

NOVA Southeastern University Partners with Clearwater Marine Aquarium on New Shark Exhibit

Nova Southeastern University is partnering with Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) to bring an improved guest experience to CMA's Nurse Shark Viewing area. The newly designed area features educational facts to engage guests and provide them with an opportunity to learn more about sharks – the university's mascot.

"We're proud to partner with Nova Southeastern University," said David Yates, CEO of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. "Their dedication to the community is as strong as their passion for offering world-class educational programs, symbolized by their mascot, the Shark."

The underwater Nurse Shark Viewing area, presented by NSU Florida, allows guests to view CMA's resident nurse sharks, Thelma and Louise, up close. Thelma and Louise came to CMA through a private collector who no longer had the space to accommodate the sharks' size. Because they were domesticated, Thelma and Louise lack essential survival skills and could not be released into the wild. The veterinary staff at CMA trains both sharks using target poles.

Nova Southeastern University is Florida's largest private, not-for-profit institution for higher education, offering world-class educational programs at its Tampa Bay Regional Campus since 1999. The Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing launched their M.S.N. in Family Nurse Practitioner in 2016. Since then they have expanded to help meet the growing demand for nurses to include the M.S.N. in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. In addition to these programs offered at Tampa Bay they also offer various program throughout the state and online including a B.S.N., Accelerated B.S.N., M.S.N. with various concentrations, D.N.P., D.N.P. to Ph.D., and a Ph.D. focusing in Nursing Education. NSU's Tampa Bay Regional Campus provides students with an edge, so when they graduate they're not only ready to enter the workplace, they're prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow. NSU's Tampa Bay Regional Campus is located in Clearwater, FL with a 325,000 square foot state-of-the-art medical education complex sitting on approximately 27 acres.

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About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. Major motion picture *Dolphin Tale* (2011) features Winter's story and its sequel *Dolphin Tale 2* (2014) features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. Clearwater Marine Aquarium also conducts important global research focused on protecting manatees, right whales and sea turtles. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.