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**FCAN Awards Grants to Six Regional Networks
to Strengthen Career Pathways Across Florida**

Talent Strong Florida High-Value Pathways Initiative, supported by Lumina Foundation, funds communities to connect students to high-quality credentials and careers.

TAMPA, FL — The Florida College Access Network (FCAN) today announced six regional college access networks as grantees of the Talent Strong Florida High-Value Pathways Initiative, a competitive grant program supported by Lumina Foundation. The initiative funds regional coalitions to strengthen local ecosystems that help students — particularly those from low-income and first-generation backgrounds — learn about, prepare for, and enroll in postsecondary credentials that lead to in-demand careers.

Each grantee will receive up to \$50,000 over an 18-month project period to mobilize cross-sector partnerships, expand access to high-value pathways information, and align local strategies with regional labor market needs. Grantees will also participate in a facilitated community of practice and receive tailored technical assistance through FCAN and its expert consultants.

“Florida’s students need clear, accurate information about the credentials and careers available to them, and they need the regional support systems to help them get there,” said Braulio Colón, FCAN’s executive director. “These six networks are doing the work to make those connections real for students and families in their communities.”

The six grantees, selected through a competitive review process, are:

- ASPIRE Capital Region (Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla Counties / greater Tallahassee region)
- Broward Bridge2Life (Broward County / greater Fort Lauderdale region)
- Citrus County Coalition for College and Careers (Citrus County / Nature Coast region)
- FutureMakers Coalition (Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties / Southwest Florida region)
- LEAP Tampa Bay (Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties / Tampa Bay metropolitan region)
- upLiftED (Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties / greater Orlando metropolitan region)

The grantees represent six of Florida’s 19 local college access network (LCAN) regions, which collectively serve more than 85% of the state’s population. Projects will focus on embedding high-value pathways information at the school district and community levels, strengthening



cross-sector partnerships, and aligning local strategies with regional workforce needs.

The cohort will convene for the first time at the Talent Strong Florida Summit in Tampa on May 6, 2026, for an inaugural kickoff session.

The Talent Strong Florida High-Value Pathways Initiative is supported by Lumina Foundation as part of FCAN's strategic goal of strengthening regional education-to-career ecosystems across Florida.

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About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) leads the statewide collaborative movement to strengthen Florida by ensuring every Floridian attains education beyond high school toward a rewarding career. We envision a thriving Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility and a prosperous economy 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.

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.