



Florida Lottery
2019-2020
Lighting the Way to a Bright Future
Final Report



The \$50,000 investment by the Florida Lottery for *Lighting the Way to a Bright Future* helped more than **13,000** low socio-economic students across the state overcome barriers to earn Bright Futures scholarships and improve their preparedness for post-secondary education.

In the school year 2019-2020, in partnership with the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (Consortium), the Florida Lottery funded one \$5000 Lighting the Way to a Bright Future college access project in each of Florida Lottery’s nine districts. Even with the school closures across the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic, local education foundations (LEFs) were able to find creative ways to help Florida’s students overcome barriers to earn a Bright Futures scholarship and be prepared for post-secondary education. All LEFs expressed their gratitude for the funding and for the opportunities it provided for their students’ post-secondary success.

Program Highlights: Boot Camps - Training Sessions – College Tours – Mentoring Programs

**Lighting the Way to College in Riviera Beach:
 The Red Zone -Touchdown to Graduation**
 (Education Foundation of Palm Beach County) offered a 5-day intensive ACT/SAT Preparation Boot Camp. This program targeted some of the district’s neediest students – those from Riviera Beach Prep, an alternative Title I school where 99% of the students are enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Students received free ACT/SAT prep courses and fee waivers for testing. Students were able to attend college field trips to visit/tour local college campus and students that met criteria had their college application fees paid for. This is in addition to guidance services, mentoring, support and accountability for students and families



in terms of academic progress towards graduation, preparing, paying for and registering for ACT/SAT and researching, visiting and applying to college once admission criteria had been met.



Lighting the Path Through College and Beyond
 (Education Foundation of Sarasota County) Student Success Centers across the district provided one-on-one advising and direction for students; helping them develop self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-

making skills. Student Success Centers serve as a hub for more than 7,000 students in grades 9-12 to access resources to prepare them for college, career, and life. Centers provide essay writing workshops, ACT/SAT test prep, resume building, interview skills, career explorations, leadership development, and financial literacy workshops. This year, Sarasota launched its pilot mentor program – where mentors will stay with their assigned students throughout postsecondary completion. Mentors will provide support and motivation to help students work through the challenges of postsecondary education as well as other life events.



Career/Graduation Support (Hamilton County Public Schools Foundation) provided students ACT/SAT test preparation and created a mentoring program to focus on increasing graduation rates and college access for at-risk students attending Hamilton County High school. In addition, the program helped 10 students earn Nursing Assistance Certification and 100 students earn Certificates of Preparation for Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

Young Men and Women of Excellence (YMWOE) – Test Prep
(Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools)

The YMWOE program was offered as an elective class at a number of Seminole County Public Schools, and students receive in-class ACT/SAT test prep instruction and after-school help, either in small groups or through one-on-one sessions. This foundation was especially creative once schools closed - ultimately distributing ACT and SAT prep materials to students at the same time as food distribution, so as to not create additional points of contact.



College tours provided an added benefit to students, “During the college tours, students witnessed the value of campus life. When they watched the college basketball game, they reflected on the hard work of the student-athletes. They were so excited - every student who participated in the college tour took the ACT exam while on the field trip! The AVID college tours & ACT

was a unique opportunity for students to learn the skills and tools needed to be successful in college and beyond - outside of their classrooms” (Teacher, Toshimi Abe-Janiga).

Lighting the Path Through College and Beyond (Polk Education Foundation)

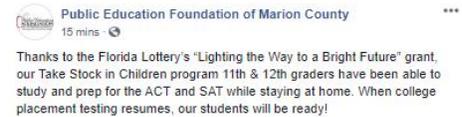
Workshops provided information on financial aid and Bright Futures Scholarships and introduced students to twenty-eight different careers - including those requiring post-graduate degrees and certifications, as well as careers requiring CTE degrees and certifications. Students also received a backpack filled with school supplies and books they could use for college.



Broward's Bright Futures or Bust! (Broward Education Foundation) This project provided Broward Advisors for Continuing Education (BRACE) Cadet and BRACE Advisor supported training, tutoring, and application support. BRACE

Cadets are high school students who implement special projects in their schools to help their peers get ready for college, career, and to succeed in life after high school. The Cadets provided online training and SAT/ACT test preparation for more than 600 students. The targeted students were also be provided with funding to retake the test and recognition upon completion.

College Pathways 4U (Investing in Kids, St. Johns County) This program provided free test preparation for the ACT, SAT, and FSA tests. Information was distributed via handouts and emails on ACT, SAT, and Bright Futures registration, details, and deadlines. Prior to schools closing, the program was able to provide five in-person training sessions. The final three sessions were delivered virtually and although attendance at the virtual sessions was lower, the sessions were recorded and distributed to more than 150 students. Plans for next year include virtual sessions - with the advantage of being able to advertise while school is in session.



Ready, Set, Go! (Public Education Foundation of Marion County) held the following workshops: FAFSA planning with Families, Financial Literacy for College, College Application Planning, and Scholarship Management. Their efforts secured an impressive 98% FASFA completion rate.



Okaloosa County High School Graduation to Post-Secondary Success (Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation) project provided College Board Planning Guides to more than 250 students - expanding existing Okaloosa County post-graduation avenues and tools for success. Because of their efforts, they expect to see a rise in the number of students attending Okaloosa Technical College in the fall.