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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Florida Students Travel to Tallahassee to Advocate for Affordable Higher Education**

*Students will arrive March 10<sup>th</sup> and engage with legislators through March 12<sup>th</sup>*

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** – Student advocacy fellows, with support from the Florida College Access Network (FCAN), will travel to Tallahassee on March 10-12 for the fourth annual Advocacy Fellowship, a program dedicated to empowering students with the skills and confidence to champion education policies that improve college affordability and student success.

During this two-day visit, students will share their personal academic journeys and experiences with elected officials, providing firsthand perspectives on how Florida's education policies shape access to and success in higher education.

"This student group represents the aspirations of communities across Florida," said Braulio Colón, FCAN's executive director. "Elevating students voices is paramount for understanding how Florida can improve access to education beyond high school for all students."

Since 2021, FCAN has partnered with network leaders to elevate student voices through the fellowship, offering training in public speaking, education policy, and mentorship for developing essential advocacy skills.

FCAN is committed to policies that support Florida's SAIL to 60 Goal—increasing the percentage of working-age Floridians with a high-value postsecondary credential to 60% by 2030. Today, the state stands at 55.1%, making student-centered policy solutions more critical than ever, according to Lumina Foundation's recent Strong Nation Report.

**As part of its 2025 policy agenda, FCAN is championing:****FAFSA Awareness in Financial Literacy Curriculum**

- Cost is the #1 barrier to higher education, with 85% of students citing it as a major concern.
- Incorporating FAFSA learning objectives into high school financial literacy courses will ensure all students understand how to access grants, scholarships, and aid.

**Expanding Access to the Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)**

- FSAG provides need-based aid to Florida students, but funding shortages left 37,278 eligible students without support in 2022-23.
- Expanding funding will ensure more students can afford to pursue their postsecondary goals.

**Strengthening Awareness of Dual Enrollment Opportunities**

- Dual enrollment allows students to earn college credit in high school at no cost, reducing time and expenses for a degree.



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- Despite available incentives, many families remain unaware of these opportunities, highlighting the need for better outreach.

### **Media Availability**

Members of the media are invited to meet and interview student advocates during their visit to Tallahassee at the Florida State Capitol Building, Senate Room 231. These students bring diverse perspectives from career and technical programs, state colleges, and universities, offering firsthand insights into how Florida's education policies shape their academic and career goals. FCAN representatives will also be available to discuss the Advocacy Fellowship, its key policy priorities, and the broader mission to increase postsecondary attainment across the state.

To schedule an interview or for more information, please contact: Sandra C. Roa  
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### **About Florida College Access Network**

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and a rewarding career. We envision a Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies, and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida. For more information, visit [www.floridacollegeaccess.org](http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org).

FCAN is a statewide independent organization hosted by the University of South Florida (USF). The statements and positions presented are those of FCAN and are not made on behalf of the USF Board of Trustees or intended in any way to be representative of USF.