



In this Issue

Free Appreciative Advising Workshop	Pg 2
2020 Vision Meeting	Pg 3
Research Report of Foster Youth College Enrollment	Pg 4
New Program Assistant	Pg5



POSITIVE PATHWAYS / FLORIDA REACH 2019 CONFERENCE

Practical Paths to Ensure Students Success

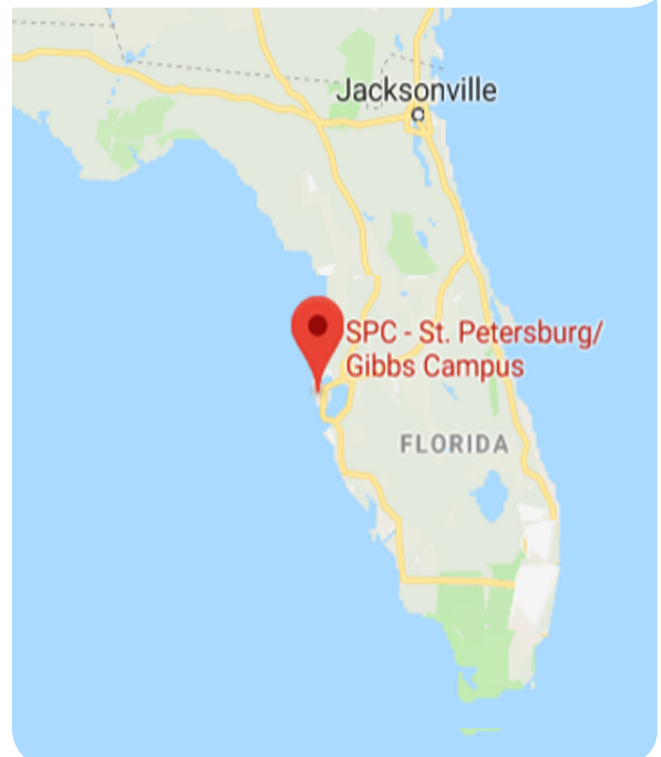
There is still time to register for the 2019 Positive Pathways Conference. Our theme this year is Practical Paths to Ensure Student Success, and you will have plenty of opportunity to learn about resilient students and impressive programs and dedicated professionals around Florida. The collective actions of these professionals has led to unprecedented levels of success among students using the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) tuition exemptions. Your fellow Positive Pathways members will join you in St. Petersburg for two days of networking, practical guidance, information, and thought-promoting activities.

Day 1 of the conference will consist of a forum on Career/Technical Education, which can offer nontraditional yet highly sought-after credentials for many students using the exemption. Participants can then enjoy a highly-interactive workshop on Appreciative Advising led by national experts who are also Positive Pathways campus-based leaders.

On Day 2, campus and community leaders, as well as students, will help conference participants explore the breakout session topics listed below. Also on Day 2, statewide leaders from the fields of child welfare, education, and philanthropy will participate in the Beyond 2020 Positive Pathways Vision Meeting. And the entire two-day conference, including meals, is FREE thanks to our generous sponsors.

Don't delay! Register today for the conference at

www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org



Registration Open for 2019 Positive Pathways Conference
Thursday and Friday, May 30-31
at St. Petersburg College (Gibbs Campus)

Positive Pathways 2019 Conference Breakout Session Topics

- ✓ Effective Data Systems
- ✓ Dedicated Programs Serving Students
- ✓ Consistent Processes
- ✓ Improved Collaboration

Nationally-Known Appreciative Advising Expert, College Coach Will Lead Free Workshop On First Day Of Positive Pathways Conference, On Thursday, May 30, 2019



Joe Murray

Attendees of Day 1 of the 2019 Positive Pathways Conference will have the chance to attend a special workshop dedicated to Appreciative Advising.

The workshop will be led by Joe Murray, Assistant Dean, University Advising Services at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), and a national leader in the Appreciative Advising movement. Mr. Murray's co-presenter will be Jasmine Moore, Assistant Director of University Advising Services, Educate Tomorrow at FAU.

The interactive session, scheduled for from 1 – 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2019, will help student support advisors, administrators, and other front-line support professionals understand and use the six (6) phases of the Appreciative "Advising" framework with the students they serve.

"We are all 'educators,' regardless of our job titles, and we have tremendous impact and influence on the retention and persistence of our students," Mr. Murray said. "Every interaction we have with students either supports our retention efforts or undermines them."

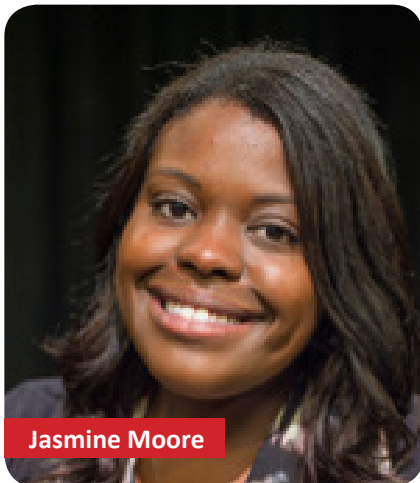
"Students often do not feel their voices are heard during their collegiate experience,"

Ms. Moore added. "Institutional barriers can become insurmountable for students. The single best way to impact these efforts is to build a strong relationship with each student."

During the workshop, all six stages of the model will be covered using exercises with group collaboration, hands-on tasks, video clips, and other activities to enrich the learning experience. Participants will be given options to further explore the approach through additional in person or online training.

Appreciative Advising is a structured, yet flexible strength-based approach to advising. The Appreciative Advising model has become standard practice at many postsecondary institutions in the United States and in other parts of the world. This workshop, which normally costs several hundred dollars, is being offered free of charge by Mr. Murray, a certified national coach on the method and long-time advocate for postsecondary students from foster care.

Mr. Murray played an instrumental role bringing the nationally-known Appreciative Advising Institute to FAU in Boca Raton, Florida, under the leadership of one of the movement's founders, Dr. Jennifer L. Bloom.

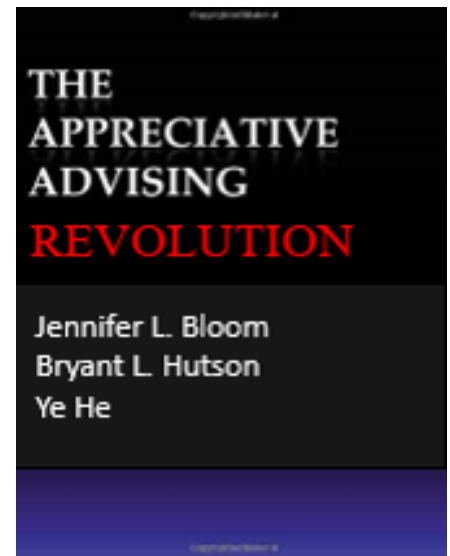


Jasmine Moore



Bloom, J. L., Hutson, B. L., & He, Y., 2008

Workshop participants will be provided lunch and will have a chance to win an Appreciative Advising book



AOK Scholars' Success Will Be Celebrated at Awards Luncheon



Patrick White



Proud 2019 college graduates who receive support from the AOK Scholars Foundation will be honored during a lunch ceremony on May 31, 2019, Day 2 of the Positive Pathways Conference. The event will take place from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Friday, May 31, 2019 at the St. Petersburg College Gibbs Campus, during Day 1 of the 2019 Positive Pathways Conference.

At the event Patrick White, a trustee of the Lawrence E. White Family Foundation, parent organization to the AOK Scholars Foundation, will speak about his family's vision for the future of the AOK Scholars Program. AOK Scholars is an innovative program that serves more than 270 students from foster care, adoptive homes, and homeless settings at colleges and universities throughout Florida. For more information about the AOK Scholars Foundation, contact Program Director Christine Stilwell, at Christine@LEWFF.org

Conference Attendees Will Chart Path Forward During Vision Meeting



Jack Levine



Jack Levine, founder of 4Generations Institute and a long-time champion of local and statewide action to support college students from foster care, will facilitate Beyond 2020, the 2019 Positive Pathways Statewide Vision Forum. At the event, a distinguished panel of statewide leaders, including students and members of the philanthropic, child welfare, and education communities, will participate in the vision meeting, during which all participants can contribute to future plans for the movement. See more information below.



Dr. Steve Rios
Positive Pathways



Brandie McCabe
Dept. of Children & Families



Calvin Martin
Florida Guardian ad Litem Program



Racqui Perry
Positive Pathways



Braulio Colon
Helios Education Foundation



Laurie Meggesin
Florida College Access Network



Brett McNaught
Educate Tomorrow

New Helios Education Foundation Report Details Steep Increase In Number Of Students Using Dcf Tuition Exemption

During the past decade, the number of students from foster care in Florida’s public colleges and universities has grown exponentially.

Promoting Degree Attainment Among Former Foster Youth, a new report published by the Helios Education Foundation, in collaboration with Educate Tomorrow, explores Florida’s policies, programs, and practices to improve postsecondary education for foster youth. Qualified students from care and related populations receive tuition exemptions from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) that can be used until they are 28 years old.

“Helios supported the development of this report to document Florida’s innovative and proactive efforts to support students from foster care, a population with high needs and equally high potential,” said Dr. Paul G. Perrault, vice president of research and evaluation with Helios, one of the primary writers on the report.

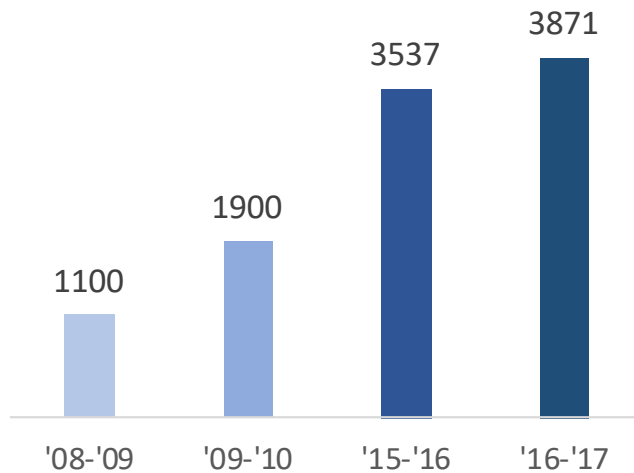
The tables below illustrate enrollment increases of more than 250% among students using the DCF tuition exemption in Florida’s 28 state colleges (Florida College System) and more than 160% at Florida’s 10 public universities (State University System Board of Governors), unprecedented rates of growth.



The full report is available on the Helios Education Foundation website, www.Helios.org

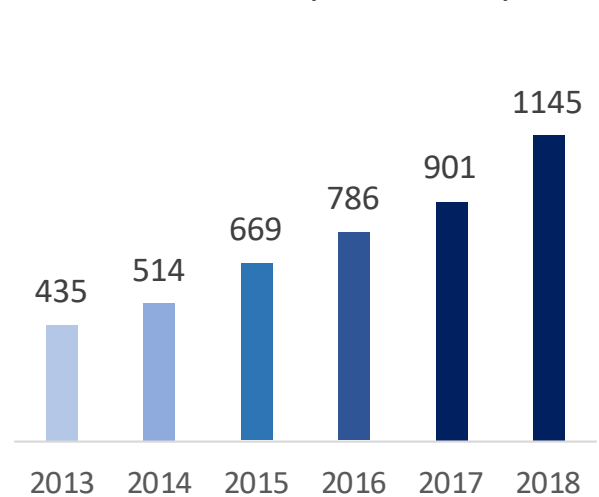
Students Using DCF Tuition Exemption at Florida Public Colleges and Universities

Public Colleges (Academic Year)



Source: Florida College System, 2018
(No comparable data available for missing years)

Public Universities (Fall Semester)



Source: SUS Board of Governors, January, 2019

“The funding provided by Helios for this in-depth research enabled us to provide Florida’s policy leaders and education and child welfare leaders with key information as we plan for the future,” said Educate Tomorrow CEO Brett McNaught, who led the research team for his organization. “We were honored to have helped develop this message piece about students from foster care. Even in our nation’s Capitol at this moment, this conversation is taking place.”

Amy Rubinson, PhD., the lead author of the brief and

program leader at Educate Tomorrow, added: “The growth in the number of students from foster care attending college in Florida has truly been astounding,” she said. “Our findings show the positive impact of focused and organized attention to these students.”

The report is divided into sections about law and policies, best and current practices, data trends, and lessons and recommendations. The full report is accessible on the Helios Education Foundation website, at www.Helios.org

Relevant Personal and Professional Experience are Keys to New Program Assistant's Plans to Promote Positive Pathways Program



Racquell "Racqui" Perry, a licensed attorney with the Florida Bar Association, is the new part-time program assistant with Positive Pathways. Ms. Perry, who aged out of foster care at age 18, is helping to implement the program's various components, including key legislative and policy-related issues and research. She also is providing administrative and logistical support for major upcoming regional and statewide events.

"Racqui has the credentials and experience to make a valuable contribution to our work going forward," said Dr. Steve J. Rios, senior director of Positive Pathways. "Not only has she lived through the challenges that the Positive Pathways Program was set up to alleviate, but she has contacts all over the state who can add value to the Network – and she is very compelling."

Ms. Perry is coordinating the upcoming April 29th Community Forum and Luncheon in St. Petersburg, as well as the 2019 Positive Pathways Conference, Practical Pathways to Ensure Student Success, where she will co-lead the session titled Improved Collaboration with Brandie McCabe, Youth & Young Adult Transition Services Specialist for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), which oversees the Positive Pathways Program administered by Educate Tomorrow.

In addition to working with Positive Pathways, Ms. Perry travels the state as the statewide outreach lead for Keys to Independence (K2I), another DCF program. K2I is managed by Embrace Families (formerly Community Based Care of Central Florida). The program helps youth in licensed foster care overcome barriers to driving by offering qualified teenagers no-cost driver's education, and funding for drivers' licenses and insurance.

"It is a great encouragement to me to see someone who started as a teenage student and mentee complete her postsecondary and professional education and become an important leader in several local and statewide initiatives related to our work," said Brett McNaught, CEO of Educate Tomorrow and Program Supervisor of Positive Pathways. Mr. McNaught is one of several individuals who helped guide and mentor Racqui as she built up consistent educational and professional successes.

In Miami, where Ms. Perry is based, she was recently asked to chair the Youth Advisory Council for Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe, an advisory committee comprised of current and former youth in foster care in the community. She also sits on the Miami-Dade Community-based Care Alliance, a group of stakeholders, community leaders, client representatives, and funders of human services that provides a focal point for community participation and governance of the work of the foster care agency contracted by DCF in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

"I hope to bring 'representation' to Positive Pathways," Ms. Perry said. "So I can show students that being in foster care is just a stop along our paths to success. I hope students look at me and know that I'm working to open doors so that they can be so much bigger and better."

Ms. Perry graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High, where she played basketball and excelled academically. She graduated in three years from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and then from FAMU Law School in 2015 with a Juris Doctorate.

Ms. Perry can be reached at (305) 924-5881 or at

Racquell@EducateTomorrow.org

