

DAVID C. ANCHIN CENTER

Annual **REPORT** *2025-26*

DAVID C. ANCHIN CENTER



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

College of Education

David C. Anchin Center for the
Advancement of Teaching



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for the Advancement of Teaching



A Message from the Director

The work of the Anchin Center starts with the people doing the work in schools: teachers helping students make sense of difficult ideas, principals supporting their staffs, district leaders working through complex challenges, and faculty asking questions that matter beyond the university.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, we welcomed nearly 800 teachers to the Advanced Placement Summer Institute, supported mathematics partnerships in Hillsborough and Manatee counties, and brought more than 200 educators to USF for the Pathways to Biliteracy Symposium. We hosted two evenings at MOSI for teachers and their families, helped convene a statewide mathematics network, and joined the College of Education and the Bellini College in presenting the AI in Education Summit.

Florida lawmakers also named the Anchin Center as a partner in a statewide effort to expand access to professional learning for teachers seeking to renew or reinstate their certificates. The Classroom Caffeine podcast joined the Center, bringing an established international audience to our research-to-practice work. A gift from Isabel Anchin Becker made it possible to begin developing a new leadership program for principals.

I am especially grateful to Dr. David Scanga for his leadership over the past three years and for the partnership we shared as co-directors. Dave helped the Center expand its programs and relationships, and he remains connected to this work through funded projects, the Anchin Center Advisory Board, and the USF community.

As I step into the role of director, I am proud of the work we have done together and excited about what comes next. The purpose of the Anchin Center remains the same: to support educators with professional learning that respects their expertise and responds to their needs, while building new knowledge through scholarly research that is connected to the realities of teaching and leading.

Rachel Hatten, Ph.D.

*Director and Endowed Chair of Education Innovation
David C. Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching*





Our MISSION

The David C. Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching is dedicated to working with K–12 teachers and leaders to transform education in ways that improve instructional quality and strengthen the teaching profession. The Center serves as a bridge between the University of South Florida's College of Education and practicing educators in schools across the state, connecting research and practice, fostering collaboration, and driving innovation in teaching and learning. It aims to elevate the teaching profession itself, not only by providing robust professional learning, but also by helping districts and communities attract and retain committed, high-quality educators.

For three decades, the Anchin Center has empowered educators through meaningful professional learning, leadership development, and partnerships that make a lasting impact on schools, districts, and communities.



2025-2026 AT A GLANCE

Nearly
800

Educators participated in the
2026 Advanced Placement
Summer Institute (APSI)

37 & 3
States Countries

Were represented at APSI

More than
200

Teachers attended the
Pathways to Biliteracy
Symposium

Approximately
200

Educators, researchers, and
technology leaders attended the
AI in Education Summit

6 *School
Districts*

Joined the first ESE
Innovation and Leadership
Collaborative convening

More than
40,000

Downloads across 129 countries
have established *Classroom
Caffeine* as a podcast with a global
audience



EXPANDING ACCESS TO TEACHER RECERTIFICATION

CS/HB 561, Educator Preparation and Certification, became Chapter 2026-106 and took effect July 1, 2026. The law identifies the Anchin Center as the required collaborating partner for the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College.

The two centers will develop and deliver evidence-based professional learning aligned with the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices. Through the new system, certified educators seeking to renew or reinstate their certificates will be able to complete qualifying learning at no cost, with earned in-service points submitted to the Florida Department of Education.

The new pathway addresses a gap for educators who are not employed by a school district or another organization with an approved professional learning system. For those teachers, access to the in-service points required for certificate renewal has often been difficult or expensive.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

The Advanced Placement Summer Institute brought nearly 800 educators to USF in summer 2026, making it the third-largest APSI in the world.

Teachers participated from 37 states and three countries: the United States, France, and China. The institute ran across three weeks, beginning with

an online session from June 29 through July 2 and continuing with in-person sessions July 7-10 and July 13-16 on USF's Tampa campus.

Each four-day institute gave teachers time to study AP course content, instructional approaches, and student learning alongside College Board-approved consultants. Participants also learned from colleagues teaching the same subjects in different schools, states, and countries.

Jessica Beagle, the Center's assistant director of professional learning and APSI director, led the institute. Its reach reflects sustained demand for subject-specific learning that teachers can bring into their AP classrooms.

Learning Throughout the Year

The Center's work extends beyond large events. Throughout the year, teachers also participated in online literacy courses, mentoring and clinical educator preparation, new-teacher support, and professional learning developed with district partners.

Understanding the Science of Reading provides 40 hours of online learning focused on phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and approaches to instruction for students with reading difficulties. Supporting Students with Disabilities in Literacy addresses differentiated reading instruction, dyslexia, and related learning needs while helping educators meet Florida recertification requirements.

Clinical Educator Training prepares practicing educators to mentor teacher candidates by strengthening their skills in planning conferences, classroom observation, and evidence-based feedback.





EXPLORING NEW TOOLS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Approximately 200 teachers, school and district leaders, USF faculty and students, researchers, and technology professionals attended the AI in Education Summit on June 9-10, 2026.

Hosted by the USF College of Education and the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing, and sponsored by the Anchin Center, the summit was held at the Judy Genshaft Honors College on USF's Tampa campus.

Breakout sessions and hands-on workshops addressed classroom instruction, educator productivity, student creativity, assessment, accessibility, and digital literacy. Participants also examined questions about privacy, bias, ethics, and the importance of keeping educators' judgment at the center of decisions about AI.

Biotechnology in the Classroom

On July 17, biology teachers from across Tampa Bay gathered at USF for the Amgen Biotech Experience Tampa Professional Development Institute.

Because specialized equipment and materials can be expensive, many schools have limited opportunities to offer authentic biotechnology labs. ABE Tampa addresses that barrier by giving teachers training, continued support, and access to classroom-ready laboratory kits at no cost to their schools.

IMPROVING MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION

Dr. Sarah Trench served as principal investigator for district-based projects in Manatee and Hillsborough counties. Both initiatives received support through Gates Foundation funding and were shaped around priorities identified by the participating districts.

Manatee County Mathematics Intervention

In the School District of Manatee County, the project focused on three practices that support early mathematics intervention: using manipulatives with meaning, applying formative assessment, and making room for student talk.

Teachers worked with USF faculty and staff to consider how these practices build young students' understanding and to discuss classroom implementation after the initial sessions.

Hillsborough County Mathematics Coaching

In Hillsborough County Public Schools, mathematics supervisors and coaches worked to strengthen coaching and build a more coherent approach to instruction across grade levels.

Their work addressed number lines, Florida's Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards, and preparations for future instructional materials adoption. By bringing district leaders and school-based coaches together, the project supported a shared understanding of how mathematics instruction develops from kindergarten through high school.



A Statewide Mathematics Network

On October 21-22, 2025, the Center hosted the launch of the Florida Association for Mathematics Excellence, known as FLAME. The two-day convening brought together universities, school districts, the Florida Department of Education, regional partners, and mathematics-focused professional learning centers.

Participants discussed instructional materials, professional learning, district needs, and opportunities for stronger statewide coordination. The network gives Florida's education partners a place to compare approaches and work toward common goals in mathematics teaching and learning.



LITERACY AND MULTILINGUAL LEARNING

More than 200 dual-language, world-language, and ESOL teachers came to USF on March 7, 2026, for the inaugural Pathways to Biliteracy Symposium.

Organized by Hillsborough County Public Schools and hosted by the Anchin Center and USF College of Education, the event gave educators an opportunity to learn with colleagues who support multilingual students across the district.

USF faculty and graduate students joined district leaders and teachers in conversations about bilingual education, language development, and opportunities for students to build literacy in more than one language.

Family and Climate Literacy

The Center also supported Hug Your Book: Cultivating Joy in Early Literacy, a webinar connecting educators and researchers in the United States and Ireland to discuss shared reading and family engagement.

On October 11, the Anchin Center hosted Florida Climate Stories: Growing Climate Literacy for Young People in TECO Hall. The event, part of Florida Climate Week, was supported through a Spencer Foundation grant led by Dr. Alexandra Panos.

The panel brought together educators, researchers, students, and environmental journalists to discuss how local stories can help young people understand climate science.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING THAT WELCOMES FAMILIES

Professional learning can be hard to fit into a teacher's schedule, especially when an event takes place after school and child care is not available. Teachers at MOSI was designed with that reality in mind.

During 2025-2026, the Anchin Center, the USF College of Education, and Tampa's Museum of Science & Industry hosted two free evening programs for K-12 teachers and their children.

In November, families explored MOSI's artificial intelligence exhibit and attended a planetarium presentation. In February, they explored Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion and Dream to Fly. Both evenings gave teachers classroom ideas without asking them to choose between professional learning and time with their children.

Supporting New Teachers

The Center also continued its work with early-career educators through Foundations for Flourishing and a new-teacher webinar series led by Dr. Rachel Hatten and Jessica Beagle.

The series gave beginning teachers opportunities to ask questions, trade ideas, and work through challenges with colleagues who understand the first years in the classroom. Topics were shaped by the kinds of support new teachers need as the school year unfolds.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL AND DISTRICT LEADERS

Executive Leadership Institute

The Executive Leadership Institute brings together superintendents and executive leadership teams from Hillsborough, Hernando, Manatee, and Pinellas counties.

The institute gives district leaders time to work through shared challenges, hear from education and business leaders, and consider how decisions about strategy and leadership capacity affect schools across their systems.

ESE Innovation and Leadership Collaborative

On October 17, 2025, the Anchin Center launched the ESE Innovation and Leadership Collaborative with exceptional student education leaders from six districts: Citrus, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk.

District leaders compared approaches to supporting students with disabilities and considered which practices could be adapted across school systems. The collaborative also gave USF faculty a better understanding of the challenges ESE leaders are working to address.

A New Investment in Principals

A 2026 gift from Isabel Anchin Becker will support a new leadership program for K-12 principals. The program will combine cohort-based professional learning with coaching, mentorship, and practical support for the day-to-day work of school leadership.

The program is expected to launch during the 2026-2027 academic year.



CONNECTING FACULTY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Emerging, Expanding, and Enduring Voices

On March 26, 2026, the Anchin Center brought together three faculty members for a discussion of education research across career stages and areas of expertise.

Dr. Clarence V. Walker Jr., an assistant professor, represented an emerging voice in the College of Education. Dr. Jenifer Jasinski Schneider contributed a global perspective shaped by her work as dean and a Fulbright scholar. Dr. Wayne James, professor emerita, shared insights from a long career in education.

Following their talks, Dr. Jose Castillo moderated a conversation about how scholarship can inform the questions educators face in schools.





CLASSROOM CAFFEINE FINDS A HOME AT ANCHIN

In spring 2026, the Anchin Center became the home of Classroom Caffeine, a podcast built around conversations with education researchers and practicing educators.

Dr. Lindsay Persohn created the podcast in 2020 to address a familiar problem: research does not always reach teachers in a form they can use, and the questions that come out of classrooms do not always make their way back to researchers.

Over six years, Classroom Caffeine built a global audience, with more than 40,000 downloads across 129 countries. Its interviews have introduced listeners to scholars and educators whose work speaks to teaching, learning, literacy, student experience, and school practice.

The move to the Anchin Center was announced in the April 14 episode, *A Conversation with Rachel Hatten: Passing the Mic*. Dr. Hatten now serves as host and executive producer, continuing the work Persohn began while connecting the podcast more closely with the USF College of Education.

For the Center, the podcast offers another way to connect educators with research and bring teachers' knowledge and questions into broader conversations about education.

PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Center's work depends on staff members who plan programs, manage partnerships, coordinate events, oversee finances, and make sure educators feel welcome when they arrive.

Dr. Rachel Hatten serves as director and endowed chair of education innovation. Jessica Beagle, assistant director of professional learning, leads the Advanced Placement Summer Institute and supports the Center's professional learning programs and funded projects.

Xiomara "Zee" Enamorado, senior financial operations manager, and Ana Torres Olaya, department operations manager for centers and institutes, support the financial and operational work that keeps the Center's programs running. Darius Brooks joined the Center during the year as an administrative assistant, supporting event preparation, district communications, and the daily work of the office.

The Center is also grateful to Dr. David Scanga, who helped guide its growth as director and co-director and continues to contribute through funded projects, the Anchin Center Advisory Board, and other work with the USF community.

School district partners included Hillsborough, Hernando, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Citrus counties, along with additional districts participating in statewide mathematics and professional learning initiatives.

Additional partners included College Board, the Museum of Science & Industry, the Gates Foundation, the Amgen Foundation, Fulbright, the Spencer Foundation, Microsoft, and the Anchin family.

CONNECT WITH THE ANCHIN CENTER

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*As we look toward fiscal year 2026, the Anchin Center reaffirms
its commitment to empowering educators, supporting schools, and
partnering with USF and districts statewide to ensure that every
student has access to inspired, effective teaching.*



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