



May 2026

[ITS News](#) | [@FSU](#) | [We Are IT](#) | [Shout Outs](#)
[Count IT](#) | [Join IT](#) | [Calendar](#)

ReliaQuest Innovation Challenge Fund Launches at FSU

Florida State University and ReliaQuest have launched a new partnership to advance research and real-world applications of Artificial Intelligence in cybersecurity. Made possible by [ReliaQuest's \\$1.5 million philanthropic investment](#), the collaboration will establish the annual [ReliaQuest Innovation Challenge](#) at FSU, connecting faculty, staff and post-doctoral scholars to tackle complex cybersecurity challenges. The new Innovation Challenge fund will support up to six proof-of-concept projects, with awards of up to \$30,000 each, focused on three areas: AI accuracy tracking, data sensitivity classification and knowledge graph integration. Eligible full-time FSU faculty, staff and post-doctoral scholars from any discipline are invited to [apply by May 22](#).

[More Information & How to Apply](#)

ITS News

FSU Textile Testing Lab Supports Student Learning Through Technology Fee Funding



The Textile Testing Lab, led by **Meredith McQuerry**, the Carol E. Avery Associate Professor in the **Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship**, gives students direct experience evaluating product performance while also supporting faculty research and industry partnerships.

Funding from the Student Technology Fee, a resource managed by FSU's Information Technology Services that has distributed more than \$72 million across campus to support instructional technology since 2010, has reshaped the lab, allowing it to replace most of its core equipment and keep pace with industry standards. McQuerry called the support transformational.

[Learn More](#)





ITS Summer Appreciation Recap

ITS kicked off the summer season with its annual Summer Appreciation Celebration, bringing staff together at the Technology Services Building to mark the close of the spring 2026 semester. The afternoon featured a lively mix of indoor and outdoor activities in the rain, as team members traded support tickets for tournament brackets and friendly competition, all while enjoying free ice cream from Mama P's, along with popcorn, snacks, and bake sale treats.

Highlights included a messy watermelon eating contest won by **Joshua Otteson**, a paper airplane toss won by **Jason Freeman**, and a competitive cornhole tournament culminating in a bracket-style showdown won by The Comeback Kids, **Thomas Morgan** and **Tygh VanZandt**. Mario Kart also drew a crowd including ELT members, with **Bobby Sprinkle** celebrating a win over **Jonathan Fozard**, though the overall championship went to **Michael Wolfe**, our new director of AI Research Solutions.

The day's biggest laughs came courtesy of our "Pie-in-the-Face" fundraiser. **Anne Neidhardt**, the top donor in the first round, pied **Jonathan Fozard**, while a close second round ended in a humorous twist when **Ken Johnson**, who admitted donating \$125 in hopes of seeing **Rebekah Dorn** pied, ended up on the receiving end himself. Altogether, over \$1,000 was raised for the foundation fund.

With more than 250 attendees, the celebration offered a well-deserved break and a fun, community-focused close to a successful semester for ITS.

[View the Pictures](#)

Bring Your Kid to Work Day 2026



Thanks to everyone who joined Information Technology Services for Bring Your Kid to Work Day on April 23. It was a joy to see our spaces filled with the energy of our ITS families.

During a hands-on workshop, children explored artificial intelligence by using tools like Microsoft Copilot and Google Gemini to create custom coloring books. By combining prompts with imagination, the kids developed stories and illustrations featuring campus landmarks, robots, and "Wi-Fi emergencies." Their work served as a fantastic reminder of how quickly young minds can master new technology.

We are grateful to the ITS colleagues who shared their expertise with these future innovators. You can view the photo highlights and the completed coloring books via the links below. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

[Photo Gallery](#)

[Final Coloring Books](#)

ITS Welcomes Final Group from Alignment Initiative

ITS closes out the spring semester by welcoming 25 IT professionals from The Division of Finance and Administration to our organization, marking an exciting milestone in our university-wide initiative to align and elevate technology services. This collaborative approach allows us to share expertise, streamline resources and

create a stronger, more unified IT environment for the entire university. To date, 300 full-time IT professionals have joined ITS, and we are thrilled our colleagues from Finance and Administration are now among them.

[More Information](#)

Garnet and Gold Society



Garnet and Gold Scholar Society

Induction Ceremony & Breakfast

April 21, 2026

The Garnet & Gold Scholar Society (GGSS) has recognized more than 3,055 well-rounded undergraduate students for their achievements in leadership, research, service and global engagement. A key part of that success was the GGSS portal, which ITS built in 2010. The portal provided a centralized system for students to track their progress and submit reflections while also enabling program coordinators to effectively manage the initiative. Even though the program is ending this year, ITS played a significant role in making GGSS possible and had a lasting impact on both its success and the students it served.

Stay Alert for Phishing Attempts

Florida State University reminds the campus community to remain vigilant against phishing and social engineering attempts. Threat actors often send urgent messages that mimic university IT or trusted organizations, using urgent language about security updates, account issues, service interruptions or other routine matters to trick recipients into taking action. These messages aim to steal credentials, prompt fraudulent Duo/MFA approvals, or deliver harmful attachments.

To protect yourself, never click links or provide login information in response to unexpected messages. Always access university services through official websites, such as fsu.edu. If you receive a suspicious email, report it immediately to abuse@fsu.edu. For more security tips and best practices, visit its.fsu.edu/cybersecurity/protect-yourself/phishing.

ADA Compliance Deadline Extended

FSU has made meaningful progress in improving digital accessibility, and a recent federal update granted additional time to capitalize on that momentum. As of April 20, 2026, the U.S. Department of Justice extended the web accessibility compliance deadline for state and local governments, moving FSU's deadline to April 26, 2027. While this extension allows for more thoughtful and sustainable implementation, the university encourages faculty and staff to continue their efforts, ensuring accessibility remains a priority in daily workflows. From accessible documents to captioned media and well-structured web content, these efforts ensure all members of the FSU community can access the materials they need. For resources and guidance, visit digitalaccessibility.fsu.edu.

Intern Applications Open for Fall Semester

Applications to request interns and graduate assistants for the Fall 2027 semester are open now through May 27 in the [ITS Intern Connect app](#). If your position is approved, it will be advertised and posted to [Nole Network](#) for a month. Then, you will receive a packet of resumes to review, and you will be able to schedule interviews with your top candidates. **Hire thoughtfully, ask meaningful questions, check references, confirm any other campus roles and set clear expectations.** After you make a hiring decision, submit the ITS Intern Personnel Action Request Form to ITS-Personnel@fsu.edu. HR will complete a background check and I-9 verification. Once those tasks are completed, you and your intern or graduate assistant will receive onboarding updates.

Intern Connect

Submit Articles for *Pursults*

Whether it is an event your team is planning, an award your employee received or a project update, we want to hear from you. Submit today for your

chance to be featured in next month's edition of *PursuITS!*

[Submit Here](#)

@FSU



ITS staff had a great time cheering for FSU at the baseball game against Stetson. The Seminoles beat the Hatters nine to two, while we shared snacks, laughs, and great weather with our colleagues, friends, and family. Don't miss the fun; join us at our next ITS social hour!



On April 22, staff and interns visited the FSU Flight Simulator in the Aerospace Studies Department. Funded by the Student Technology Fee, the simulator gave visitors the opportunity to explore the technology and gain firsthand experience with the cutting-edge tools FSU provides to students, faculty and staff.

We Are IT

Meet Wesley McCall!



Wesley McCall is the Assistant Athletics Director of Information Technology. He oversees all ITS operations within Athletics, from venue technology and daily support to large-scale capital projects, while also serving on leadership teams across ITS and Athletics. With nearly a decade of experience at FSU, Wesley finds it especially meaningful when he and his team can use technology to enhance the experience of student-athletes, staff and fans. He also takes pride in projects like the Howser Stadium LED and sound upgrade, which has transformed how people experience FSU athletics.

Meet Wesley



Happy Anniversary!

Happy work anniversary to all the ITS employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with FSU this month.

25 Years

Kenneth Johnson

20 Years

Jennifer Specht

15 Years

Jennifer Dames

5 Years

Kevin Looney

1 Year

Gianna Giacometto
Ray Garcia
Austin Leach
Devapriya Ranganathan
Hugh Rosser
Josica Previlus

Pia Dinamarca
Saulo Cuadrado-Acosta
Stephanie Bell
Terryon Larkins
Sai Rama Akash Varma Sagi
John Gorman
Pramodh Sairam Punjai Venkataraman
Sara Casimiro
Sean Gorman
Xavier Diaz

Shout Outs

Congratulations to All Graduates!

Congratulations to our ITS interns and staff who graduated on May 1 and 2, whether earning their undergraduate degrees or completing continuing education milestones. Your hard work and dedication are an inspiration to the ITS community, and we're excited to see all that you accomplish next!



Benjamin Bruce Receives Provost Office Award

Congratulations to **Benjamin Bruce** for receiving the 2026 Exemplary Service Award in Budget and Financial Services from the Provost's Office! Ben is widely recognized as the anchor behind many of ITS' most complex operational processes, and we are thrilled to see his dedication and expertise honored at the university level. Coworkers are encouraged to show their support at the Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 20, at 3:30 PM at the Turnbull Conference Center.



ITS Intern Receives Award at FSU Leadership Awards Night

Sofia Bernal, an ITS emerging technologies intern and computer science major in the College of Communication and Information. She is also a member of FSU's S.T.A.R.S. Alliance, which won the Mary B. Coburn Organization of the Year Award at the Leadership Awards Night on April 7, 2026. The award recognizes a registered student organization that makes a significant impact through leadership, innovation and service. Congrats, Sofia!



Read More

David Pitts Receives 2026 Core Values Award from Wertheim College of Business

David Pitts, IT Coordinator at the Wertheim College of Business, was recently honored with the 2026 Core Values Award at the college's annual Faculty and Staff Hall of Fame Awards. Since joining ITS in 2023, David has played a key role in major initiatives, including leading IT equipment relocation efforts, supporting Zoom migration and helping implement Intune for workstation deployment. His professionalism, positive attitude and commitment to supporting faculty and staff have made a lasting impact. Congrats, David!

Tamara Verheyen Named Technical Staff Member of the Year at FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

Congratulations to **Tamara Verheyen**, IT/LMS Supervisor at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, who was named Technical Staff Member of the Year at the College's annual awards ceremony. Recognized for leading the College's Canvas platform, overseeing IT support, and upholding service and excellence, this honor reflects her significant impact and the strong appreciation of the College community. Congrats, Tamara!

Count IT

154,000

Total Unique Visitors on my.fsu.edu in March 2026

Join IT

Join our team! Browse IT [job openings at FSU](#).



Salesforce Analyst
Network Administrator
ERP Analyst II
Student Computing Support Specialist

Calendar



**Applications for
Fall 2026 Interns
and Graduate
Assistants Close**
5/27



**SMART
Repository:
Demo &
Discussion**
5/27



**Flight Simulator
Lab Visit**
6/10



FSU
**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Questions?

We are here to help. Contact the ITS Service Desk at 850-644-4357 or its.fsu.edu/help.

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