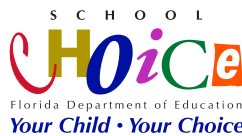


Recognizing outstanding students and teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

APRIL 13-15, 2023
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Thank you

TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION





A community of learning

Together, we can make a positive change in our neighborhoods. State Farm is proud to join our neighbor to support the 2023 Florida Sunshine State STEM Scholars.



State Farm, Bloomington, IL



Dear Scholars and Honored Guests:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 Sunshine State Scholars conference. Sunshine State Scholars is a unique and celebrated program that has recognized outstanding student achievement for more than a quarter-century.

You are now part of this proud tradition.

You are also part of Florida's tradition of excellence. Florida is the Education State, a place where students come first, and academic excellence is both supported and honored. As the Florida Commissioner of Education, it's my mission to ensure access to a world-class education for all students, and I'm thrilled that you are making the most of your educational opportunities.

Each year, Florida school districts select students like you, top 11th graders in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Florida Department of Education, the Florida Education Foundation and generous sponsors are proud to host you and your parents for an extraordinary two-day program.

This year's program will bring more than 100 high school STEM scholars like yourself together from across the state to conduct a "think tank" on tough Florida challenges. This includes problem-solving activities and presentations from industry and research experts.

You will also connect with employers in the STEM fields and meet with representatives from Florida's top ranked higher education system – ranked #1 in the country for the past six years in a row. This includes members of both the State University System and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

Florida is leading the way in education, and the Sunshine State Scholars program is an opportunity to take your education to the next level. I encourage you to get the most out of this hallowed event as we celebrate your hard work, academic accomplishments and potential you represent for our state.

Welcome, and congratulations.

Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr.

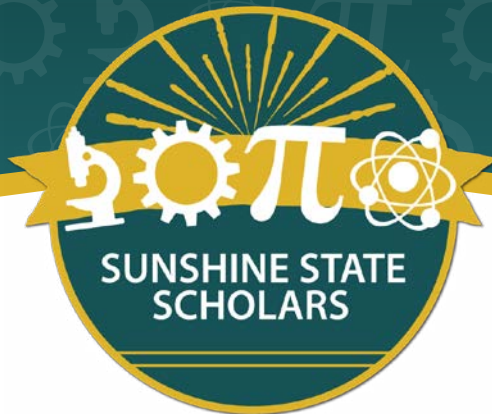


Connecting to Learn

To shrink the homework gap and ensure Florida's students have the connections they need to succeed, AT&T is expanding its fiber-optic broadband service to better serve Floridians. In 2022, we expanded fiber to 400,000 homes and small businesses across the state, making AT&T Fiber available to more than 2 million locations in Florida.

Whether students are learning at home or in the classroom, having access to affordable high-speed internet and devices helps ensure successful learning outcomes.





HISTORY OF SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS

The Sunshine State Scholars program began in 1997, and was designed to recognize students, teachers and schools that achieved excellence in mathematics and science. High school seniors participated in a statewide competition that used their basic knowledge of mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry and biology to solve interdisciplinary problems requiring independent and creative thinking. Students competed and were recognized at district and regional levels. The ten Regional Scholars completed a challenging written exam and presented a research paper on a single topic and, from this group, a Statewide Scholar was named. The Regional Scholars and the Statewide Scholar were recognized at a ceremony where each Scholar formally paid tribute to his/her outstanding teacher.

Mathematics and science experts from education, business and government served on the all-volunteer steering committee, overseeing the development of the assessment tools and monitoring and executing the competitions. For

many years, Dr. William H. Caldwell from the Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida was the driving force and inspiration behind Sunshine State Scholars. Dr. Caldwell worked diligently to secure annual funding. When other sources were no longer available, Senator Stephen R. Wise, Education Commissioner Eric J. Smith and the Florida Education Foundation championed the program, continuing its service and recognizing our best and brightest.

Today, the program has grown from its original format. Each school district throughout Florida selects its top 11th grade student(s) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based on established criteria. These Scholars, along with their parents, convene to receive recognition for their achievements. They also have opportunities to meet with representatives from Florida's colleges and universities, learn about STEM-related programs of study and internships, and reinforce why Florida is the best state to learn and pursue an exciting career.



You are the talent of tomorrow!

We are proud to support Florida's Sunshine State Scholars and to recognize the achievements of our state's top students.

Congratulations to the 2023 Sunshine State Scholars!



Visit floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com to learn more about the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

4:00 – 11:00 p.m.	HOTEL CHECK IN	<i>Hotel Front Desk</i>
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	SCHOLAR REGISTRATION Pick up event materials in hotel's convention center	<i>Universal Center Reg Desk</i>
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	SCHOLAR DINNER Scholar dinner and networking activity. Parents pick-up scholars at 9:00 p.m.	<i>Universal Center</i>

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	<i>Universal Center</i>
8:15 – 8:50 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION & OPENING REMARKS	<i>Universal Center</i>
9:00 – 12:15 p.m.	WORKSHOPS & RECRUITMENT FAIR	

ALACHUA-HENDRY SCHOLARS

9:00 a.m.	Career Panel
10:05 a.m.	Recruitment Fair
11:10 a.m.	Financial Aid

HERNANDO-ORANGE SCHOLARS

9:00 a.m.	Financial Aid
10:05 a.m.	Career Panel
11:10 a.m.	Recruitment Fair

OSCEOLA-WASHINGTON SCHOLARS

9:00 a.m.	Recruitment Fair
10:05 a.m.	Financial Aid
11:10 a.m.	Career Panel

HIGHER ED RECRUITMENT FAIR

Scholars and their parents meet with representatives from Florida higher education institutions to learn about programs of study, internships and career opportunities throughout Florida.

Space Coast & Gold Coast Rooms

CAREER PANEL

Industry experts share their thoughts on careers in their workplace with time for the scholars to ask questions.

Universal Center A

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

Learn the process for securing financial aid.

Universal Center E

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.	SCHOLAR LUNCH Parents are on their own. Return at 4:00 p.m. to pick up scholars.	<i>Universal Center</i>
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY Scholars will participate in two hands-on integrated mathematics and science activities.	<i>Universal Center A & E</i>
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	SCHOLAR BREAK Parents and scholars are able to dress and relax before awards ceremony.	
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	DINNER	<i>Universal Center</i>
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	AWARDS CEREMONY Welcome Keynote Formal Recognition of Scholars and Awards Presentations Scholarship Presentation Group Photos	<i>Universal Center</i>

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

All Day **SCHOLARS ENJOY ORLANDO**



Alachua
Abigail Olivia Dagens
Eastside High School

Alachua
Melissa Li
Buchholz High School

Bay
Ashley Marie Steen
J.R. Arnold High School

Bradford
Jack Austin Hendrix
Bradford High School

Brevard
Torrin Gordon
Bayside High School

Brevard
Thien-Nhi Allison Nguyen
West Shore Jr/Sr High School

Broward
Arya Gujarathi
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

Broward
Badrinath Konidala
Cypress Bay High

Broward
Maya Saleh
Everglades High School

Charlotte
Gabriel De Guzman
Port Charlotte High School

Citrus
Sriya Chandrupatla
Lecanto High School

Clay
Hajin Rebekah Chun
Ridgeview High School

Collier
Andrew Jeffrey Herrmann
Gulf Coast High School

Collier
Michael Marcy
Naples High School

Columbia
Brody Forrest Crews
Fort White High School

DeSoto
Kayleigh Nicole Goodman
DeSoto County High School

Dixie
Alexandria Kayleigh Bell
Dixie County High School

Duval
Andrew Diaz
Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership

Duval
Sophia Rose Milian
Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership

Duval
Ysabella L. Wijaya
Darnell Cookman Middle/High School

Escambia
Ge'Khiya Brown
Booker T. Washington High School

Escambia
Synoma Grace Perea
Tate High School

FAMU Lab School
Eric Brandon Brooks, Jr.
FAMU DRS

FAU Lab School
Katie Poquette
Florida Atlantic University High School

Flagler
Austin Weeks
Matanzas High School

FLVS
Kyana-Rae Daniella Hunter
Florida Virtual High School

FLVS
Gwyn Noreen-Dell Vaz
Florida Virtual High School

Franklin
Alexander Eugene Sterling
Franklin County School

FSU Lab School
Amelia Wass de Czege
Florida State University Schools

Gadsden
De'Asia M. Vickers
Gadsden County High School

Gilchrist
Hailey Reese Griffis
Trenton High School

Glades
Rubi Alicia Rodriguez
Moore Haven High School

Gulf
Leah Marie Beene
Wewahitchka High School

Hamilton
Jackson Christopher Combass
Hamilton County High School

Hardee
Matthew Garrett Duncan
Hardee Senior High School

Hendry
Leslie N. Jones
Clewiston High School

Hernando
Madalyn Sapia
Central High School

Highlands
Lillian MacKenzie Stam
Lake Placid High School

Hillsborough
Michael Hemingway
Newsome High School

Hillsborough
Alexander M. Li
King High School

Hillsborough
Sage A. Stark
Plant High School

Holmes
Seth Jackson Crutchfield
Holmes County High School

Indian River
Zadie Diniz
Vero Beach High School

Jackson
Kaycie Nicole Rich
Malone School

Jefferson
Johnathan Corey Youngblood
Jefferson County K-12

Lafayette
Ella Grace Hancock
Lafayette High School

Lake
Casey James Nathanson
Leesburg High School

Lake
Thamia Romani
Lake Minneola High School

Lee
Nathanael Burdzy
Fort Myers High School

Lee
Advaith Menon
Dunbar High School

Lee
Gabriel Connor Wright
Cape Coral High School

Leon
Navya Kommu
James S. Rickards High School

Leon
Sarayu Vanga
James S. Rickards High School

Levy
Alyssa McCain
Cedar Key School



Liberty
Kenneth Austin Hosford
Liberty County High School

Manatee
Braydon Alex Bernard
Parrish Community High School

Manatee
Matthew Donald Maurer
Southeast High School

Marion
Olivia Lynne Bittinger
Dunnellon High School

Marion
Caleb Lombardo
West Port High School

Martin
Jasmine Mei Nunez
Clark Advanced Learning Center

Miami-Dade
Corinne Degazon
Cutler Bay Senior High School

Miami-Dade
Mohammed Elahi
*Center for International Education:
A Cambridge Associate School*

Miami-Dade
Sabrina Lyons
Richmond Heights 9-12

Monroe
Roan Joseph Milelli
Key West High School

Nassau
Andrew Manfred Huber
Hilliard Middle Senior High School

Okaloosa
Meriel Adair
Crestview High School

Okaloosa
Miller Lindsley
Fort Walton Beach High School

Okeechobee
Clea Judilla
Okeechobee High School

Orange
Sharanya Chatterjee
Freedom High School

Orange
Lillian J Shoemaker
Edgewater High School

Orange
Ariana Vasishta
Cypress Creek High School

Osceola
Mia Lopez-Morales
Poinciana High School

Osceola
Arturo Williams
The Osceola County School for the Arts

Palm Beach
Matthew Cai
Atlantic Community High School

Palm Beach
Gavin Emerick
Palm Beach Central High School

Palm Beach
Theodore G. Ouyang
Suncoast High School

Pasco
Rohil Agarwal
Land O' Lakes High School

Pasco
Mahek Anand Mody
Wiregrass Ranch High School

Pinellas
Edison Lara-Bojay
Pinellas Park High School

Pinellas
Zachary Alexander Phillips
East Lake High School

Pinellas
Macie Sullivan
Lakewood High School

Polk
Hannah Ruth Deese
Bartow Senior High School

Polk
Ali Muntaser Jaber
*Bartow International Baccalaureate
High School*

Polk
Caitlynn Grace Robertson
Lake Gibson High School

Putnam
Lance Dollar
Q.I. Roberts Jr-Sr High School

Santa Rosa
Benjamin Johnson
Navarre High School

Santa Rosa
Alex C. Pensyl
Gulf Breeze High School

Sarasota
Devin Brown
North Port High School

Sarasota
Tristan Rans
Pine View School

Seminole
Marlene Atef Bekheit
Hagerty High School

Seminole
Blake Mulkey
Crooms Academy of Information Technology

St. Johns
Hyde Parker Kenney
St. Augustine High School

St. Johns
Samay Soham Patel
Ponte Vedra High School

St. Lucie
Danalee Bent Rodriguez
Lincoln Park Academy

St. Lucie
Christian Keough
Treasure Coast High School

Sumter
Bob Sager
South Sumter High School

Suwannee
Paul Z. Gunter
Suwannee High School

Taylor
Austin Gage Murray
Taylor County High School

UF Lab School
Lillian Ansley Nesty
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School

Union
Jonathan Terry Edwards
Union County High School

Volusia
Jacob Harry Friedman
Spruce Creek High School

Volusia
Akshay Gupta
Seabreeze High School

Wakulla
Legion Taylor
Wakulla High School

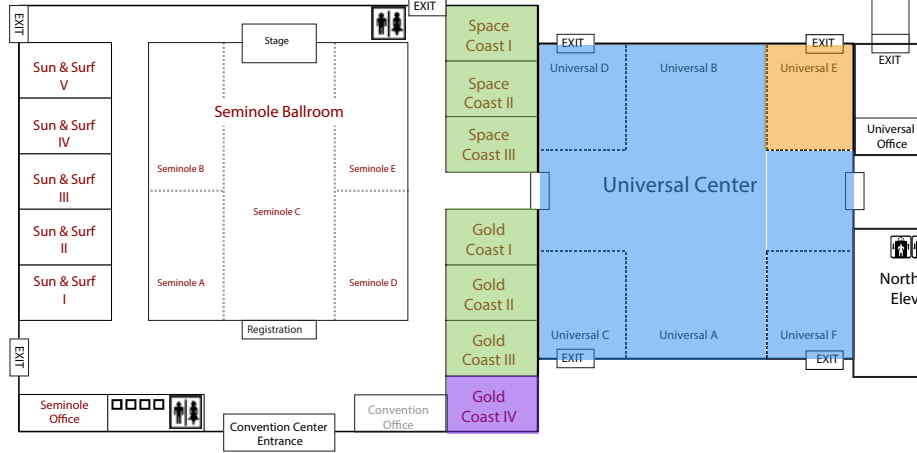
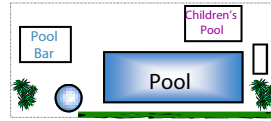
Walton
Elijah Fournier Smartt
*South Walton High Magnet
Innovation Center*

Washington
Owen Jamerson Page
Chipley High School





DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON™



CONVENTION CENTER



To Vineland Rd

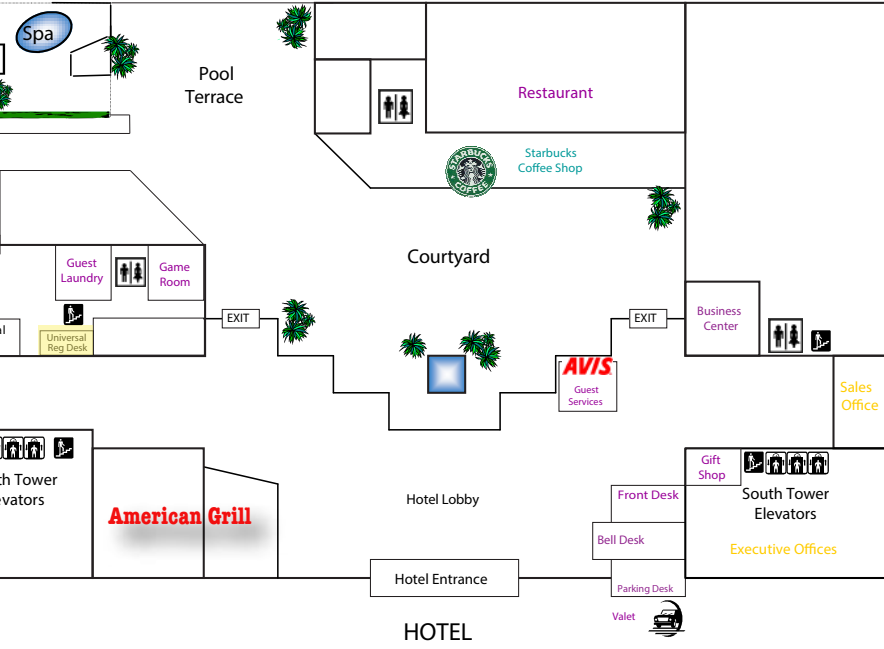


Convention Center Parking

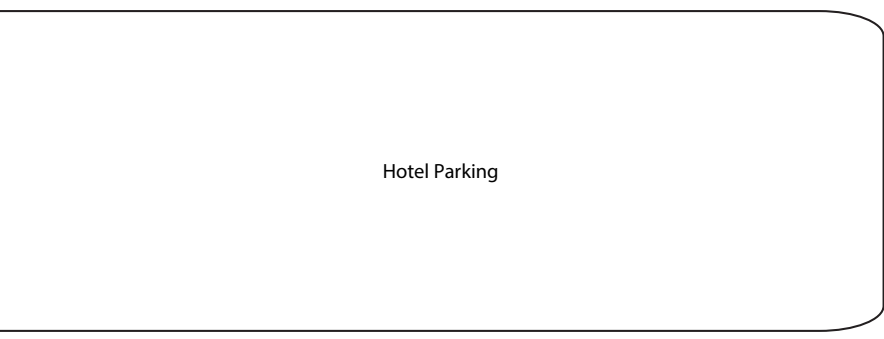
- Staff Office
- Thursday Evening Scholar Check In & Friday Information Desk
- Thursday and Friday Meal Events & General Sessions
- Friday Morning Workshops & Afternoon Scholar Activity
- Friday Morning Recruitment Fair

To Kirkman Rd





→
To Major Blvd



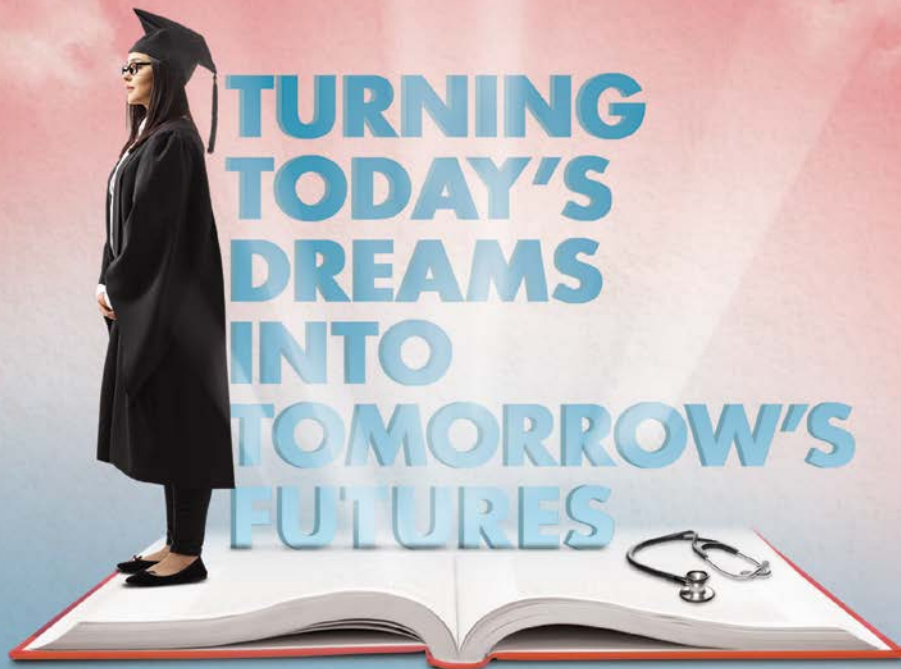


REAL THRILLS. REAL CONNECTIONS.



SeaWorld Orlando proudly partners with the Florida Education Foundation to recognize the outstanding achievements of our Sunshine State Scholars. Today, we cared for an injured animal. Today, we taught a child about the world around them. Today, we celebrated life, in all of its magnificent and powerful forms. Tomorrow we'll do the same. This is our commitment.

SeaWorldOrlando.com



TURNING TODAY'S DREAMS INTO TOMORROW'S FUTURES



The Florida Lottery proudly supports education by contributing over \$41 billion to local schools and awarding over 900,000 Bright Futures Scholarships. So Florida students can do more than just dream of a brighter future, they can create one.

Learn more at flalottery.com/education

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Commissioner of Education

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Chief, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
Chancellor, Division of K-12 Public Schools

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Director, Project Management and Grant Support

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LAKEESHA PARKER
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AMERICAN AUDIO VISUAL

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Congratulations to Florida's 2023 Sunshine State Scholars!

Kyra Solutions, Inc. is proud to support the next generation of STEM leaders. We believe in your ability to inspire ongoing innovation. You will shape the future of our communities and the world.

We encourage you to continue your STEM journey, unlocking your full potential and contributing to the advancement of our society by addressing our most pressing challenges. Remember, your innovative thinking, problem-solving skills, and unyielding curiosity are invaluable assets in creating a brighter, smarter, and more connected world.

Embrace this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow and congratulations again on your remarkable achievement!

www.kyrasolutions.com



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A commitment to community. It's what we pride ourselves in. Helping our communities achieve their full potential, whether it's through education or business. Because we don't just work here. We live here. And supporting our communities so that they can grow and thrive is our top priority.

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MANNY DIAZ, JR.
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
*Florida Department
of Education*



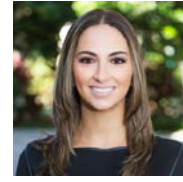
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*Executive Director Latin
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Former Senate President



JOHN GRANT
Former State Senator



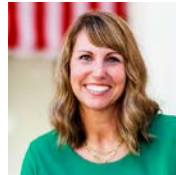
SCOTT ROSS
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Development Coordinator



MISSION

As a valued partner in education, the Florida Education Foundation invests in high achievement for every student to contribute to Florida's globally competitive workforce.

VISION

Every Florida student graduates from high school ready for postsecondary education and a career.

We are proud to sponsor the **Sunshine State Scholars** program and congratulate the Florida students selected to take part in this opportunity.

Helios is committed to increasing college-going and degree attainment among all students in Florida. We focus particularly on students of color and those from low-income backgrounds to increase overall student success.



Learn more at
www.helios.org



Nagarro would like to congratulate this year's outstanding class of Sunshine State Scholars!

We look forward to seeing you make an impact on your communities and STEM career fields!

As a digital engineering leader, we help shape the future of education by supporting Sunshine State Scholars, which gives individuals valuable tools and opportunities to succeed in their future STEM careers.

RECRUITMENT FAIR PARTICIPANTS

BARRY UNIVERSITY

ECKERD COLLEGE

EVERGLADES UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

ROLLINS COLLEGE

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

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