



The Florida Prosperity Partnership

College Access Network and College Navigators Program

The Florida Prosperity Partnership (FPP) is a statewide network of more than 160 partner organizations that promote programs and coordinate holistic services for Florida's struggling families. FPP's most recent initiatives focus on improving access to post-secondary education and training.

The odds are stacked against students that are the first in their family to pursue a college degree, come from low-income households, are members of minority groups, or have disabilities. Many are simply unaware of the resources available to them.

The Challenge

An education and labor crisis on the horizon

The path to upward mobility and economic success in Florida is increasingly dependent on one's ability to access and complete a post-secondary degree or credential.

- **By 2020, 65% of jobs in the US economy will require post-secondary education or training.**
- **Florida is only projected to reach 44% degree attainment by 2025, and most other states will also fall short.**
- **The highest job growth since the 2008 recession has been in positions that require a bachelor's degree or higher.**
- **In Florida, only 26 of 100 low-income students who start 9th grade will finish high school, enroll in college, and go on to earn a year of college credit in their first two years of enrollment.**



The Opportunities

An abundance of resources available, lack of awareness leads to underutilization

Florida's high school seniors leave behind well **over \$100 million in Pell Grant federal dollars** each year by virtue of not completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), administered by the Department of Education. Despite having the 6th highest eligibility for Pell Grants in the country, **Florida ranked 40th in FAFSA completion in the 2014-2015 school year.**

FPP Education Initiatives

Providing free post-secondary education support services

FPP provides a support system to help navigate a path for students who have the desire to go to college or technical school.

Local College Access Network – The College is for Everyone Network – FPP Polk's new regional coalition of partners focused on increasing post-secondary attainment in Hardee, Highland, and Polk Counties. A three-county leadership team is working on implementing a strategic plan to increase post-secondary attainment.

College Navigators Program – The primary goal of this program is to assist anyone that is navigating the overwhelming process of selecting a career and creating a plan to reach that goal. Volunteers are helping students research their preferred careers and find colleges, obtain information on financial aid, grants and scholarships, navigate the application process, and plan careers after high school. *Piloted in Lakeland FL*

