

**Leveraging Black Greek Letter Organizations to  
Serve Underrepresented Students:  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s #CAP Program**

March 25, 2021



# Welcome!



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Florida College Access Network  
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@LHandfield2

# Guest Presenters



**Dr. Krystal L. Clemons**

Assistant Professor  
Liberty University



**Dr. Fallon K. Dodson**

School Counseling Manager  
DC Public Schools



**Bianca M. Gregory**

School Counselor  
Norfolk Public Schools

# Guest Presenters



**Tangela Dupree**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Programs Chairman  
Gamma Theta Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority, Inc.



**Renae Feacher, Esq.**

#CAP Chairman  
Gamma Theta Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority, Inc.

# Questions & Conversation

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

Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess  
#FCAN  
#CollegeReadyFL

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



## **Our mission:**

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

## **Our vision:**

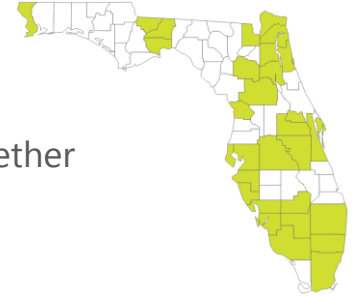
A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

# 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 support 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.



**Statewide Initiatives** FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.

## 7 Conditions for Success

**Opportunity for everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

**Clear information and guidance:** Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

**Affordable:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

**Multiple pathways to success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

**Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

**Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

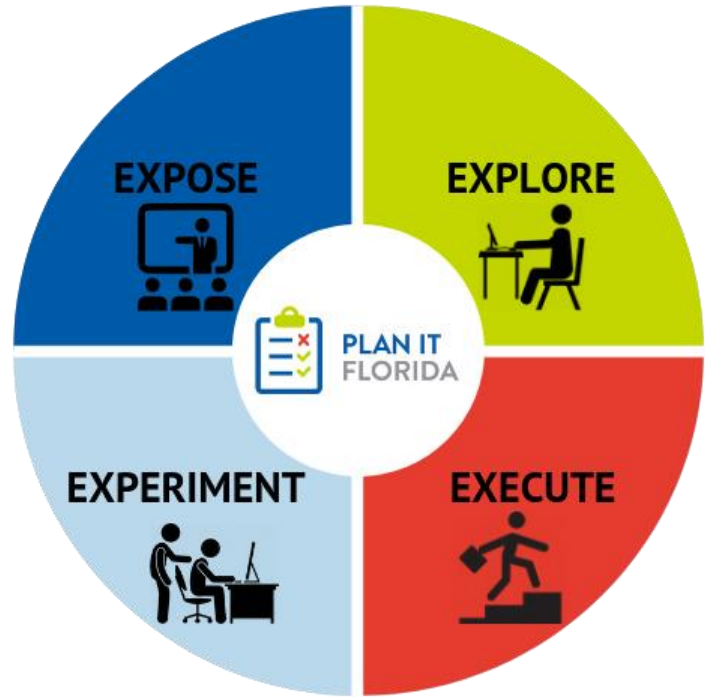
**Community collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.



# Plan It Florida

Ensuring every Florida student graduates high school with a college or career plan.

- Help students develop their skills while exploring interests and career options
- Expose students to various postsecondary options
- Build a college-going culture



**MAKE A PLAN!**

It is important for students to start early to plan for life after high school. To support students in planning for their future, engage them in the 4 E's—EXPOSE, EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT, EXECUTE—to encourage them in exploring their interests and career options, and developing a plan for their future.

**EXPOSE**

**EXPLORE**

**EXPERIMENT**

**EXECUTE**

**CHOOSE YOUR PATH!**

There are 3 main paths students can take after high school, depending on their future goals—education, career and technical preparation, or workforce entry.

**EDUCATION**

Career and technical programs prepare for a specific design, veterinary or other profession. Colleges offer certificates and diplomas.

Students can earn a knowledge that can lead to a career in fields like business, technology/computer science, or health care.

Students can complete a program in a field like business, technology/computer science, or health care to earn a certificate or diploma. This prepares them for a job or for further education.

**SERVICE**

Many students enroll in specific jobs that require a high school diploma to return to school. They may choose to work in a field like construction, agriculture, or manufacturing.

Students may choose to work in a field like construction, agriculture, or manufacturing. They may choose to work in a field like construction, agriculture, or manufacturing.

**WORK**

After high school, at least some students will be able to find a job that provides on-the-job training. This prepares them for a job or for further education.

**THE MORE YOU LEARN, THE MORE YOU EARN!**

By the time today's students enter the workforce, the majority of jobs in Florida will require a degree or credential beyond high school. The word "college" is used to describe any high-quality, credential-granting education or training beyond high school, including 2-year degrees, 4-year degrees, technical certificates and industry-recognized credentials.

*Median wages for local workers by education/training level<sup>1</sup>*

Education/Training Level	Median Wage
Master's or higher	\$109,671
Bachelor's degree	\$73,909
Associate's degree	\$66,809
Vocational certificate	\$41,632
High school diploma	\$31,908
Less than high school	\$25,587
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$43,814</b>

<sup>1</sup> The top 10 fastest growing jobs in Florida are those requiring education beyond high school, according to the Florida Department of Economic Security.

**Why College Matters**

- On average, bachelor's degree holders earn \$1 million more than those with just a high school diploma over their working life.<sup>2</sup>
- By the year 2025, 67% of jobs will require education beyond high school; currently, only about 50% of Floridians hold such a credential.

**FLORIDA**  
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

1. College Savings: Florida Department of Economic Security, 2014.  
2. Connolly, A., Chubb, R., & Aron, J. (2013). The College Payoff: Education, Occupations, & Lifetime Earnings.

**PLAN IT FLORIDA**

Helping Students Plan for College and Career

**FLORIDA**  
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

College and Career Readiness Guide

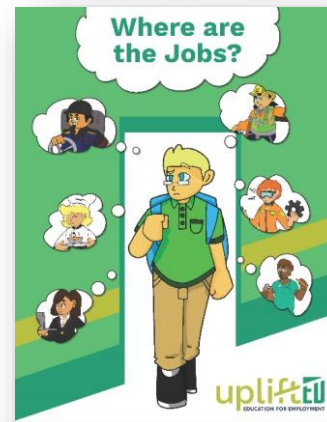
**PLAN IT FLORIDA**

**FLORIDA**  
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

# Other Resources

Earn Up *Career Pathways*

UpliftED *Where Are the Jobs?*



### What do you mean when you say High Quality Degree and Credential?

**#1 INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED**

It is developed and offered by, or endorsed by, a nationally recognized industry association organization that is a large portion of the industry. A credential that is sought or accepted by companies within the industry for hiring or recruitment; includes credentials from vendors, e.g. Microsoft.

**#2 STACKABLE**

Part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build an individual's qualifications and help them move along a career path to different and potentially higher paying jobs. An H.S. diploma or G.E.D., industry certification, associate degree, bachelor's degree, and master's degree are examples.

**#3 PORTABLE**

A credential that is recognized and accepted in settings other than that in which it was earned. Across geographic areas. At other educational institutions; by other industries; by other companies.

**#4 ACCREDITED**

A credential earned at an institution of higher learning that meets acceptable quality. In order to receive federal financial aid, students must enroll in a school or program that the U.S. Dept. of Education recognizes as accredited.

**What is happening in our local area?**

CareerSource Central Florida are our local workforce experts. They have identified 8 high-demand industries where the need for skilled workers is growing. These industries include:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Construction
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Information Technology & Finance
- Trade, Transportation and Logistics

You might be wondering... What type of entry level jobs are being offered? How long will training take? What is the average\* starting salary? Can I move up from the starting point? Each of these questions will be explored in the following pages as we take a deeper dive into each industry area.\*\*

\*\* The following pages are estimates of entry-level salaries and do not include the value of fringe benefits. \*\* The following are examples of career pathways for each of the high-growth industries. You can find more options here: <https://bit.ly/30J5A8T>

### Advanced Manufacturing

**Pathway 1**

**New**  
Welder - Entry Level  
Average Wage: \$14 - \$18  
Training: 20 Weeks

**Later**  
Welder - Advanced  
Average Wage: \$16 - \$20  
Training: 20 Weeks

**Pathway 2**

**New**  
Assembly Technician  
Average Wage: \$14 - \$17  
Training: 20 Weeks

**Later**  
Inspection Technician  
Average Wage: \$17 - \$19  
Training: Ongoing, "On-the-Job" Training

# Future of Plan It Florida

- **Goal:** 100% of graduating high school seniors have a thought-out plan for what comes next
- **Multiple pathways to success:** education, service, work
  - Name of institution student will enroll in (to send transcript)
    - Intended major/area of study
    - How they're paying for college (FAFSA & Bright Futures completion)
  - Branch of military student will enlist in
  - Student's career choice
    - Company/organization of employment

EDUCATION

SERVICE

WORK



# #CAP: Alpha Kappa Alpha's Initiative for College Admissions

Krystal Clemons,  
Bianca Gregory, &  
Fallon Dodson

# Meet Your Presentors



KRYSTAL  
CLEMONS

Liberty University



BIANCA  
GREGORY

Norfolk Public  
Schools



FALLON  
DODSON

DC Public Schools



# *Today's Discussion*

History of Alpha Kappa Alpha

#CAP

ASCA National Model

CCR for Elementary School

CCR for Middle School

#CAP for High School

Moving Forward



## *The History of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated*

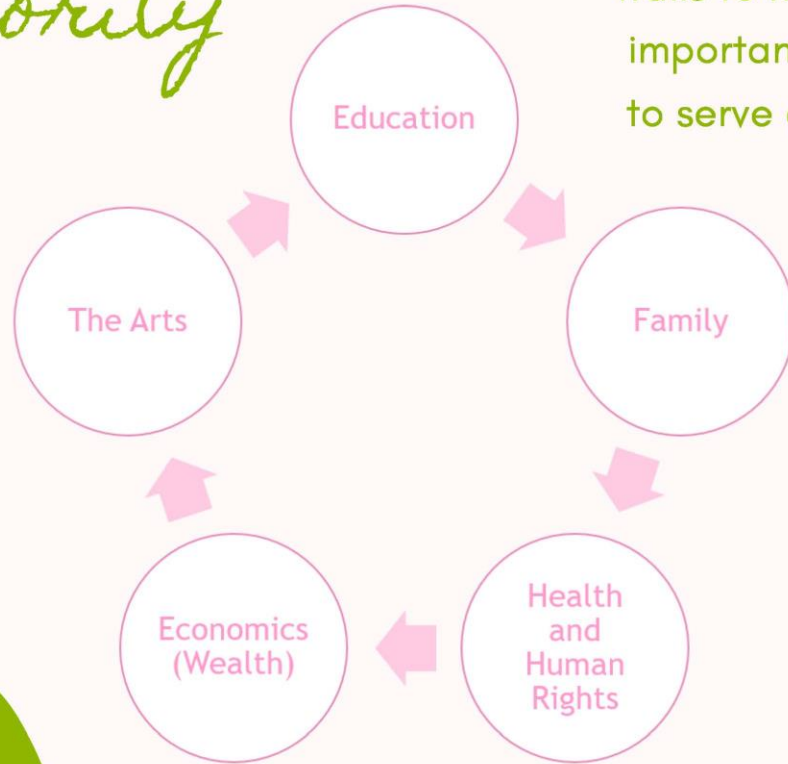
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 15, 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC.

It is the first Black Greek letter organization founded for and by college-trained women of color (AKA, 2019a).



# The Core Focus of the Sorority

For more than 113 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha blazed trails to highlight five important initiatives to serve all mankind.



## THE 2018-2022 ADMINISTRATION

Our international president, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, developed our current service campaign called Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service (AKA, 2019b).



## THE FIVE TARGETS FOR #EXCELLENCE

- Target 1: HBCU for Life: A Call to Action
- Target 2: Women's Healthcare and Wellness
- Target 3: Building Your Economic Legacy
- Target 4: The Arts!
- Target 5: Global Impact





## What is #CAP?

#CAP is Alpha Kappa Alpha's College Admissions Process. It is the sorority's signature program for the 2018-2022 administration to help high school students complete the application and enrollment process (AKA, 2019b).

*How does #CAP connect  
with school counseling?*

#CAP ALIGNS WITH THE ASCA NATIONAL  
MODEL!



#CAP aligns with the four components of the ASCA National Model (2019): define, manage, deliver, and assess.



## DEFINE

#CAP connects with the ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors (ASCA, 2014), our student standards to help all students become college and career ready.



## MANAGE

#CAP provides a system that aligns with our program focus and program planning goals. #CAP could help us develop closing the gap goals for college access and admissions in all counseling programs.



## DELIVER

#CAP ties into direct and indirect student services. Direct services include large group instruction, appraisal, and advisement. Indirect services include referrals, consultation, and collaboration.



## ASSESS

Counselors can use the data from #CAP to complete small group action reports and closing the gap action reports.

*Eight  
Components of  
CC&C Counseling*

- College Aspirations
- Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness
- Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities
- College and Career Exploration and Selection Processes
- College and Career Assessments
- College Affordability Planning
- College and Career Admission Processes
- Transition from High School to College Enrollment



# What Elementary Counselors do for CCR

## COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS

Bulletin boards, pendants, college days

## ACADEMIC PLANNING

- 2nd-5th grade portfolio
- 5th grade academic and career plan (ACP)
- Middle school applications

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Help students develop leadership, collaboration, and service skills

## COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION

- Career Day & Guest Speakers
- Career Cafes
- Teaching Soft Skills
- Who I Want to Be Project

## COLLEGE & CAREER ASSESSMENTS

- Pre-tests/post-tests
- Classroom instruction
- Quizziz and Kahoots

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

- Talk about saving for college now!
- Junior Achievement Program
- Scholarship vs. grant vs. loan
- College Tours
  - Virtual (K-3)
  - On campus (4-5)

# What Middle School Counselors do for CCR

## **COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS**

Bulletin boards, pendants, college days

## **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

- Develop initial ACP in 7th grade
- Complete ACP in 8th grade
- High school planning meeting

## **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

Help students develop leadership, collaboration, and service skills

## **COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION**

- College/Career Day & Guest Speakers
- Vocational Field Trip
- Teaching Soft Skills
- Operation Graduation classroom lesson
- Career Jeopardy classroom lesson

## **COLLEGE & CAREER ASSESSMENTS**

- Pre-tests/post-tests
- Classroom instruction
- Kahoots

## **FINANCIAL LITERACY**

- Create a dedicated college savings account
- Keep learning about financial aid

# #CAP and High School Counseling

## COLLABORATION

High school counselors work with other educators, parents, and the community to support student achievement (ASCA, 2019c).

## CONSULTATION

Support for students and families to school or community resources for additional assistance and information (ASCA, 2019c)

## STUDENT STANDARDS (ASCA, 2019B)

- B-LS 5. Apply media and technology skills
- B-LS 7. Identify long and short-term academic, career and social/ emotional goals
- B-SS 3. Create relationships with adults that support success

# #COP & High School Counseling

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR

First generation , low income, African American, Latinx students are underrepresented in college enrollment (Cholewa, Burkhardt, & Hull, 2016).

## EQUITY & ACCESS

Students at urban high schools have less information and less access to information regarding higher education (Shamsuddin, 2016).

## THE ROLE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

High school counselors play a significant role in predicting student college applications/enrollments, especially for underrepresented minority students (Paolini, 2019; Robinson & Roksa, 2016).





# #CAP and High School Counseling

## AKA CAN ASSIST COUNSELORS WITH:

- SAT/ACT Preparation
- Institution Research
- Searching/applying for scholarships
- FAFSA
- Essays and personal statements
- Navigating the transition from high school to college
- Seminars, workshops, programs, etc.

## STEPP

- Search
  - Search for schools/scholarships
- Test
  - Prepare for tests
- Evaluate
  - Evaluate schools on list
- Paperwork
  - Complete/submit all required materials
- Positive Outlook
  - Stay positive!



## CONNECT

Connect with local AKA chapters in your community.

## COLLABORATE

How can AKA support your program goals beyond #CAP?

## CREATE THE CULTURE

What is your plan to create a college and career culture in your school?



*Moving  
Forward*

Connect with  
Us!



KRYSTAL CLEMONS  
Liberty University  
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bgregory@nps.k12.va.us



FALLON DODSON  
DC Public Schools  
Fallon.Dodson@k12.dc.gov

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Gamma Theta Omega, Inc.



**Mrs. Elaine Bryant, President**  
**Mrs. Tangela DuPree, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**  
**Gamma Theta Omega Chapter**



**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED  
GAMMA THETA OMEGA CHAPTER  
TAMPA, FLORIDA**



Mrs. Elaine H. Bryant  
President  
Gamma Theta Omega  
Chapter



Mrs. Tangela DuPree  
Program Chairman  
First Vice President  
Gamma Theta Omega  
Chapter



We are a Chapter of 314 active members located in Tampa, Florida.



# SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION FLORIDA GRADUATE CHAPTER LISTING



- Alpha Alpha Beta Omega (Miramar, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Alpha Alpha Theta Omega (Tampa, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Chi Delta Omega (PALM COAST, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Chi Psi Omega (Coral Springs, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Chi Upsilon Omega (Tallahassee, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Delta Iota Omega (PENSACOLA, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Delta Kappa Omega (TALLAHASSEE, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Delta Omicron Omega (ORLANDO, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Eta Eta Omega (FT. PIERCE, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Eta Tau Omega (OCALA, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Gamma Mu Omega (Daytona, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Gamma Rho Omega (JACKSONVILLE, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Gamma Theta Omega (TAMPA, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Gamma Zeta Omega (Miami, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Iota Pi Omega (Rockledge, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Kappa Kappa Omega (POMPANO BEACH, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Kappa Omicron Omega (BARTOW, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Kappa Sigma Omega (SANFORD, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Lambda Omicron Omega (BRADENTON, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Mu Rho Omega (BELLE GLADE, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Mu Upsilon Omega (Gainesville, FL - South Atlantic Region)





- Nu Beta Omega (CLEARWATER, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Nu Iota Omega (Maitland, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Nu Omega Omega (MADISON, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Omega Phi Omega (St. Augustine, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Omicron Kappa Omega (LAKELAND, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Pi Delta Omega (MIAMI, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Pi Eta Omega (ORANGE PARK, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Psi Pi Omega (Stuart, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Psi Theta Omega (Orlando, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Sigma Omicron Omega (FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Tau Chi Omega (Deland, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Tau Theta Omega (QUINCY, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Theta Nu Omega (FT. MYERS, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Upsilon Xi Omega (Ft. Lauderdale, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Xi Omicron Omega (LYNN HAVEN, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Xi Pi Omega (Boynton Beach, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Zeta Rho Omega (FT. LAUDERDALE, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Zeta Tau Omega (West Palm Beach, FL - South Atlantic Region)
- Zeta Upsilon Omega (ST. PETERSBURG, FL - South Atlantic Region)

**The signature project is #CAPSM which is short for College Admissions Process. It is designed to assist students in their efforts to enter college by providing a hands-on approach that includes all the steps from researching various colleges to actually completing the application process.**

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Gamma Theta Omega, Inc.



## #CAP College Admissions Process



#CAP Chairman  
Renae Feacher, Esq.  
Primary Patent Examiner, USPTO



#CAP Co-Chairman  
Mary Williams, MBA  
Project Manager, Amazon



## #CAP Program Implementation

The program is designed to help high school students navigate the college enrollment process by providing a step-by-step, hands-on approach that includes all aspects from researching various colleges to completing the application process.



## Search

Researching schools and scholarships that meet your needs.



## Test

Identify ACT/SAT resources to help you prepare and take the required admissions tests.



## Evaluate

Evaluate the application process for each school being considered.



## Punctuality

Create a time-line to include completing and submitting applications, essays, financial aid forms and other required materials to ensure important deadlines are not missed.



## Positive Attitude

Keep a positive attitude and be optimistic about your future.

# STEPP



# #CAP Program Statistics 2020



Over 50  
Program  
Applicants

36 High Schools  
Represented

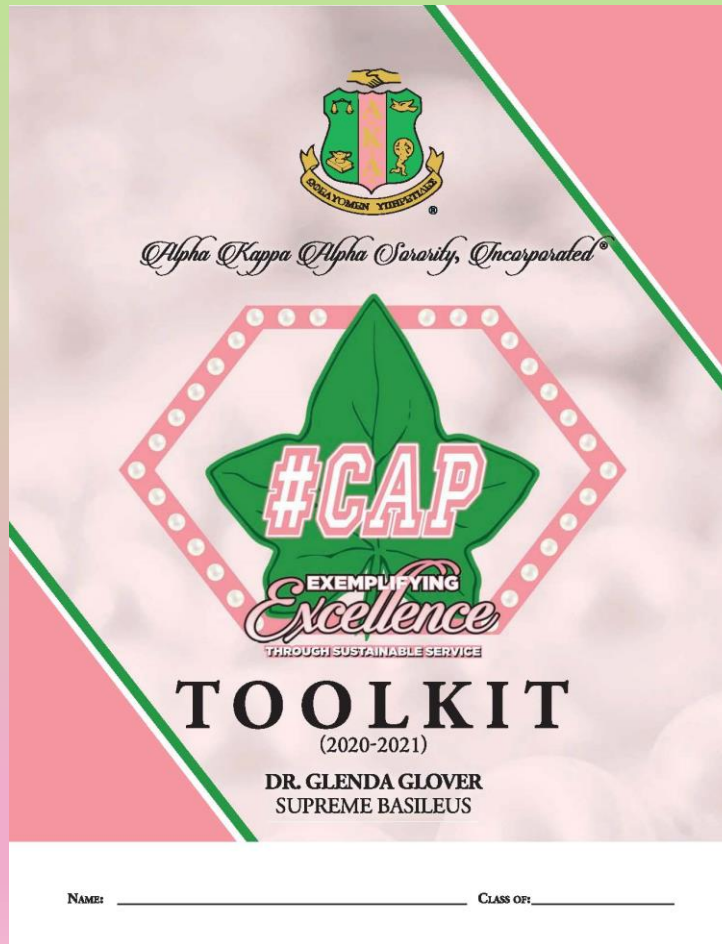
Hillsborough and  
Surrounding  
Counties

7 Virtual  
Sessions  
Presented

2 - Virtual  
College Tours

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# #CAP ToolKit



You finally made it! As you prepare to walk across the stage and make your family proud, don't forget you still have to get ready for college. Many students do not realize that your senior year is just as important as your junior year. On this page you will find tips and information on how to make this a productive and successful senior year!

#### TIPS FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR AND PREPARING FOR COLLEGE!

- Don't let Senioritis tempt you into skipping class or stop you from completing assignments.
  - If you miss a certain number of days of class, then your school may prohibit you from graduating.
  - Colleges still require your final transcript, so if they see you barely passed classes your senior year they may take your scholarship away or deny your acceptance to that school.
- Get involved or continue to be involved in extracurricular activities and organizations at school.
  - Not only does this look good on college applications, but it will allow you to meet new friends and participate in an activity you enjoy.
- Participate in Senior Activities and raise your school spirit.
- Complete college applications early, so you can enjoy your senior year!
- Don't compare yourself to others.
- Celebrate accomplishments throughout the year.
  - Graduating high school is a big deal! Celebrate that you have made it this far!
- Reinvent yourself.
  - Be open to new experiences and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone.
  - Become the person you've always wanted to be and don't let anyone stop you.
- Realize that you may not have all of life's questions figured out quite yet.
  - In college, you are able to change your major and courses. Don't feel like you have to stick to one path.
- Make useful connections.
  - Reach out to individuals for mentoring and for internships.
- Plan ahead as best as you can.
  - This will help alleviate stress and help you feel more in control.
  - You don't have to worry about what will happen tomorrow or next week.
  - Stay true to your word and be accountable to your promises
- Be productive.
  - Find where you need to be more proactive.



You will hear repeatedly that your junior year is your most important year of high school; and they're right! When you apply to college you will be reporting all your GPA, accolades, and involvements up to your junior year. So make this year count by following some of the suggestions and utilizing resources on this page to prepare you for a successful admissions process!

#### TIPS FOR YOUR JUNIOR YEAR AND PREPARING FOR COLLEGE!

- Take Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
  - Not only does taking rigorous courses look good on your college application, but you can receive college credits if you score well on your end-of-the-year AP exams.
- Even if you have a good GPA, that doesn't mean you shouldn't prepare to take standardized tests like the SAT and ACT.
  - Use the SAT and ACT official test websites to develop study methods, to register for tests, and to access and send score reports to colleges.
- Begin creating a college list.
  - Review majors and programs in your areas of interest at different colleges.
  - Consider the size and location of the school.
  - Take into account the colleges' campus life such as dining halls, dorms, student life, or Greek Life.
  - How you will pay for college should also be considered when applying.
  - Plan a college tour to view the campus first hand.
  - Attend college fairs to gain information on various schools and what they each have to offer.
- Learn how to effectively balance your time.
  - Don't let your grades suffer because of extracurricular activities and don't be afraid to get involved in organizations just to earn a high GPA.
- Get organized.
  - You will become overwhelmed with test prep materials, homework, and college brochures; create a system to keep your room clutter free!
- Meet with your Guidance Counselor
  - They have helped countless students before you get into college.
  - Meet with them to ensure you are on the right track to graduate on time and use them as a resource during the admissions process.
- Start searching for scholarships now.
  - There are several scholarships that juniors can apply for.
  - Check out and prepare for scholarships you can apply for during your senior year.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.
  - By playing sports, becoming a thespian, or getting involved in Student Government you are elevating your college application.
  - Become a part of at least two extracurricular activities.
- Finally, relax!
  - Enjoy your junior year of high school and create lasting memories with your friends.



It's your final year of high school and time to begin applying to colleges! Just by earning a college degree you will earn over \$1 million more than a someone with a high school diploma. So how do you prepare for the next big step? This page will answer those questions and provide resources for the college admissions process.

**HOW TO APPLY**

- o Narrow down your college choices until you reach a comfortable amount; at least 5.
- o Look up each school's deadline and send in your application early.
- o Understand each schools' specific admissions requirements.
  - Check each school's website for their specific requirements.
  - Or use [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) to review school requirements and more.
- o What you'll need for every application:
  - A copy of your high school transcript
  - A list of your extracurricular activities
  - Test scores
    - SAT or ACT
  - Parent/Legal Guardian Information
    - Educational background, occupational information, employer information, etc.
- o Start your essay and personal statement early and have it proofread.
- o Admissions evaluators only spend about 12 minutes on an application, so make a lasting impression.
- o Your personality matters, so prove you're more than your test scores and grades.

**EARLY DECISION VS. REGULAR DECISION**

- o If you are passionate about one particular school, then you should consider applying as an Early Decision candidate.
  - Early Decision candidates submit their application in November to their top college and receive an admission decision by December.
  - If you're accepted, then you agree to attend that college and accept their financial aid package.
- o If you are interested in multiple schools, then you should consider applying as a Regular Decision candidate.
  - Regular Decision candidates submit their application in late December or January and receive a decision in the spring.
  - If you're accepted into multiple schools, then you are able to compare financial aid packages and to pick the college that fits you.

For more information visit: [www.greatcollegeadvice.com](http://www.greatcollegeadvice.com)

**RESOURCES FOR ADMISSIONS**

- o [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - This website allows you to fill out one application that can be submitted to multiple colleges at one time.
- o [www.commonblackcollegeapp.com](http://www.commonblackcollegeapp.com)
  - Are you interested in attending an HBCU? Well this website allows you to apply to multiple HBCUs at one time with one, simple application.

**HOW TO WRITE A BOMB COLLEGE APPLICATION AND ESSAY**

- o Analyze the prompt thoroughly and organize your writing.
  - Read the prompt several times before you begin to draft your outline.
  - See how long each paragraph needs to be to fit within the word count limit.
  - Create a schedule when to write your essay.
  - Start your essays and applications early!
- o Use your essay as an introduction to admissions officers.
  - Don't simply state in your essay that you're passionate about something, show them through strong examples.
- o Be yourself and tell YOUR story when writing essays.
  - Use college-level vocabulary in your essay, but avoid overdoing it.
  - Since many essays have a word count limit, find advanced words to replace a phrase.
  - Create complex and compound sentences and save simple sentences for when you need to make an impact.
- o Have someone read and review your essays.
  - Ask no more than three people to help revise your essays; too many opinions may harm your essay more than help it.
  - Seek out teachers or individuals who have a background in the college admissions process.

**TIPS ON HOW TO STAND OUT**

- o Visit the campus.
  - 70% of colleges say by visiting their school it plays a factor in their admissions decision.
- o Colleges are looking for well-rounded students.
- o Be cautious of your social media presence.
  - Delete posts or tweets that may impact your application if a college admissions officer were to see it.
  - Use social media as a platform to strengthen your brand and application.
- o Convey who you are beyond the essay and application.
  - Add a little bit of humor into your essay.

**FINDING THE BEST SCHOOL FOR YOU**

- o Recognize that the "best" colleges in the nation may not be right for you.
  - Find a college that fits your personal lifestyle and goals.
  - Factor in the cost of attendance and the amount of financial aid each school offers you.
  - Research what colleges offer the right courses and the facilities offered for your intended major (i.e. if you're a STEM major, then look to see if the college has updated labs).
  - Consider the ratio of students to teachers and class sizes.
  - Do you want to come home often, or experience a different part of the country? The location of the college is quite important in the decision making process.

To create a college roadmap visit: [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

# March 2021

Spelman and Bennett Colleges produce over half of the nation's African-American women who go on to earn doctorates in all science fields; more than all the Ivy League's Seven Sisters combined.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Study for the SAT or ACT.
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- Register to take the SAT or ACT.
  - May or June
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
  - [www.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com)
- Apply for a Trio Program.
  - [www.ed.org](http://www.ed.org)
- Look for summer internships.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.

## SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Apply for scholarships and grants.
  - [www.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com)
  - Look for local scholarships
- Research student loan options.
- Apply for summer programs offered by the college.
- Schedule a campus visit.

## Goal of the Month



# Virtual Sessions

Financial Aid/FAFSA

SAT/ACT Bootcamp

Virtual

Essay Writing  
Benchmarks

Scholarship Search



# Virtual Session: "Don't Fumble Your Financial Aid & Scholarships" - Jamaica Jefferson, Financial Aid Counselor-Hillsborough Community College and member of GTO presented the Financial Aid Session providing an in-depth overview of the financial aid process including how to fill out the FAFSA and Understanding your financial aid package and common terms.



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**#CAP**

College Admissions Process  
Male and Female High School Students Welcome!

**"Don't Fumble Your Financial Aid"  
Financial Aid & Scholarship  
Virtual Session**

Saturday, October 31, 2020  
11am-12:30pm

Learn All the Right Plays To Successfully Apply For  
Financial Aid, Scholarships and Grants

Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/CAPFINAID>

A Zoom link to attend the event  
will be emailed.

## Applying for Federal aid

- The FAFSA® for the following year is available October 1st of every year at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov).
- Each FAFSA® covers fall, spring, and summer (ex. 2021-2022, covers 21/fall, 22/SP and 22/SU)
- Have all necessary documents available- social security cards, tax documents
- Create an FSA ID at [fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm](http://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm). For student and parent (if student is a dependent)
- Determine if dependent or independent:
  - classified independent if one or more of the following applies:
    - 24 years old, married,
    - have child/dependents that student supports,
    - orphan or ward of the court or in foster care at any time from age of 13,
    - Veteran of the armed forces, or active duty,
    - homeless or unaccompanied youth by high school

**25 #CAP  
Participants!!!**

## Scholarship Search Example



Search for "florida" "scholarships" "athlete"

Search for Scholarships to help pay for school. Join today! Don't Pay Full Tuition. Start Your Search - Search for Scholarships

Ad - [www.niche.com/scholarships](http://www.niche.com/scholarships) -  
2020 Scholarship Search - Niche  
Find college scholarship matches by state, major, and deadline. Apply now!  
2020 No Essay Scholarship - \$1,000 Survey Scholarship - Scholarship Search

Searches related to "florida" "scholarships" "athlete"

scholarships for athletic	merit-based scholarships
college scholarships	athletic scholarship
scholarships for club sports	big sun scholarship
scholarships for high school seniors	local sports scholarships

Googooooooooooooole >  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Next

**Scholarship Searching:** GTO member Nathalie Ayers taught students strategies to search scholarships and why scholarships matter.





On Saturday, Mar 13<sup>th</sup> the **#CAP hosted an ACT/SAT Bootcamp**. The students learned valuable tips, tricks and strategies to answer questions. Our facilitators were from Blake High School and included Mrs. Romie Heit, a parent volunteer and students Ashanti Cox (Senior) and James LaFayette (Junior).

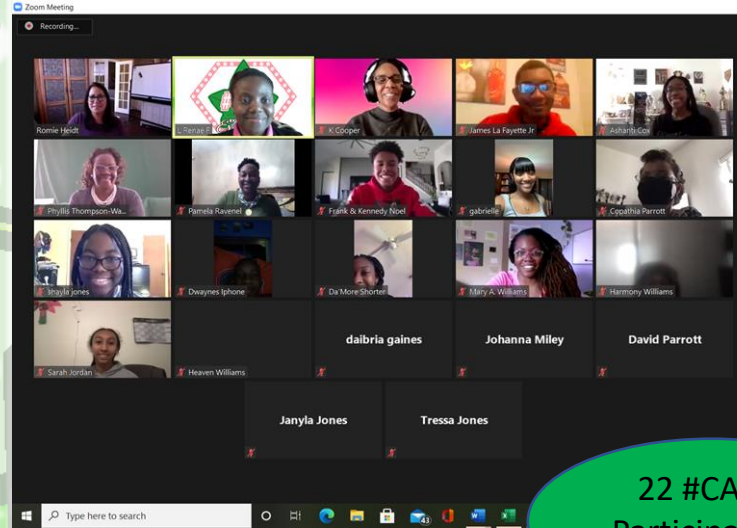
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Gamma Theta Omega, Inc.

**#CAP Virtual Session**  
**ACT/SAT Boot Camp**  
Learn Key Tips & Tricks to Prep for the SAT/ACT

**Saturday,  
March 13, 2021  
10 a.m.—Noon**

Male and Female  
High School Students  
Welcome

**REGISTER NOW AT:** <http://bit.ly/CAPACTSAT>  
A ZOOM link to attend will be provided prior to each event.



22 #CAP  
Participants



Students learned tricks to answering reading based questions.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting with a digital SAT interface. The passage is titled "The Road to McCoy" and discusses the inventor of the Canadian American engine named Fitzgibbon McCoy. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options like "Home", "Messages", and "Calendar". The main content area displays the passage text and several multiple-choice questions. A pink callout bubble is overlaid on the top left of the Zoom window.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting with a digital SAT interface. The page is titled "SAT Math Section 1 - No calculator, first page". It displays two math problems. The first problem asks for the value of  $x$  given  $\frac{x-1}{3} = k$  and  $k = 3$ . Handwritten notes include "Algebra I" and "smallest to largest!". The second problem is a word problem about text messages. A small video feed of a man in a red shirt is visible in the bottom right corner. A pink callout bubble is overlaid on the bottom right of the Zoom window.

Identify type of math question first.





**FLORIDA  
MEMORIAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
A PROMISE. A FUTURE.



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**

Program participants were treated to detailed presentations and Q&A sessions with representatives from the colleges and universities. Attendees: 27

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**#CAP Virtual Tours**  
Kick-Off Your College Search  
Through our Virtual College Tour Series!  
Middle and High School Students Welcome

**Tuesday,  
November 10 • 5 p.m.**  
University of Florida  
Robert Barrett, Admissions Officer

**Tuesday,  
November 17 • 5 p.m.**  
Florida Memorial University  
Ms. Dana (Danewiese) Joseph, M.S.H.E.  
Assistant Director of Admissions

REGISTER NOW AT: <http://bit.ly/CAPVIRTUALTOUR>  
A Zoom link to attend will be provided prior to each event.



# Partnerships and Collaborations

Sorority  
Referrals



Blake High  
School

Church  
Affiliations



**JACK AND JILL**  
of America, Inc.

**R RAMSEY**  
**HILLSBOROUGH**  
Community College



Local Youth  
Groups



Ferrell Girls  
Preparatory  
Middle School

Throughout the year #CAP partnered and/or collaborated with multiple community organizations and local middle schools and high schools.







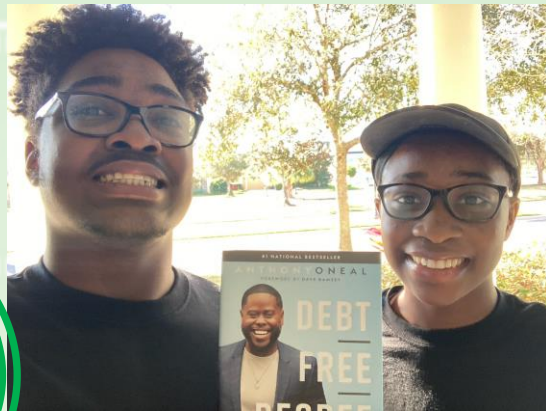
## Holiday Goodie Bags:

- #CAP Participants were treated to custom #CAP branded items and materials to further support the theme.
- #CAP T-shirt
- #CAP wristbands
- #CAP notebook with pen
- *Debt Free Degree and The Graduate Survival Guide*

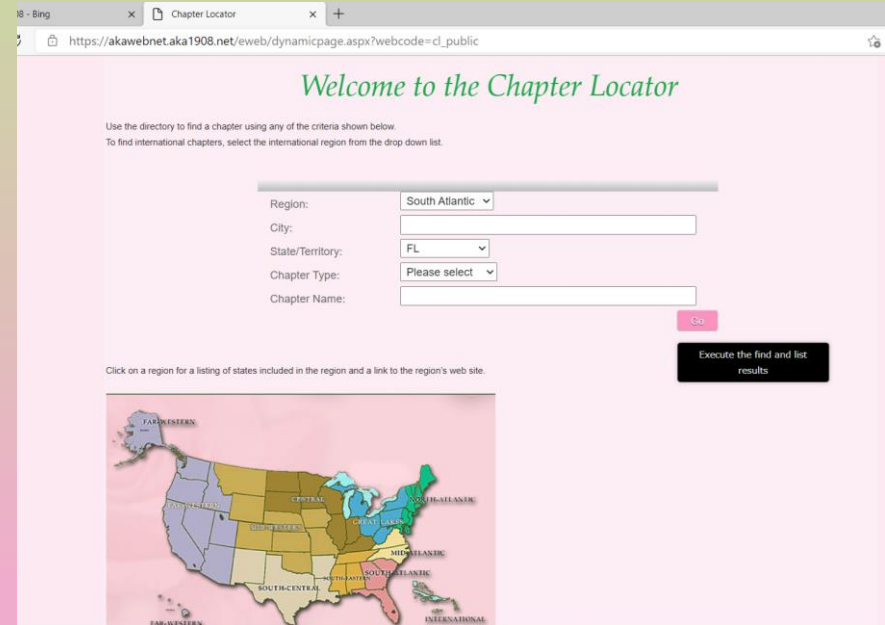




# #CAP Participants



# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Chapter Locator



www.aka1908.com

# #CAP Application

Complete the online application at:

<http://bit.ly/GTOCAPAPP>





# Contact Info

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#CAP Chairman

Mary Williams  
#CAP Co-Chairman

Email: [collegebound.gto@gmail.com](mailto:collegebound.gto@gmail.com)

If you have any questions or comments about the program, please feel free to contact us.

# Questions?

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# Conclusion

