Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

White Coat Ceremony

Fall Candidates of 2025
Graduate Nursing | Nurse Anesthesiology

Thursday, August 28, 2025
Two O'clock in the Afternoon

Table of Contents

About Dean Jorge A. Valdés 1

Order of Ceremony 2

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Faculty 3

University Governance and Administration 4

Fall 2025 White Coat Candidates 6

Dean Jorge A. Valdés

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Dr. Jorge A. Valdés serves as Dean and Clinical Professor of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences (NWCNHS) at Florida International University (FIU). Dr. Valdés is a distinguished leader and author, with a prolific career as a clinical nurse anesthesiologist spanning over twenty years. As an educator, he is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in higher education and nursing, with over fourteen years of experience serving in numerous leadership roles at various academic institutions across South Florida.

As a researcher, he has authored various book chapters on diversity, nurse anesthesiology practice and has numerous publications and funded grants. His work has translated into transformational leadership in health equity, education, and legislative action, where he has tirelessly advocated for advance nursing practice and has appeared before the Florida State House of Representatives as an expert clinician in healthcare issues.

He is an esteemed Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and a distinguished member of the Miami-Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame for his numerous contributions to the South Florida community. Additionally, in recognition of his unwavering dedication to excellence in all his endeavors, Dr. Valdés was awarded the FIU President's Council Real Triumphs Faculty Award in 2021. These accolades serve as a testament to his exceptional achievements, a champion for student success, and unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in nurse education and the profession.

Throughout his career, Dr. Valdés has served as president of the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and led numerous state and national professional nursing boards. From 2017-2020, he served as chair of the diversity and inclusion committee for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, where he spearheaded national and regional presentations on diversity and nurse education.

Dr. Valdés' focus as Dean is to continue the success and enhancement of quality programs at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, advancing the college's research agenda, creating new innovative collaborative spaces for growth, and providing exceptional educational experiences for students.

Order of Ceremony
Thursday, August 28, 2025, 2:00 P.M.

PRESIDING …….. Dr. Jorge A. Valdés, Dean
Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

NATIONAL ANTHEM & ALMA MATER ……..……Jessica Downs
The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim School of Music & Performing Arts

DEAN'S ADDRESS ……... Dr. Jorge A. Valdés, Dean
Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WHITE COAT…… Dr. Ann Miller
Department Chair, Nurse Anesthesiology
Dr. Michael Sanchez
Department Chair, Graduate Nursing

PRESENTATION OF THE WHITE COAT……...Dr. Lucie Dlugasch
Department of Graduate Nursing
Dr. Vicente Gonzalez
Department of Nurse Anesthesiology

CLOSING REMARKS……Dr. Howard Holness
Associate Dean of Administration
Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

FACULTY

Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. FERNANDO ALFONSO
Clinical Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. YASMINE CAMPBELL
Clinical Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. VALERIE DIAZ
Clinical Associate Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. KESHIA GATTORNO
Clinical Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. VICENTE GONZALEZ
Assistant Chair and Clinical Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. PEDRO HERNANDEZ
Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. ANN MILLER
Department Chair and Clinical Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. JORGE VALDÉS
Dean, Clinical Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

DR. CHRISTINA VERA
Clinical Assistant Professor, Nurse Anesthesiology Department

Graduate Nursing Department

DR. LATISHA BARFIELD
Clinical Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing Department

DR. FRANCISCO BRENES
Clinical Assistant Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. ELLEN BROWN
Tenured Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. CHARLIE P. BUSCEMI
Clinical Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. VICTOR DELGADO
Clinical Associate Professor, Undergraduate Nursing Department

DR. LUCIE DLUGASCH
Assistant Chair and Clinical Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. ERIC FENKL
Tenured Associate Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. CARMEN VICTORIA FRAMIL
Clinical Associate Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. DEANA GOLDIN
Clinical Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. VANESSA GORDON
Graduate Nursing Director of Clinical Education, Clinical Assistant Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. ANTONELLA GRANA
Clinical Assistant Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. ROSA ROCHE
Clinical Associate Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. MICHAEL SANCHEZ
Department Chair, Director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program, and Clinical Associate Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. DANA SHERMAN
Clinical Assistant Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

DR. DEBORAH SHERMAN
Tenured Professor, Graduate Nursing Department

STATE OF FLORIDA

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, *Governor*
The Honorable James Uthmeier, *Attorney General*
The Honorable Jimmy Patronis, *Chief Financial Officer*
The Honorable Wilton Simpson, *Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Brian Lamb, *Chair*
Alan Levine, *Vice Chair*
Raymond Rodrigues, *Chancellor*
Anastasios Kamoutsas, *Commissioner of Education*

Ashley Bell Barnett
Timothy M. Cerio
Carson Dale
Kimberly Dunn
Aubrey Edge
Patricia Frost
Carson Good
Edward Haddock
Ken Jones
Charles H. Lydecker
Craig Mateer
Jose Oliva
Paul Renner
Eric Silagy

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carlos A. Duart, '94, '99, *Chair*
Marc D. Sarnoff, *Vice Chair*

Dean C. Colson
Alan Gonzalez '96, '01
George Heisel
Jesus Lebeña '98
Alexander M. Peraza
Yaffa Popack
Chanel T. Rowe '14
Alberto R. Taño
Fred Voccola

Faculty Member
Noël C. Barengo
Chair, Faculty Senate

Student Member
Francesca Casanova
President, Student Government Association

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Adalio T. Sanchez '87, *Chairperson*
Gerald C. Grant Jr. '78, '89 *Vice Chairperson*
Marcel L. Navarro '93, *Treasurer*
Jill M. Granat '87, *Secretary*
Jeanette M. Nuñez '94, '98, *President*
Kenneth C. Hall, *CEO*

Humberto "Burt" Cabañas '76
Cristina di Mauro '01
LaTéssa Dotson Hall
Albert "Al" Lorenzo '74
Carlos A. Somoza '93
Elliot N. Stone
Albert R. Taño

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Jeanette M. Nuñez '94, '98, *President*
Elizabeth M. Bejar '98, *Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer*
Aime Martinez '96, '99, *Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration*
Juan C. Cendan, *Senior Vice President, Health Affairs*
Andrés G. Gil '86, *Senior Vice President, Research and Economic Development*
Kenneth C. Hall, *Senior Vice President, University Advancement, and Chief Executive Officer, FIU Foundation Inc.*
El pagnier K. Hudson, *Senior Vice President, Human Resources*
Kenneth A. Jessell, *Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer*
Javier I. Marqués '92, '96, *Senior Vice President, Operations and Safety, and FIU Chief of Staff*
Michelle L. Palacio '03, *Senior Vice President, Strategic Communications, Government and External Affairs*
Charlie Andrews '94, '14, *Vice President, Student Affairs*
Bridgette Cram '17, *Vice President, Academic Affairs: Student Success Operations and Integrated Planning*
Robert Grillo '91, *Vice President, Information Technology, and Chief Information Officer*
Michael R. Heithaus, *Vice Provost, Environmental Resilience, and Vice Provost, Biscayne Bay Campus*
Scott Carr, *Director, Intercollegiate Athletics*
Carlos B. Castillo '88, *General Counsel*

Fall 2025 White Coat Candidates

Graduate Nursing White Coat Candidates

Iliana Adams
Felix Alfred
Angelica Alvarez
Alexis Anderson
Daniela Angel
Stephanie Antenor
Stephanie Barr
Zereka Bell
Jennifer Bredy
ShellyAnn Brooks
Melissa Cabello
Damaris Carvajal
Riona Clarke
Marianella Corghi
Kelly Cortada
Elizabeth Cristancho
Flavia De Aguilar
Amanda Diaz
Pierreline Dorcelian
Sabrina Duran
Shane Farouk
Frans Forero
Martha Foussianis
William Fraga
Rebecca Garcia
Sara Garcia
Viviana Garcia Lopez
Jade Gibbs
Amanda Gonzalez
Miranda Gonzalez

Liena Infante
Sara Jaffe
Shaunte Jean-Poix
Mónica Jorge Bravo
Stacy Joseph
Shade' Lee Sin
Maegan Llanes
Kayla Loochkartt
Danielle Lorenz
Adriana Magallanes-Figueroa
Lorena Martinez
Valerie Maselli
Catalina Miranda
Melina Munoz
Shelah Mola
Alina Molina
Nattaly Morales Velasquez
Natalia Novitski
Ebele Okpala
Ann Olson
David Ortega
Lori Pagano
Laura Palma Buitrago
Saeha Paulovkin
Elyssa Penalver
Amy Perez
Nicole Ramirez-Rojas
Patricia Reska
Cristina Rodriguez

Jancarlos Roque
Alicia Ruiz
Adriana Ruiz
Ariel Salazar
Adrian Salazar
Camila Sandino Rivero
Melanie Sans
Cindy Santana
Dominique Sherman
Raquel Torron
Jennifer Vilarino
Jazmine Villanueva
Suzianna Whyte
Winchel William
Melissa Wong

Fall 2025 White Coat Candidates

Nurse Anesthesiology White Coat Candidates

Hailey Adams
Victoria Almodovar
Brenda Altman
Alain Alvarez
Lauryn Ashmon
James Avila
Michael Badalamenti
Sabrina Betancourt
Saraswathi Bhadrareddy
Ian Clouthier
Britney Couri
Miguel Cruz
Jacqueline Denis
Allyson Duart
Mohamed Eid
Moises Elvir
Qiuna Fang
Michelle Figueroa
Isai Flores
Jonathan Garcia
Jessica Greene
Maria Guerra
Curtis Hazell
Alexandra Hernandez
Joelle Hilton
Laura Hofstad
Tanesha Hudson
Carolyn Kutchback
Brenda Lebada
Myesha Lewis
Graham Lindsay
Christopher Marcoux
Eric McGuire
Justin Melo
Teresita Noguera Massardo
Jheel Patel
Chelsea Patterson
Schneider Pierre
Clerson Pierre-Louis
Marlon Proenza
Michelle Puma
Diwaldo Rabre Jr
Vanessa Ramos
Stephanie Rosell Soto
Silienne Saint-Fleury
Stephanie Sanchez
Jasleen Sidhu
Niurka Suarez
Thi Ha Mai Tran
Gabrielle Viera
Darian Zelazny

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

FIU | Student Government Association

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY