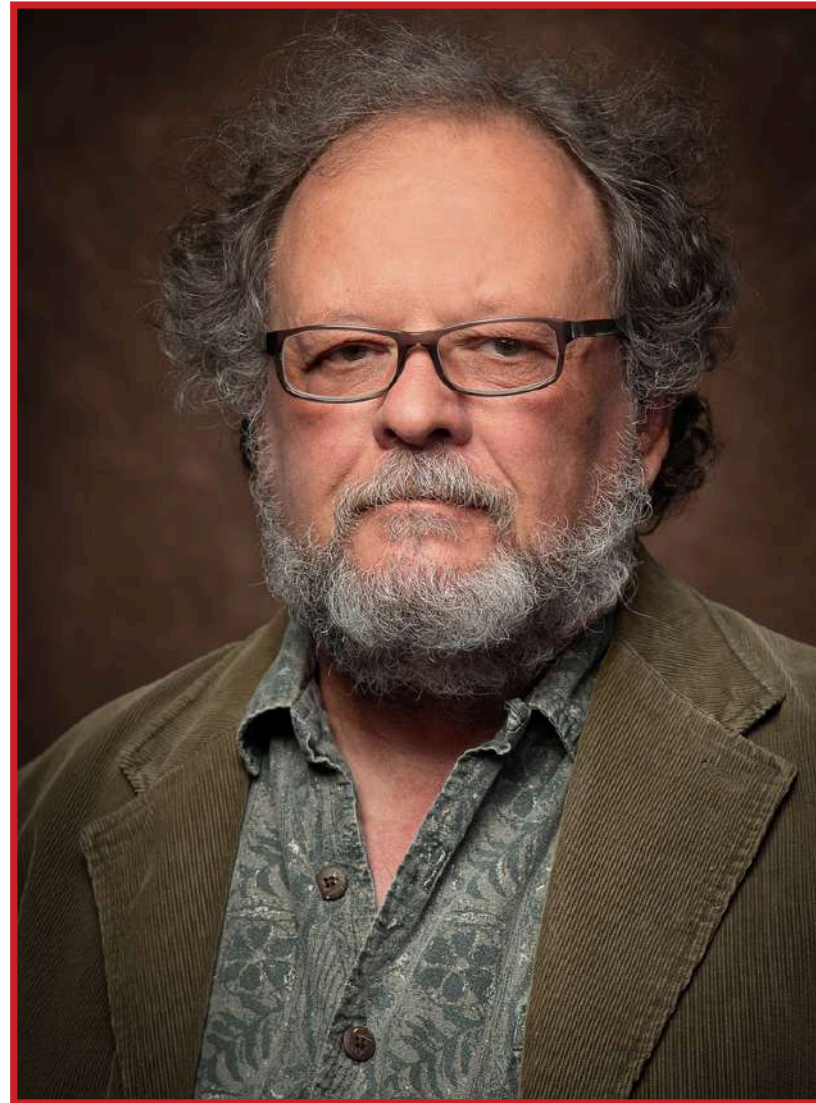


Emeriti
STATUS





Emeriti



Mr. Don Bennett, English, CAHS





Emeriti

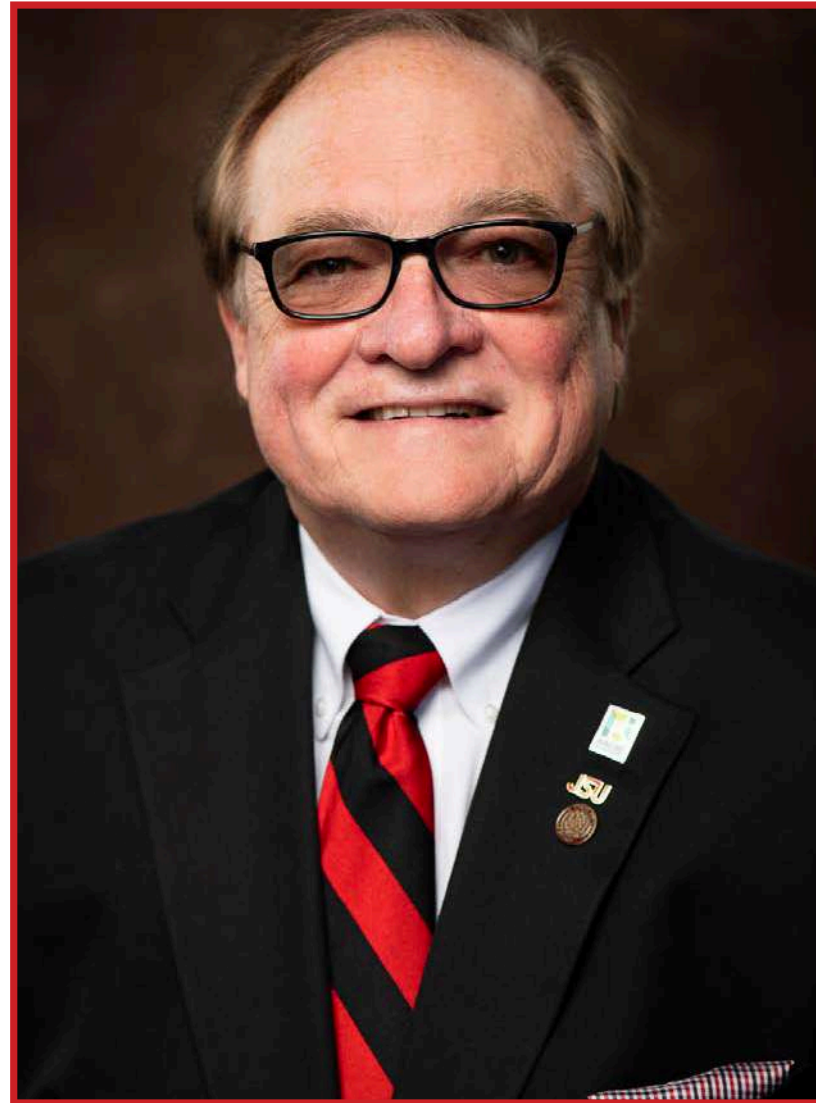


Dr. Richards Davis,
Center for Best Practices Law Enforcement





Emeriti



Mr. Hill Mayfield, Management, CBI





Emeriti



Dr. Teresa Reed, English, CAHS





Emeriti



Dr. Melanie Wallace, CEPS





Emeriti



Dr. Ken Bodiford, Director Emeriti Status, CAHS





2025-2026

FACULTY SENATE





2025-2026 Faculty Senators

Noureddine Bekhouche, Applied Engineering

Maureen McGuire, Art & Design

Mike Burns, Biology

Diane Best, Career Technical Education &
Professional Studies

Kathryn Catlin, Chemistry & Geosciences

Patrick McGrail, Communication

Leah Simmons, Criminal Justice & Forensic Inves.

Gorgin Mansourian, Emergency Management & PA

Ashley Rattner, English

Kimberly Southwick-Thompson, English

Jeffrey Zanzig, Finance, Economics, and
Accounting

Lance Ingwersen, History and Foreign Languages

Chris Clark, Kinesiology

Allen Gilbert, Kinesiology

Allison Boswell, Library

Yajun Lu, Management & Marketing

David Thornton, MCIS

Kazi Rahman, MCIS

LTC Eddie Walker, Military Science

Chris Hosmer, Music

Shellie Beeman, Music

Laura Barrow, Nursing

Stacy Mikel, Nursing

Wendy Key, Nursing

Stacey Gill, Professional Counseling & Leadership

Courtney Peppers, Psychology

Andres Crawley, Respiratory Therapy

Jody Long, Social Work

Brianna Turgeon, Sociology & Political Science

Barbie Norvell, Teacher Education

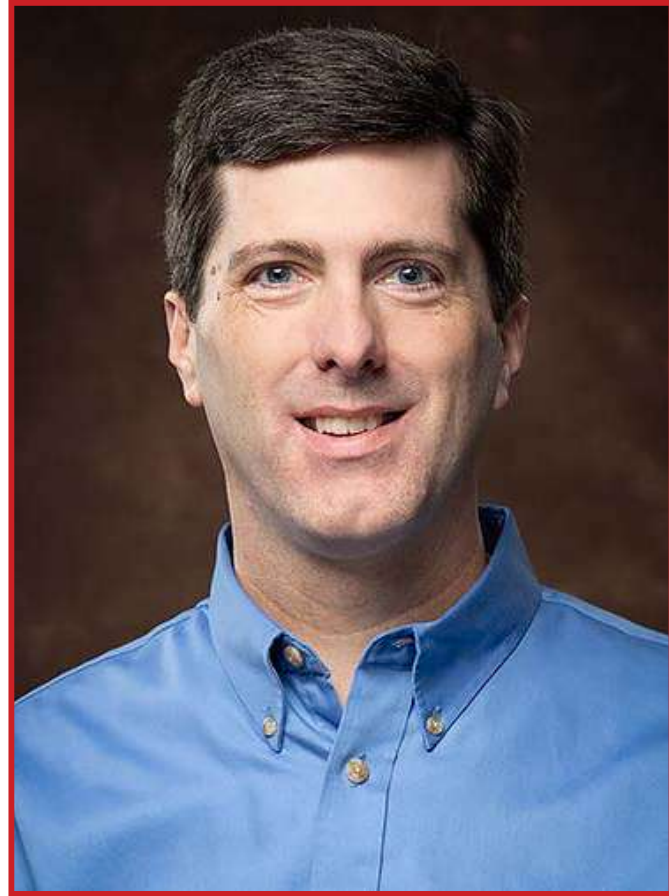
Randal Blades, Theater and Film



2025-2026 Faculty Senate Executive Committee



**Dr. Heidi
Dempsey**
President



**Dr. David
Dempsey**
Vice President



**Dr. Barbie
Norvell**
Secretary



**Dr. Wendy
Key**
Historian

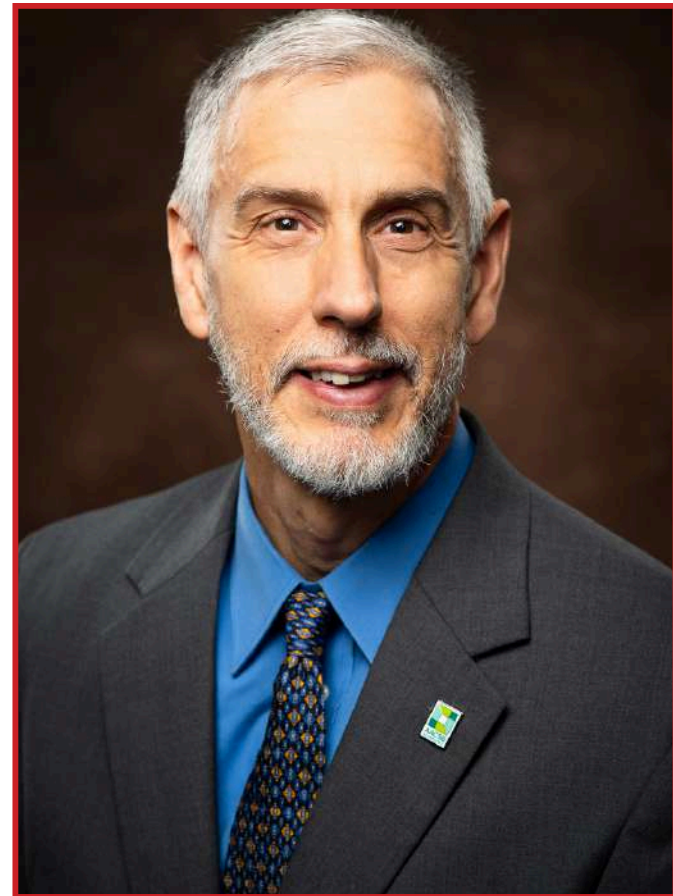




2025-2026 Faculty Senate Executive Committee



**Dr. Kathryn
Catlin**
Advocacy
Committee Chair



**Dr. Jeffrey
Zanzig**
Elections
Committee Chair



**Dr. Mike
Burns**
Policies & Campus
Planning Committee
Chair



**Ms. Courtney
Peppers**
Student Retention
Committee Chair





Outgoing Faculty Senate President



Dr. Heidi Dempsey
2024/2025 & 2025/2026



Faculty Mentor
COLLECTIVE





2025-2026 Faculty Mentor Collective

Jonathan Adams
Diane Best
Michael Boynton
Jennifer Burgett
Ryan Burns
Sarah Burns
Meghan Burroughs
Jed DeBruin
Christopher Douglas
Melissa Duckett

Tammy Killen
J. McGrail
Stacy Mikel
Mysti Nichols
Christopher Probst
Caitlin Sharpe
Leah Simmons
Stephen Slauson
Jennie Vaughn
Xiaohuan Xue





High Impact Practices
LEARNING COMMUNITY





2025-2026 HIPS Learning Community Participants

MENTORS:

Lance Ingwersen,

History & FL

Tanya Sasser, English

Ben Gross, Political Science

Lori Hensley, Biology

MENTEES:

Jed DeBruin, Biology

Lindsay Holman, History & FL

Cecilia Johnson, Biology

Tamara Levi, History & FL

Maureen McGuire, Art & Design

Kazi Rahman, MCIS

Marija Reiff, English

Tray Ridlen, Art & Design

Bethany Smith, Biology

Rachel Weiser, History & FL



Course Completion

COI+





2025-2026 COI+ Course Completion

Certified Online Instructor Plus: Earning Three Microcredentials

Rashad Ahmed, English

Ashlie Barnes, Nursing

Jennifer Burgett, Kinesiology

Meghan Burroughs, Kinesiology

Jessica Griffith, English

Mark Landahl, Emergency Management

Undra Lawson, Criminal Justice

Maureen McGuire, Art & Design

Stacy Mikel, Nursing

**Randi "Nikki" Peel, Professional Counseling
& Leadership**

Rachel Weiser, History & Foreign Languages

Course 1 Completion:

Earning One Microcredential

Rashad Ahmed, English

Cameron Barnes, Houston Cole Library

Jessica Cannon, Teacher Education

Jennifer Frank, Nursing

Laura Pitts, Houston Cole Library

Marija Reiff, English

Pamela Roberts, Dual Enrollment - English

Kimberly Southwick-Thompson, English

Robin Spoon, Biology

Yingqi Tang, Houston Cole Library

Baileigh Tillman, English

Jennifer Troncale, Teacher Education

Katelyn Walker, English

Cassie Ward, Management & Marketing

Kimberly Westbrook, Houston Cole Library

Charles Woodard, Management & Marketing





2026 Faculty Fellows
COHORT PARTICIPANTS





2026 Provost's Cohort Participants

Quality Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes



**Dr. Rashad
Ahmed**
English



**Dr. Sarah
Burns**
Music



**Dr. Monica
Trifas**
MCIS



**Ms. Katelyn
Walker**
English





2026 President's Cohort Participants

Quality Teaching with AI



**Dr. Meghan
Burroughs**
Kinesiology



**Dr. Heidi
Dempsey**
Psychology



**Ms. Laurie
Heathcock**
Library Services



**Dr. Xiaohuan
(Max) Xue**
MCIS



Special Recognition
& THANKS

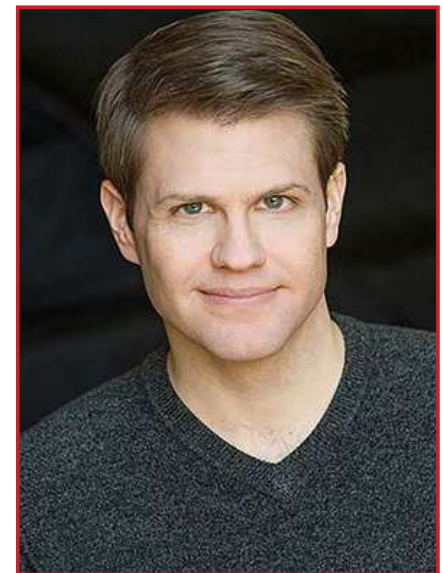




Faculty Honors & Grants Committee



Paula
Barnett-Ellis



Michael
Boyton



Paul
Hathaway



Serena
Gramling



Christopher
Ogden



Ashley
Turner



Katelyn
Walker



Jeffrey
Zanzig

Distinguished
AWARDS





The Bill and Sandra Stone

DUAL ENROLLMENT

ADJUNCT FACULTY

EXCELLENCE IN

TEACHING

AWARD





The Bill and Sandra Stone
Dual Enrollment Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award Nominees



Julia Hill
English



Jim Roebuck
MCIS





The Bill and Sandra Stone
Dual Enrollment Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award



Mr. Jim Roebuck
MCIS



The Bill and Sandra Stone

ADJUNCT FACULTY

EXCELLENCE IN

TEACHING

AWARD





The Bill and Sandra Stone Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award Nominees



**Sarah
Faulkner**
Art & Design



**Sharon
Padgett**
MCIS



**Kateri
Richardson**
English



Patti Shields
Career Technical
Education &
Professional Studies



**Jessica
Snider**
Kinesiology



**Drew
White**
MCIS



**David
Yeager**
Kinesiology





The Bill and Sandra Stone
Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award



Ms. Sarah Faulkner
Art & Design



Campus Technology

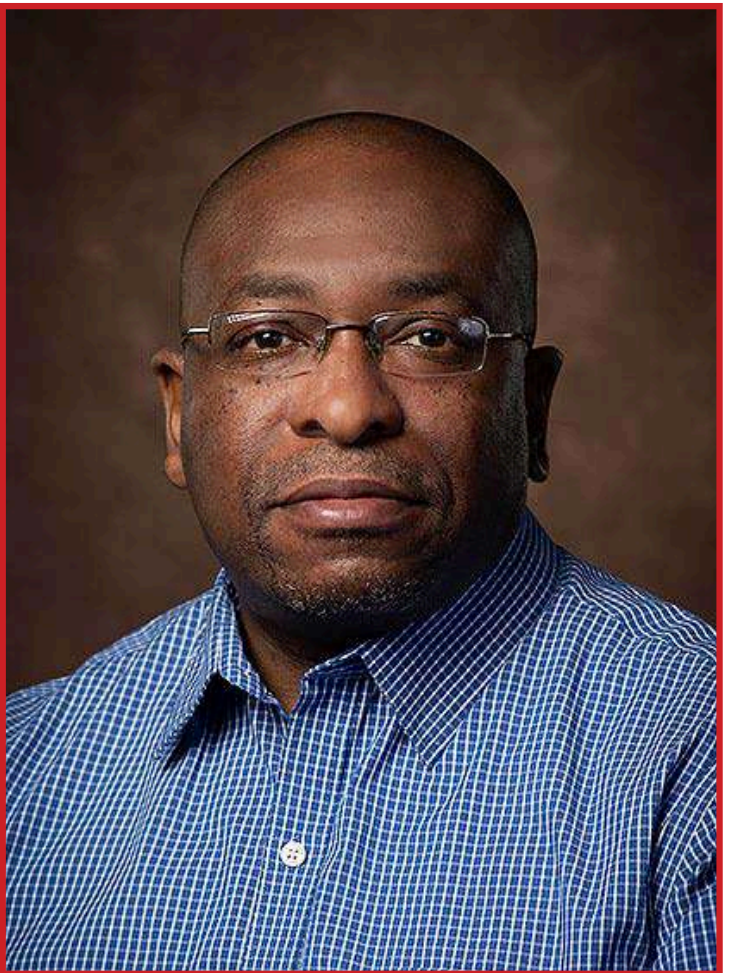
LEADERSHIP

GRANT





Campus Technology Leadership Grant Nominees



**Mr. Rodney
Bailey**
English



**Dr. Laura
Pitts**
Library





Campus Technology Leadership Grant



Dr. Laura Pitts
Library Service





The Cleo and Carla Thomas

OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
AND
SERVICE AWARD





The Cleo and Carla Thomas Outstanding Community Education and Service Award Nominees



**Dr. Sharifah
Albraiki**
Chemistry &
Geosciences



**Dr. Diane
Best**
Career Technical
Education &
Professional
Studies



**Dr. Grover
Brown**
Biology



**Dr. Melissa
Duckett**
Nursing



**Dr. Marija
Reiff**
English





The Cleo and Carla Thomas
Outstanding Community Education and Service Award



Dr. Melissa Duckett
Nursing



Joanne E. Gates

FACULTY
RESEARCH
AWARD





Joanne E. Gates Faculty Research Award Nominees



**Dr. Jeremy
Benson**
Music



**Dr. Jennifer
Gross**
History & Foreign
Languages



**Dr. Ashley
Rattner**
English



**Dr. Le
Su**
Biology



**Dr. Rachel
Wooten**
Nursing





Joanne E. Gates Faculty Research Award



Dr. Jennifer Gross
History & Foreign Languages



Faculty Scholar

LECTURER

AWARD





Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award Nominees



**Dr. Ryan
Burns**

History & Foreign
Languages



**Dr. Yolanda
Chandler**

Nursing



**Dr. Majid
Koozehchian**
Kinesiology



**Dr. Kimberly
Southwick-
Thompson**
English





Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award



**Dr. Majid Koozehchian,
Kinesiology**



The Bill and Sandra Stone

UNIVERSITY

SERVICE

AWARD





The Bill and Sandra Stone University Service Award Nominees



**Dr. Gaus
Alam**
MCIS



**Dr. Heidi
Dempsey**
Psychology



**Dr. Christopher
Douglas**
English



**Dr. Danyel
Munster**
Nursing





The Bill and Sandra Stone University Service Award



Dr. Heidi Dempsey,
Psychology



Proovost
EXCELLENCE
IN TEACHING
COLLEGE
AWARDS





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Arts, Humanities, and Sciences



Dr. Rashad Ahmed
English





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Arts, Humanities, and Sciences



Dr. Tenzing Ingty
Biology





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Business and Industry



Dr. Teddi Joyce
Communication





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Educational and Professional Studies



Dr. Torsten Dryden

Professional Counseling & Leadership





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Health Professions and Wellness



Dr. Tammy Killen
Nursing





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Social and Behavioral Sciences



Dr. Sally Zengaro
Psychology





Provost Excellence in Teaching Award Library Services



Dr. Laura Pitts
Library



The Carlton and Betty

McWhorter

OUTSTANDING

TEACHING

AWARD





Earlon and Betty McWhorter Outstanding Teacher Award



Dr. Rashad Ahmed, English



Fair State

C-USA FACULTY
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD





Jax State Conference USA Faculty Achievement Award Nominees



**Rashad
Ahmed**
English



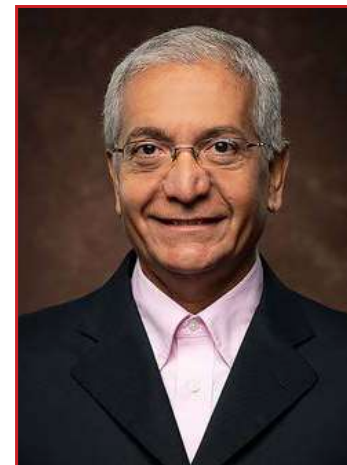
**Ahmad
Alhammouri**
Teacher Education



**Jeremy
Benson**
Music



**Jennifer
Burgett**
Kinesiology



**Eric
Gamess**
MCIS



**Barbara
Norvell**
Teacher Education



**Jennifer
Troncale**
Teacher Education



**Aimee
Weathers**
Teacher Education



**Valerie
Wheat**
Teacher Education





Jax State Conference USA Faculty Achievement Award



Dr. Rashad Ahmed, English





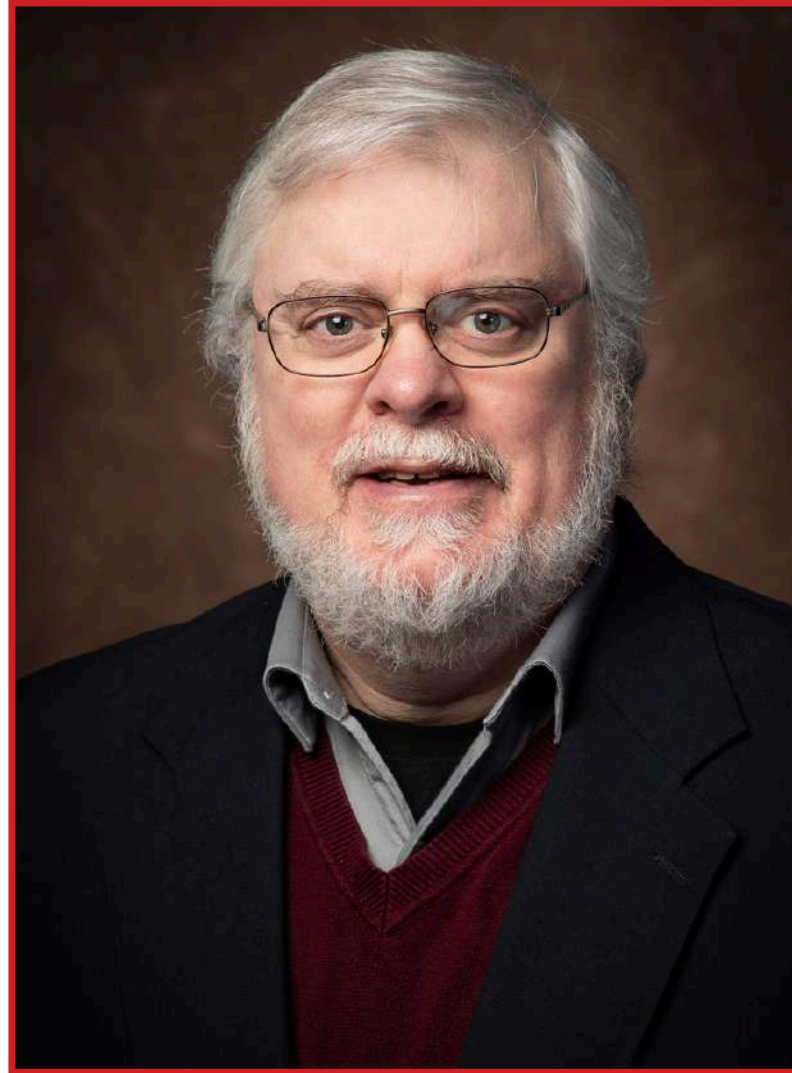
William A. Meehan

LEGACY
AWARD





William A. Meehan Legacy Award



Dr. Randy Davis, English, CAHS





2026-2027

FACULTY

FELLOWS





2026-2027 Provost's
Faculty Fellow



Ms. Katelyn Walker
English





2026-2027 President's Faculty Fellow



Dr. Meghan Burroughs
Kinesiology





In
MEMORIAM





In Memoriam



Kim Nelson, Social Work





*And
They're
Off...*





Additional Special Thanks

Academic and University Offices (Swag Donations)

Alumni Office (Swag Donation)

Andrea Porter (Swag Donation)

Annual Fund (Swag Donation)

Bama Photo Booths (Photos)

Brandy Roberts (Planning and Development)

Dee Dial (Set Up)

Dr. Rebecca O. Turner (Event Donor)

Dr. Tim King (Donations)

Ella Grace Dicks (Student Worker)

Gina Mabrey (Committee Support)

Jacob Roberts (Set Up)

Jeffrey Roberts (Set Up)

JSU IT

JSU Photography (Photos)

Joshua Roberts (Set Up)

Kellee Moses (event prep and work)

Leah Simmons (Event Set Up)

Lexi Golden (Student Worker)

Marketing (Swag Donations)

Rodney Bailey (Swag Donations)

Say It In Lights (Lighting)

Shaun Mecham of Mecham Music &

Promotions (DJ Services)

Sodexo (Food)





Final Announcements

WINNERS: MEET AT THE PHOTO BACKDROP BY THE ENTRANCE



2026

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY AWARDS

Run for the
ROSES

APRIL 9

