



COVID Education Innovation in Florida

Community Based Teacher Appreciation (Collier County)

Teachers all over Collier County show immense passion for their craft with tireless calling and emailing parents, creating new lesson plans, honing and building tech skills, building relationships, and addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of students and families.

Working with stakeholders, the Champions for Learning (the education foundation for Collier County) reconfigured their 31st Annual Golden Apple Teacher Recognition program to look at how teaching and learning has adapted and continued in this unusual school year. With a three-month long ad campaign with the theme "Educators are the Heartbeat of Every Community," the April 25th airing of the Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers on NBC-2 was a celebration to remember. The show weaved the narrative of what it took for Collier County Public Schools to be up and running in August 2020, the breadth of teacher collaboration, exemplary leadership in the county, the courage, resilience and creativity it took, and the incredible adaptations their schools made in this extraordinary year, which has allowed their community to move forward in ways others may not have.

In addition to the televised Golden Apple Teacher Recognition program, educators were celebrated during Teacher Appreciation Week in May. Thanks to the support of Golden Apple sponsors, each of Collier County's public schools was given \$2,000 to create a special appreciation celebration for their school community. Champions For Learning even facilitated an Appreciation Delivery Day on May 4th for every school to receive a floral arrangement for their office and a basket of apples for the teachers.

The continuum of appreciation for educators is something Champions for Learning will continue to pursue in the future, believing it is important for the community to acknowledge and honor the role of educators in everyday life.

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The Consortium elevates the impact of Florida's local education foundations through advocacy and providing a collegial community for ongoing learning, shared resources and support. These nonprofit organizations are aligned with nearly every school district in our state and collectively they raise more than \$80 million annually to innovate learning, power potential and celebrate success.

We believe strong collaboration is essential to ensure school success. Our effort to capture, elevate and share education innovations discovered amid the disruption of the pandemic is offered in that spirit.

Our **Top 10 Takeaways: COVID Education Innovation** report can be accessed at [educationinnovationspotlight.com](https://www.educationinnovationspotlight.com)