



POST- SECONDARY

POSITION PAPER



POST-SECONDARY

Florida Education Funders Guiding Statement

The funders will support a culture of high expectations for all students, in and out of school, from early childhood through postsecondary education, leading to career success.

Florida Education Funders Roles

- 1 Provide a learning agenda on Florida-specific issues aligned with group initiatives
- 2 Work on a shared advocacy agenda
- 3 Network, potentially leading to deeper programmatic learning & funding collaborations

FPN Florida Education Funders Initiatives



Advancement of Early Childhood Education

Support ready to learn initiatives (before K) and grade level reading



College and Career Ready High School Graduates

Support strategies during K-12 to prepare graduates for future success



Post-secondary Access, Persistence and Success

Increase equitable accessibility and affordability of post-secondary programs

INTRODUCTION

The **FPN Florida Education Funders** believe that Florida's future economic health is tied directly to an effective educational pipeline from birth through post-secondary achievement, i.e., cradle to career. The resulting skilled workforce is a critical outcome. Funder's support of this takes a two-fold approach; **1)** a Learning Agenda to increase members' knowledge on topics appropriate to its focus areas and **2)** Policy Engagement which is undertaken as opportunities present themselves and as FPN members determine. Policy work may be done collectively (as FPN) or individually by members.

The state of Florida formalized a statewide attainment goal with the signing of House Bill 7071 (HB 7071) in 2019. HB 7071 establishes the SAIL to 60 Initiative (Strengthening Alignment between Industry and Learning). The goal aims to increase the percentage of working-age Floridians with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030. Florida's current attainment is 52.8% with considerable variation by county, race, and ethnicity.¹ For example, while white attainment for the targeted 25 – 64 age group is approximately 55%, Black attainment is 37.8%, Hispanic attainment is 47.4% and for many rural counties overall attainment is below 20%. These inequities are costly to Florida's economy. The Georgetown University Center for Education and the Workforce conducted projections in partnership with the Postsecondary Value Commission and found that the US economy misses out on \$956 billion dollars per year, along with numerous nonmonetary benefits, because of postsecondary attainment gaps by economic status and race/ethnicity.²

POSITIONS

FPN supports policies and practices which maximize equitable access, persistence, and success in post-secondary endeavors leading to either degrees or high-value credentials. FPN believes that achieving a goal of 60% post-secondary attainment will require an evaluation of potential policy barriers as well as a high degree of collaboration, including across sectors. Many FPN members are working in this area through local college access networks (LCANs) under the auspices of the Florida College Access Network (FCAN). FPN also collaborates directly with FCAN and applauds and supports the collective impact efforts of these groups.

The premise of LCANs is that local organizations are best positioned to address unique local challenges to increasing attainment. A variety of factors contribute to improving results such as college and career readiness (addressed in FPN's K-12 focus area), increased awareness, affordability, assisting partial completers, high-value credentials, apprenticeship programs, and addressing racial, ethnic, and gender inequities inherent in many of these systems. FPN members support this work with both local and state-wide focus on programming and policy advocacy.

FPN believes that a key factor in increasing post-secondary educational attainment is affordability. FPN has supported members maximizing their post-secondary investments through research and programming to expand effective non-traditional scholarship designs. Additionally, FPN continues to support a data-driven approach to maximizing the state's investments in scholarships via programs such as Bright Futures, Gold Medallion, etc.

FPN was an early supporter of utilizing high-value credentials as an effective post-secondary avenue for Floridians to begin their career.³ Florida has a robust system of public technical colleges as well as industries investing in their employees with credential programs.

FPN is concerned with all aspects of inequity which create roadblocks to attainment opportunities for all groups in Florida. However, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a particular area that many FPN members are addressing – unequal access to broadband internet connections, adequate devices and skills to learn and work remotely. It's estimated that over 800,000 Floridians in 54 counties and 20% of Florida's rural population do not have broadband access.⁴

FPN Positions

- ✓ State-wide post-secondary attainment of 60% by 2030.
- ✓ Policies and practices that support equitable attainment.
- ✓ Collaborating with local organizations.
- ✓ Affordability is a key factor to increasing attainment.
- ✓ High-value credentials to increase attainment.

PHILANTHROPY'S ROLE

Philanthropy supports post-secondary access, persistence, and success in a variety of ways. In addition to traditional roles of assisting with resources, supporting research and piloting programs, funders often serve as facilitators to engage various entities needed to help overcome barriers to success. Excellent examples are found in the various roles that philanthropy plays in the collective impact approach LCANs take. Additionally, philanthropy has stepped up around the state to facilitate partnerships with municipalities, utilities, companies, and community organizations to expand access to broadband; a hurdle made even more significant during COVID-19.

Funders fulfill the traditional roles of thought leaders, providers of financial support for research, in areas of need of championing pilot programs, and public advocates. Many funders participate in regional and statewide policy conversations as advocates for overcoming obstacles for greater student success.

Community Foundation Tampa Bay

Project	LEAP Tampa Bay College Access Network
Area Served	Hillsborough & Pinellas Counties, Florida
Collaborating Organizations	Over 50 organizations across education, business, government and philanthropy sectors, including the following 17 founding partners: Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, Pinellas Education Foundation, Hillsborough Education Foundation, Tampa Bay Economic Development Corporation, Hillsborough County Public Schools, Pinellas County, Helios Education Foundation, Community Foundation Tampa Bay, University of South Florida-St. Petersburg, University of South Florida, Pinellas County Schools, City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida College Access Network, Bank of America, Hillsborough Community College, and St. Petersburg College.
Goal	Launched in 2016, LEAP Tampa Bay's cross-sector network of community partners has a goal to increase the number of working age adults in Tampa Bay with a post-secondary degree or high-quality certificate to 60 percent by 2025.
Description	LEAP Tampa Bay's mission is to transform lives by leveraging the power of community collaboration to accelerate personal, workforce, and community prosperity through education.
Funder's Role	Backbone organization and funder.
Planned Timeframe	On-going
More Information	https://leaptampabay.org/

Helios Education Foundation

Project	Elevation Scholar Supports
Area Served	Orlando Metro Area
Collaborating Organizations	Elevation Financial Group, Seneff Family Foundation, Orosz Family Foundation, Glenda G. Morgan Charitable Foundation, Summit Church, Orange County Public Schools, Elevate Orlando, University of Central Florida Burnett Honors College, Wake Forest University.
Goal	Elevation Scholars program goal is that low-income, high-achieving students secure admission to and graduation from a college that matches their academic ability.
Description	Provide college readiness programming and financial assistance to low-income, high-achieving students in five Orange County high schools including intensive one-on-one college readiness coaching and test-prep tutoring, and financial supports and coaching throughout their four years in college.
Funder's Role	Funder
Planned Timeframe	3 years
More Information	http://www.theelevationscholars.org/

ABOUT FPN

The Florida Philanthropic Network is a statewide association of grantmakers working to build philanthropy for a better Florida. FPN's members are private independent, corporate and family foundations, community foundations, public charity grantmakers and corporate giving programs - from Miami to Jacksonville; Naples to Pensacola - who hold over \$8 billion in assets and invest over \$500 million annually in Florida to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Our members share a commitment to promoting philanthropy, fostering collaboration and advancing public policy by Florida, in Florida.

FPN's Florida Education Funders are FPN members who share an interest in supporting education issues, organizations and needs in Florida. Convenings of the Florida Education Funders offer a space to learn and share together on improving the state's education outcomes, and to be a voice for Florida philanthropy on key education policy issues.

REFERENCES

- 1 A Stronger Nation, Lumina Foundation (2021). <https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/2021/#/progress>
- 2 The Cost of Economic and Racial Injustice in Postsecondary Education, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (2021). <https://1gyhoq479ufd3yna29x7ubjn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/cew-the-cost-of-economic-and-racial-injustice.pdf>
- 3 The Credentials Students Earn Beyond a High School Diploma, Daugherty, L. (2021). https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/perspectives/PEA1100/PEA1141-4/RAND_PEA1141-4.pdf
- 4 Connect the Future, Florida (2021). <https://fl.connectthefuture.com/>