

The River Alumni News

Indian River State College Alumni Association Newsletter



**Indian River
State College**
Alumni Association

A Look Back at Indian River State College Night at Clover Park!

More than 1,300 Indian River State College alumni joined us at Clover Park to cheer on the St. Lucie Mets and celebrate the River connection that continues long after graduation.

Our women's volleyball team lent a hand as food was collected for the College Food Pantry. Guests showed their River Pride with blue and gold glow sticks, while children enjoyed coloring books and crayons. One of the evening's highlights was seeing our own alumnus, Andres Tovar, take the mound for the ceremonial first pitch, with his wife and son, who are also proud alumni, cheering him on.

The rain was the least of anyone's concerns as alumni, students, families, and friends came together for a night of fun, community, and giving back. Events like this remind us that the River connection is more than a shared alma mater. It is a lifelong bond rooted in Falcon pride, generosity, and the spirit of community that makes Indian River State College so special.

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A Letter from Laura

Your Director of Alumni Relations

Dear Alumni,

As a transplanted northerner, I find fall in Florida underwhelming – no orange, golden, and red leaves crunching under my feet. No hot apple cider served at a roadside stand beside a field of pumpkins. No sweater weather. No, instead we face blue skies, warm air, sea breezes, and swaying palms – a reminder that fall in Florida has its own beauty, and that we must bloom where we are planted. And perhaps that is something our alumni understand especially well.

Indian River State College has been a starting point for more than 100,000 alumni who have gone on to build careers, raise families, serve their communities, start businesses, lead organizations, and make their mark in ways large and small. Some have stayed right here on the Treasure Coast, while others have planted roots far beyond our four-county region. Wherever life has taken you, you remain an important part of our college family.

One of the things I love most about my job is having the opportunity to connect those two worlds – our students who are just beginning to imagine where their futures might take them and our alumni who are living examples of what is possible. I am continually inspired by your stories, your accomplishments, and especially the many ways you continue to give back to the communities around you.

In this fall edition, you'll meet some of those remarkable alumni, learn about what is happening at the College, and discover opportunities to reconnect and get involved. I hope you'll find something that makes you proud of where you started – and perhaps inspires you to come back and see us.

So, while I may still long for a crisp October morning, a cozy sweater, and leaves that actually change color, I've learned to appreciate fall Florida-style. After all, there are worse places to bloom than beneath blue skies and palm trees.

Thank you for staying connected, and most importantly, thank you for being part of our alumni family.

Warmly,



Laura Midkiff

Director of Development,

Annual Giving & Alumni Relations



Alumni Spotlight - Sheriff Richard Del Toro



Long before Rich Del Toro became Sheriff of St. Lucie County, he spent weekends selling clothes at a local flea market to pay the \$2,800 tuition for the Police Academy at Indian River Community College. At a time when sponsorships were uncommon, he was determined to create his own opportunity and pursue a career in law enforcement.

Born and raised in Connecticut, he then moved to Florida after his father retired from law enforcement. Del Toro found both direction and opportunity at Indian River. **"Indian River Community College was the best experience I had as far as college goes,"** he said. **"From an education standpoint, it really prepared me for my future."**

That preparation launched a career that would span decades and ultimately lead him to become Sheriff. Yet despite his success, Del Toro remains deeply grateful for the opportunities that helped shape his journey.

Today, as both an alumnus and community leader, he recognizes the importance of expanding access to education for others. **"I think Indian River State College provides a very valuable resource for this community,"** he said. Reflecting on initiatives such as the Promise Program, he added, **"This college has provided that opportunity now."**



For Del Toro, education creates pathways to success, regardless of a person's circumstances. His own story stands as proof. Looking back on the challenges he overcame and the life he built through perseverance and service, he offers a simple but powerful message: **"People look at where you end up in life and think you've had it made. You have to overcome a lot of challenges to get to where you are."**

And perhaps the lesson that best defines his journey: **"It's not about how you start. It's about how you finish."**

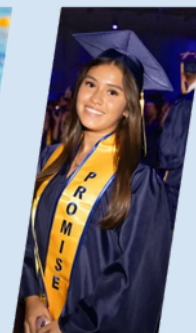
To learn more about Sheriff Del Toro's law enforcement career, community service, and achievements, visit his biography on the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office website by **clicking here**.

Giving Day 2026!

What does giving mean to you? For us, it means continuing our enduring commitment to access, opportunity and academic excellence through our River family.

From our National Championship Swim Team to our Promise Program, your gift can create a ripple of impact. Mark your calendars for Giving Day on **October 27th** and direct your gift to your cause.

Learn More →



Upcoming Events!

Holidays for Heroes



- 📅 Donation Drive: November 16 - December 14
- 📍 Drop-Off Location: Massey Campus
3209 Virginia Ave., Inside Building A (1st Floor)

The Indian River State College Alumni Association is proud to support our brave men and women serving our country through its Holiday for Heroes initiative. From November 16 through December 14, community members are invited to donate **snacks, games, books, stationery, new black socks, and handwritten notes of gratitude and holiday cheer**. Monetary gifts to help cover postage costs are also appreciated and can be made at giving.irsc.edu.



Pack the Pantry!

- 📅 Food Drive: November 17, 2026
- 📍 Drop-Off Location: Massey Campus
3209 Virginia Ave., Outside of Building A

One donation can make a big impact. Join the Indian River State College Alumni Association as we host a Food Pantry Drive on **November 17** to support our students in need. Donations of non-perishable food and personal-care items may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and noon in front of Building A on the Massey Campus.



Alumni Holiday Drive-In Movie Night!

- 📅 Movie Night: December 4, 2026
- 📍 Location: 601 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34949

We're elf-ing out over our upcoming Alumni Holiday Drive-In Movie Night! Join us on December 4 at Treasure Coast Park and Watch for a **FREE** showing of Elf and **complimentary popcorn**. Gates open at 6 p.m., and the movie begins at 7 p.m. Stay tuned for registration information!



Have a question, idea or want to get more involved?
Contact Laura Midkiff.

(772) 462-7298
LMIDKIFF@IRSC.EDU

GIVING.IRSC.EDU/ALUMNI-COMMUNITY

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