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MEDIA ALERT

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Florida College Access Network Announces Two New Hires

~The senior researcher and community engagement specialist will focus on building support for Goal 2025 and developing tools to track our efforts to get there ~

Tampa, FL-To achieve a big goal, you need the right tools to make it happen. The Florida College Access Network (Florida C.A.N.!) is pleased to announce the hiring of Troy Miller and Lalita Llerena.

Troy Miller is the new senior researcher and policy analyst for Florida C.A.N.! In his role, Mr. Miller will lead the network efforts in researching effective state and institutional policies and practices at the K-12 and postsecondary levels that contribute toward improving college and career preparation, access, and completion. He will also work with network members to develop and deploy effective analytical tools designed to track and measure network impact.

Before taking this role, Mr. Miller held a variety of instructional and administrative positions where he helped support student success and learning at both Central Michigan University and the University of South Florida. Mr. Miller is currently a Ph. D. student in the higher education administration program at the University of South Florida.

As Florida C.A.N.!'s new community engagement specialist, Lalita Llerena brings more than a decade of communications experience to the network. Mrs. Llerena will manage Florida C.A.N.!'s partnerships and collaborations—supporting the development and expansion of local college access networks, leading the Goal 2025 public will-building

efforts through written communications, multimedia publicity and special events, and implementing strategies that strengthen Florida C.A.N.!’s position as the clearinghouse of knowledge, trends and relationships for college access and success in Florida.

Before joining Florida C.A.N.!, Mrs. Llerena managed a 24-hour local news team as an executive producer for Bay News 9 in the Tampa/St. Petersburg market. Prior to her nine years there, Mrs. Llerena field produced for Ivanhoe Broadcast News in the Orlando market. She also worked as a producer and reporter for WUFT-TV and WRUF-AM and holds a Bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from the University of Florida.

“Troy and Lalita bring a wealth of experience and passion that’s critical to helping us build and strengthen a statewide college access network,” said Braulio Colón, Executive Director for Florida C.A.N.! “With the addition of two strong and experienced team members, I believe we are equipped with the talent and passion needed to support our local network partners, more effectively advocate for all students, and ultimately help our state achieve [GOAL 2025](#),” said Colón.

Florida C.A.N! receives financial support from the Florida Department of Education, Helios Education Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, and the University of South Florida.

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About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network engages communities for higher education promoting college-readiness, access, and success for all students, particularly limited-income, first generation, and underrepresented students through research, communication, advocacy, and community support. Our Big Goal is to increase the proportion of working adults in Florida who hold a quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by 2025. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org