

USF seeks to educate amid vaping illness epidemic



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

As e-cigarettes and vaping become more socially acceptable, many students may not think twice about them.

However, the topics of e-cigarettes and vaping have become more relevant in a negative way the past few months as there have been outbreaks of severe lung disease related to the products.

As of Oct. 29, 37 deaths linked

to vaping have been confirmed in 24 states in 2019, including three in Florida, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Of the 37, the youngest victim was a 17-year-old last month.

Since the outbreaks, the CDC has recommended that people do not use e-cigarette or vaping products that contain THC.

To support the CDC's statement, Jennifer DiPrete, the director of the Center for Student Well-Being, said the department is working on putting together a survey to educate students about the issue on campus.

"We want to get a better understanding from students about what e-cigarettes and vaping look like to them and what

they know about it," DiPrete said.

The survey wouldn't be sent via email but rather handed out in person or collected through a QR code that students would scan and fill out on their phones.

The questions could range from information about vaping, if that student has participated in using e-cigarettes or if the student's friends have used e-cigarettes.

No date has been decided on when the survey will be finalized and released.

DiPrete said she is working with other departments such as Health and Wellness to create informational social media posts and place posters in residential halls.

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The Center for Student Well-Being is working on putting together a survey to educate students about vaping and e-cigarettes. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

On-campus Jabil institute sparks anticipation from students



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

A plan drafted on a bar napkin two years ago has now become the USF Jabil Innovation Institute, a multi-million dollar institute combining the College

of Engineering and the Muma College of Business.

Senior Vice President of Advancement and CEO of the USF Foundation Joel Momberg and Jabil CEO Mark Mondello jotted the idea down with the intention to bring a platform to USF focused on student success before and after graduation.

"I graduated from USF with an engineering degree and going into my last semester, I had no idea what I was going to do," Mondello said. "No idea

where I was going to work, what I was going to do, I just knew I was going to school. What [the Jabil Institute] also allows is an amazing platform for the wonderful students at USF to get their feet under them and work on real projects.

"We want to give students, whether they're on the business side or engineering side, the opportunity to work on real stuff."

The announcement of the USF Jabil Innovation Institute took

place on Oct. 24 in the Marshall Student Center Ballroom.

The worldwide manufacturing services company Jabil will contribute \$1 million for the launch of the institute, which consists of a \$800,000 gift and \$200,000 in research support.

In the weeks following the announcement, students shared their expectations and the impact of the institute on their future.

Kush Mathur, a junior

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Jabil will contribute \$1 million for the launch of the on-campus institute, which consists of \$800,000 as a gift and \$200,000 in research support. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

JABIL

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majoring in electrical engineering, said that the partnership could potentially become a pathway for students to obtain internships and full-time roles at Jabil.

"I believe the partnership presents a great opportunity for students to not only do well in school but also get involved in real-time hands-on projects with a company like Jabil," Mathur said. "It really gives students the opportunity to connect with industry-experienced professionals and work on significant projects without leaving the campus."

Jabil will lease space at the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI) in USF's Research Park, according to the USF website. In addition, Jabil will participate in USF innovation initiatives and lead programs for client companies at TBTI.

Junayed Jahangir, a sophomore majoring in finance, said he believes Jabil's collaborative

efforts will support one another.

"It's a very visionary and mutually beneficial deal for both Jabil and USF," Jahangir said. "With the partnership, USF students will have more access to leadership, mentorship and skill development programs offered by Jabil which will also give them a boost in the professional world."

Besides giving more opportunities to students, Mondello said that this partnership will be a key factor to help cultivate diversity at Jabil.

"We spend a lot of time inside our company talking about diversity and inclusion," Mondello said. "By getting more formal access to the younger population at a great university like USF, it helps expand our diversity of thought. It makes our solutions and our customer service better."

Tracy Pham, a sophomore majoring in computer sciences, said that the partnership will give students more access to research opportunities on campus.

"I think this is an amazing opportunity for students who are like me who get bored easily

in classes and want to do more but don't necessarily have the funds or guidance to get projects started," Pham said.

"Because I enjoy doing research for USF, but don't have the luxury of doing those glamorous internships in other states, being able to explore my interests in research on campus because of this new tool will give me a chance to develop locally in the comfort of my home campus while still being exposed to industry professionals at Jabil."

Jabil currently has more than 200,000 employees across its 100 plants in 28 countries. Mondello said in an interview with The Oracle that the partnership will begin immediately.

"A lot of students can benefit heavily from the hands-on projects as they are the best learning experiences for students and an opportunity for them to showcase what they learn in class," Mathur said. "Project experience of any sort is the most vital thing for employees, hence, I believe it is the start of great things to come."

VAPING

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Although USF has been a tobacco and smoke-free campus since 2016, the increase of e-cigarette use and vaping have been more difficult to detect because of the vapor.

"The enforcement aspect of it is something that colleges and universities are struggling with," DiPrete said.

In an effort to record health trends on campus, DiPrete said USF students take the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) survey which is sent out every two to four years.

The survey is based on self-reports and covers topics about sexual health, weight, nutrition, exercise, mental health, personal safety and violence, alcohol, tobacco and the recently added e-cigarettes.

About 1,100 students responded to the last ACHA-NCHA survey which was sent out via email four years ago.

The 2016 executive summary concluded that 87 percent said they never used, over 9 percent said they have used but not in the past 30 days and over 3 percent said they have used within the past 30 days.

This was lower than the 2016 national average of over 4 percent of people using within the past 30 days.

At this point it is unknown how USF's e-cigarette use has changed since 2016, but DiPrete said a new survey will be sent to students spring 2020.

However, the national survey, which is updated every year, found that e-cigarette smoking use has nearly tripled from over 4 percent in 2016 to over 12 percent in 2019.

A fault in the survey is that it is based on students being honest about their smoking usage but Marie Bourgeois, a research

assistant professor at the College of Public Health, said students are not ashamed to admit that they are vaping because it is accepted socially.

"Just because it is not permitted on campus, does not mean people are not using [the products] when they are walking to class or in buildings," Bourgeois said. "... Students could very well just exhale into their jackets."

DiPrete said she believes the rise in e-cigarette products has to do with the flavors of vaporizers. Juul e-cigarettes come in a variety of flavors such as "cotton candy" and "strawberry milk."

"It has become way more appealing for young people," DiPrete said. "In the flavoring, there is a chemical that's linked to some of the serious lung disease that's been seen."

"There is no safe form of any cigarette or vaping item."

Bourgeois said students shouldn't be concerned with the number of deaths because it is relatively low nationally, but she said students should be mindful of where they purchase their products.

"The e-cigarettes were originally positioned as a smoking cessation tool for people trying to quit but it has evolved to a more marketable position than anticipated," Bourgeois said. "Now they are being used by teenagers and people who have never smoked before with pods that are being modified with what could be harmful chemicals."

"There is still a lot that is unknown about e-cigarettes, but the main cause in injuries and deaths are from people who are buying pods and modifying it to add other chemicals."

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InBrief

FSU fires Taggart

Willie Taggart is looking for a new job.

The former USF coach, who led the Bulls from 2013-16, was fired by FSU on Sunday after an embarrassing 27-10 loss to Miami on Saturday.

Taggart posted a 9-12 record as coach at FSU, including a 4-5 record in 2019. The Seminoles' 5-7 performance last season was FSU's first losing season since 1976 and ended an NCAA-record 36-year bowl streak, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

"I think very highly of Coach Taggart and wish him well," Florida State president John Thrasher said in a statement obtained by the Times, "but in the interest of the university we had no choice but to make a change."

Taggart's buyout at FSU does not come cheap: the Seminoles will pay him \$17 million to depart.

Following his less than two-year tenure in Tallahassee, Taggart's overall record as a head coach is six games below .500 at 56-62, including a 24-25 record at USF.

After departing the Bulls before the 2016 Birmingham Bowl, Taggart was coach at Oregon for one season, leading the Ducks to a 7-5 record before leaving for the FSU job before the Las Vegas Bowl.



Willie Taggart.
ORACLE PHOTO

Hockey

Ice Bulls embrace Colorado trip



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Some road trips are cooler than others.

Literally, in the case of the Ice Bulls' latest.

USF's club hockey team is fresh off a trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where the temperatures were a bit milder than in Tampa.

"The first two days we were there, it was like 60s and 70s — it was actually really nice ... the guys from up north were wearing some shorts," junior defenseman Scott Nelson said. "The last day, it was snowing actually when we were flying out, so our plane got delayed about an hour for deicing.

"But I think it was just absolutely beautiful. The snow up in the mountains is — you can't really describe it unless you're there."

But it was a figuratively cool trip, too, as the team was in the Centennial State to play two games against the Air Force Academy's club team Oct. 26 and 27. Playing against Air Force — or even just seeing cadets in uniform at a football game, like the Ice Bulls did — was a special experience.

"We're very thankful for these guys," Nelson said. "Even though they're our enemies on the ice, they're our heroes out in the real



USF Ice Bulls visiting Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs, Colo. The Ice Bulls' trip to Colorado also included two games against the Air Force Academy. COURTESY USF HOCKEY/SEAN BRONAN

world. They're risking their lives for us. So just to see them around, like walking around campus or we even got to see a group of them at the football game, it just makes us thankful for them."

It was also a good experience for USF on the ice, as Air Force's play was very intense and disciplined.

"They're very intense, very structured," freshman defenseman Keith Moss said. "You could tell, especially during the national anthem, how just zoned in they were. There were all blank faces, just really zoned in.

"But it was amazing to see after the games, when we went through the [handshake] lines, just how open they were. They were always, 'Good luck. Safe travels back. Thanks for coming up.' Just really warm-hearted."

The trip itself was a great early-season experience for the Ice Bulls, who won't travel out of Florida again this season unless they qualify for Nationals.

"It was cool to make that trip and bond with the rest of the guys," sophomore forward Zack Slezak said, "as well as obviously play a team that's essentially serving our country. Overall, it'll be something I'm sure none of us will forget."

The Ice Bulls went 1-1 during their Colorado trip, and while they would have liked to have gone 2-0, according to Nelson, their come-from-behind victory Oct. 27 is the only loss on Air Force's 7-1 record.

"They're going to probably be a top seed to Nationals, and we went 1-1 with them," Nelson said. "I think we've got a pretty good outlook on the rest of our season that hopefully, we can also get a bye to Nationals like them."

Now back in Florida, the Ice Bulls are getting set for their annual Hockey Fights Cancer night when they play Florida Gulf Coast on Friday at 8:45 p.m. at AdventHealth Center Ice in Wesley Chapel.

The Ice Bulls will be wearing

special jerseys and holding raffles to help fight cancer, which has become an annual tradition not just for them, but also in the NHL.

"Cancer affects all of us," Nelson said. "I'm pretty sure everybody's got a family member that's affected by it in one way or another. So it's really big for us to get a big group out there fanwise."

While the Ice Bulls only play one home game in November, AdventHealth Center Ice will also be participating in cancer fundraising throughout the month.

"The rink dedicates a lot of time and resources to pretty much the months of October and even November," Slezak said, "raising awareness about cancer and hosting a lot of events for that. So this will be kind of like a big premiere event that they like to talk about."

Admission to Hockey Fights Cancer night, like all Ice Bulls home games, is free.