Bridge 2 Life South Florida (B2L) is the Local College Access Network (LCAN) based in Broward County, representing the 6th largest school district in the US. We are an alliance of 60+ key educational, governmental, faith based, philanthropic, business and non-profit partners working to ensure Broward County youth are prepared to pursue and obtain higher education credentials and enter livable wage careers.

Across Florida, less than 49% of young adults 18-25 have earned a higher education credential. B2L continually strives to achieve the goal of Florida House Bill 7071, which passed the House and Senate by unanimous vote in 2019 and established the SAIL to 60 Initiative. Its goal and ours is to increase the percentage of working-age Floridians with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030. It is the higher education credential that enables youth to earn livable wages in sustainable careers.

An important cornerstone of B2L is that the community is collectively accountable for implementing its own unique college and career readiness vision – a coalition of all the moving pieces in a community driving opportunities for success for high school youth.

Our anchor institutions include Broward College, Broward County Public Schools, the Children's Services Council of Broward County, 211 Broward, YMCA of South Florida, OIC of South Florida, Museum of Discovery and Science, City of Fort Lauderdale, Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation. We work with dozens of corporate partners including: Microsoft, Total Marine Solutions, Marine Industry Association of South Florida, Denison Yachting, JetBlue, Florida Power and Light, LAN Infotech, Comerica Bank, Broward Health.

LCANs such as B2L, develop post-secondary attainment goals for their local area and implement a shared common agenda to achieve their goals. B2L is focused on addressing: (1) college affordability – $20.8 million dollars in Pell Grant funding was underutilized in Broward County last year; (2) increased need for post-secondary advising – Broward's student-to-college advisor ratio (524 students to 1 counselor) is double the recommended national standard; and (3) providing career exploration and work-based experiences - Career exploration is a key intervention tool for youth to better prepare for their future, a future that will demand higher education credentials. A college education remains necessary for economic mobility. Livable wage careers in sustainable industry sectors also require and reward adaptability and resilience. Self-discovery and the exploration of the robust career options available to them should begin early; it is often overlooked or minimally resourced throughout a student's education through high school. Providing internship opportunities directly and through corporate partners provides real-world work experience and income opportunity.

B2L has established the following 21/22 goals that they will work collaboratively to address by employing collective action strategies:

1) Addressing College Affordability by implementing strategies to increase the completion rate by:
   - 5% for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (i.e. Pell Grant);
   - 3% for the Florida Financial Aid Application (i.e., Bright Futures & CAPE)
2) Addressing counseling and college advising gaps through peer engagement and remote delivery of additional programming in partnership with school districts, youth-serving agencies and corporate partners
   - Host monthly student success network meetings focused on college and career readiness resources
   - Provide direct mentorship for student-led projects
   - Maintain and promote regional calendar of virtual events in partnership with South Florida school districts
3) Providing Career Exploration and Work-Based Experiences:
   - Provide career pathway workshops highlighting industry sectors in our local economy serving 5,000 students annually
   - Provide B2L student work internships throughout the year enabling youth to generate income and build their resume