

Media Contact:
John Ceballos
(813) 974-8606
jceballos@floridacollegeaccess.org

PRESS RELEASE
Florida College Access Network
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ALN 185
Tampa, FL 33620



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 12, 2019

FCAN Announces College Ready Florida Innovator Award Winners

10 innovators recognized for going above and beyond to support students' college dreams

It takes innovation to engage students in planning for their postsecondary future. That's why FCAN is excited to recognize school and community leaders who implement creative and effective strategies that help students through FCAN's College Ready Florida initiatives: [Apply Yourself Florida](#), [Florida FAFSA Challenge](#), and [Florida College Decision Day](#).

FCAN is pleased to announce the honorees of its inaugural College Ready Florida Innovator Awards, which recognize those trying new approaches to help students get into and pay for college while inspiring younger students to plan for their futures.

The 2019 College Ready Florida Innovators are:

Ralph Aiello, Director of School Counseling and BRACE Advisement, Broward County Public Schools

Erin Almond, Senior Manager of KIPP Through College, KIPP Jacksonville Schools

Kelly Bonny, Recruitment Coordinator, Sheridan Technical College

Shedly Casseus Panther, BRACE Advisor, Northeast High School

Jennifer Davis, School Counselor, Stambaugh Middle School

Doris Gonzalez, Counselor, Atlantic Technical College

Darius Jones, School Counselor, George Jenkins High School

Jessica Manchette, Vice President, Champions For Learning

Matthew Ohlson, Assistant Professor, University of North Florida

Erin Wolfgramm, College & Career Specialist, Oak Ridge High School

— more —

The College Ready Florida Innovator Award winners were nominated by their peers and selected through a competitive process. This year's honorees reflect the sorts of creative practices that result in strong student outcomes. They will be honored at a special awards luncheon on May 8, 2019, at Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, as part of the [2019 FCAN Summit](#).

"Whether it's virtual mentoring for rural students, leveraging peer-to-peer influencers, or building a college-going culture in middle school, these leaders are willing to test new strategies that engage students in their future," says Kathy McDonald, FCAN's assistant director for network partnerships.

Please join us in congratulating these creative and dedicated Innovators for supporting all students' postsecondary ambitions.

About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's first collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and prosper in Florida's dynamic economy. Our mission is to create and sustain a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to increase college and career preparation, access, and completion for all Florida students. For more information, visit floridacollegeaccess.org.

###