



CONSORTIUM
OF FLORIDA EDUCATION
FOUNDATIONS



COVID Education Innovation in Florida

Relax, Unwind, Nurture (Clay, Duval, St. Johns Counties)

Concerned about teacher burnout this year, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund collaborated with Investing In Kids (INK!) in St. Johns County and the Clay Education Foundation to host their second Regional Teacher of the Year Summit in February. While last year's theme was rigorous and focused on Trauma Informed Classroom Practices, this year's focus was all about uplifting and celebrating teachers "traumatized" by new virtual and hybrid teaching situations. As a result, the event concentrated on a much needed outlet for fun and decompression for teachers, aptly named as the "RUN Summit" (Relax, Unwind, Nurture). Christa Stanley, Florida Teacher of the Year, energetically kicked off the event and was followed by motivational keynote speaker Jeremy Anderson. His personal story about the impact teachers had on his life was powerful and resonated with the entire audience. The teacher chat box lit up with affirmations and encouragement for each other. Teachers were also informed about different self-care techniques, and prizes for the whole group session were included.

Partnering with local businesses to offer fun break-out sessions, teachers could partake in a fun array of activities including improv class, cooking instructions, organic gardening, yoga sessions, escape rooms or Zumba fun. The event culminated with a Zoom Murder Mystery party which provided much laughter and a chance to bond with others.

More than 100 teachers participated in the rejuvenating program. Organizers for the event stressed that everything coalesced around the idea that teachers are heroes who inspire and mold our future. Teacher feedback was enthusiastic. One teacher declared, *"What a blast! The theater room was rippin' and roaring'. It was a sweet reunion with last year's TOY's as well. We laughed our faces off. What a perfect, uplifting ending to a very inspiring morning. Thanks, JPEF. This was just what the doctor ordered."*

Submitted by:

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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