

# **Winning back stop-outs: Evidence-based approaches to increasing college reenrollment**

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# Welcome!



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# Guest Presenter



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# Guest Presenter



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# Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the chat box
- Share on social media

Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess  
@HeliosEdFnd  
@JustinOrtagus

#FCAN

*This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording*

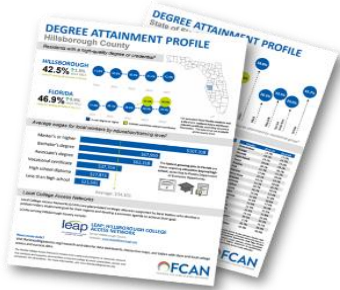


Florida College  
Access Network is  
the heart of a  
movement to ensure  
**today's students**  
are prepared for  
**tomorrow's jobs.**

**Our mission:** To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career preparation, access, and completion for all students

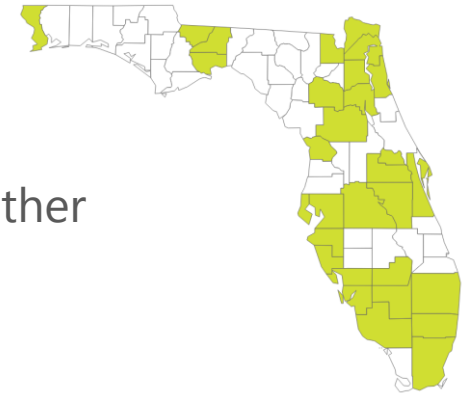
**Our vision:** At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025

# FCAN's Work



**Research and Data** FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

**Local college access networks (LCANs)** LCANs represent 82% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



**COLLEGE  
READY  
FLORIDA**

**Statewide Initiatives** FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.

# **Poll 1: What type of organization are you with?**

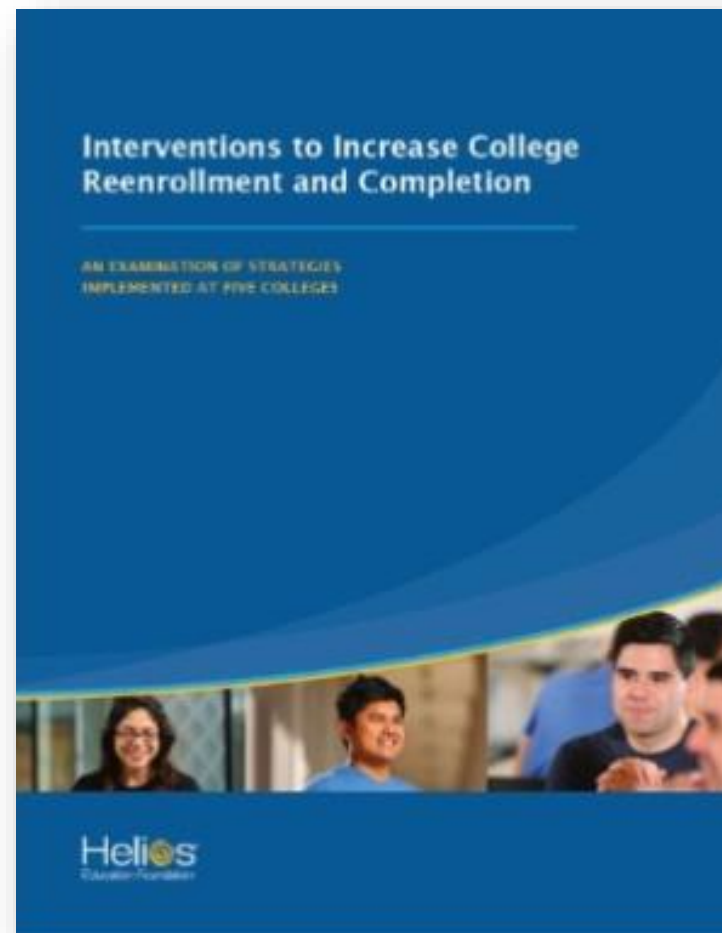




# Introduction

Find the report at:

[Helios.org/news-media/publications](https://helios.org/news-media/publications)



**Poll 2: What are the top reasons you see students stopping out of college?**



# The Problem

TABLE 1

## Change in Employment During Recession and Recovery (2007–2016) by Level of Education

Educational attainment	Change in employment		
	Recession (Dec. 2007 – Jan. 2010)	Recovery (Jan. 2010 – Jan. 2016)	Net change (Dec. 2007 – Jan. 2016)
High school or less	-5,611,000	80,000	-5,531,000
Some college/Associate's degree	-1,752,000	3,089,000	1,337,000
Bachelor's degree or higher	187,000	8,424,000	8,611,000
Bachelor's degree	-66,000	4,656,000	4,590,000
Master's degree or higher	253,000	3,768,000	4,021,000
<b>All</b>	<b>-7,176,000</b>	<b>11,593,000</b>	<b>4,417,000</b>

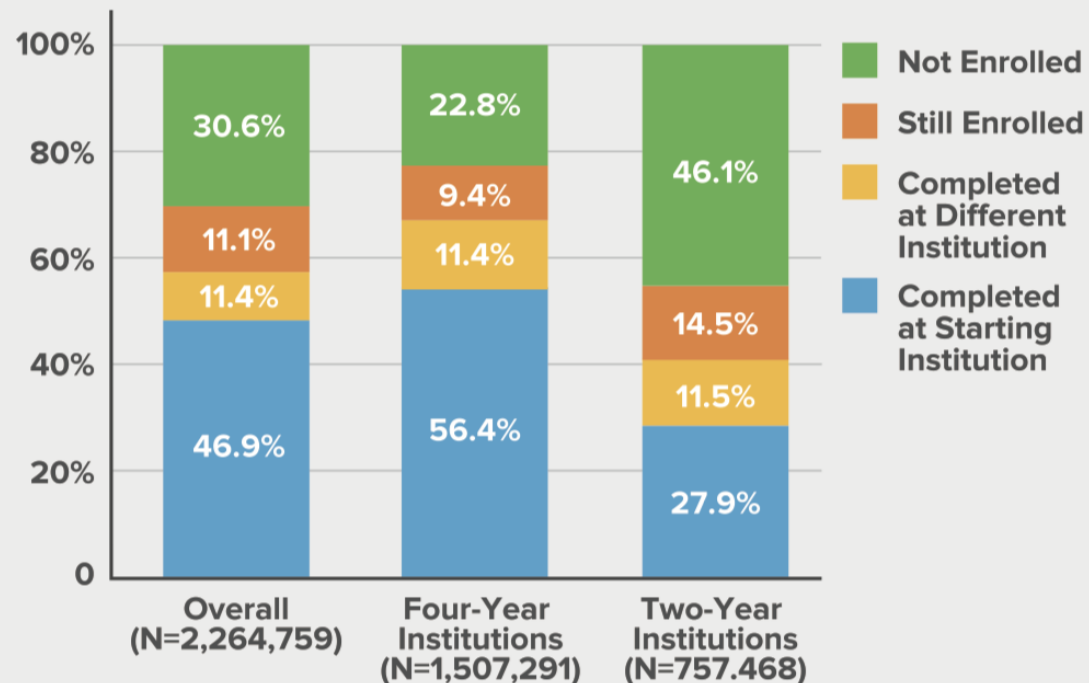
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of Current Population Survey (CPS) data, 2007–2016

Note: Columns may not sum due to rounding. Employment includes all workers age 18 and older. The monthly employment numbers are seasonally adjusted using the U.S. Census Bureau X-12 procedure and smoothed using a four-month moving average.

# The Problem

FIGURE 1

Six-Year Outcomes for All Students, Students Who Started at 4-Year Institutions, and Students Who Started at 2-Year Institutions (N = 2,264,759)



- A little over 2/3 (67.8%) of students in 4-Year institutions graduate within 6 years.
- In contrast, only 39.4% of students in 2-Year institutions do so in the same amount of time.
- When we disaggregate these numbers by race/ethnicity we observe bigger disparities.
- This means that a lot of students leave college with some credits but no degree.

# The Problem: How can we improve postsecondary completion of students who have stopped out?

# The Study and Intervention

Section 02

# The Study and Intervention

## 5 High Enrollment Florida Colleges

- Broward College
- Hillsborough Community College
- Miami Dade College
- Palm Beach State College
- Valencia College

## Student Requirements

- Accrued 30 Credit Hours
- GPA 2.0 or Better
- No Financial or Behavioral Holds
- Stopped Out Within 3 Years

27,028 Former Students Identified.

# The Study and Intervention

## Intervention Design – Random Assignment

- **Control Group:** Students were given no additional information or support
- **Information-Only:** Students within this group received 10 text messages encouraging them to re-enroll in college and visit a custom website to simplify and streamline the re-enrollment process
- **Information + Financial Incentive:** Students within this group received the same information as those in the “information-only” group as well as a one-course tuition waiver



# The Study and Intervention

## Survey Design – Sampling

- Follow-up survey designed to find out why former students left
  - Roughly 10% response rate (over 2,500 former students)
- We also conducted one-on-one qualitative interviews with 112 former students
  - Students were randomly selected to ensure a representative sample

# Key Findings

Section 03

# Key Findings - Descriptive

- Of the 27,028 students, a total of 2,099 re-enrolled during the time period of the study
- Re-enrollment breakdown across groups:
  - 638 from Control Group
  - 689 from Information-Only Group
  - 772 from Information + Financial Incentive Group

# Key Findings – Main Effects

- For the pooled sample, the information-only treatment does not have a statistically significant effect on re-enrollment
- However, students who received the information nudge combined with the one-course tuition waiver are 21 percent more likely to re-enroll
- The magnitude of the main effects for community colleges offering an unconditional waiver are higher than those of the community colleges offering a conditional waiver

# Key Findings – Heterogeneous Effects

- Treatment effects may vary based on former students' academic or demographic characteristics
- For all subgroups that we examined, we found minimal evidence that the information-only treatment has a statistically significant impact on re-enrollment
- For former students who had already earned more than 42 credit hours (median for sample), the information and waiver treatment increases the likelihood of re-enrollment
  - Same pattern held for individuals with a GPA lower than 3.0
  - Information and waiver treatment has a positive effect on re-enrollment across all demographic subgroups → income, age, race, etc.

# Key Findings – Enrollment Intensity

- For the pooled sample, the information-only treatment does not have an effect on former students' likelihood of re-enrolling in more than one course or as a full-time student
- However, students who received the information nudge combined with the one-course tuition waiver are 16 percent more likely to re-enroll in more than one course
- Former students who received the information and financial incentive are also 22 percent more likely to re-enroll as a full-time student

# Key Findings - Survey

## 3 Emergent Themes:

- Financial struggles and the need to work
- Challenges with advising and a lack of required courses offered online
- Unexpected life circumstances



# Recommendations and Next Steps

Section 04



# Recommendations:

- Offer tuition assistance in the form of a one-course waiver to encourage students to re-enroll
- Increase online opportunities for required coursework
- Increase “rainy day” funds for more emergency scholarships
- Increase funding for more advisers and advising resources for Florida College System institutions

# Next Steps:

- Collaborative Learning: Identify institutional needs and develop research-practice partnerships to solve problems
- Joint Research: Helios/University of Florida. Follow students for 24 months to see if the re-enrollment intervention had an impact on persistence and completion



**Poll 3: How are you currently reaching out to bring students back?**

# Questions?



**Paul G. Perrault, Ph.D.**  
Helios Education Foundation



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University of Florida



**Better Together**

# Florida College Access Network Summit

May 12-13, 2020 | Embassy Suites  
Lake Buena Vista South



**Register now!**

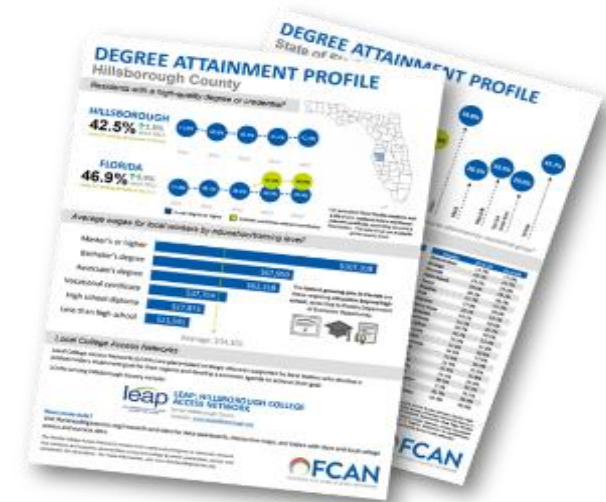
[FCANsummit.org](https://FCANsummit.org)



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# Conclusion

