Peer Power: The Untapped Source to Increase College Access

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Welcome!

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Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions in the box

• Share on social media
  Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  @BRACEcadets
  #FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording
Guest Presenter

Ralph Aiello, Director of School Counseling & BRACE Advisement
Broward County Public Schools
Guest Presenter

Yvonne Green
College & Career Specialist
Broward County Public Schools
Guest Presenter

Carol Lopez, Supervisor of College & Career Readiness, School Counseling & BRACE Advisement
Broward County Public Schools
**Our mission:**
We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

**Our vision:**
A Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.
FCAN’s Work

Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida’s talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs represent 82% of the state’s population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.

Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.
7 Conditions for Success

**Opportunity for everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

**Clear information and guidance:** Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

**Affordable:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone’s financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

**Multiple pathways to success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

**Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is “one and done;” Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

**Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

**Community collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.
Students need more guidance and support

After meeting 1-on-1 with a counselor to discuss college or financial aid:

- The chances of a student going to college **triples**

- They are **seven times** more likely to apply for financial aid

**Source:** *How Can High School Counseling Shape Students’ Postsecondary Attendance? Exploring the Relationship between the High School Counseling Context and Students’ Subsequent Postsecondary Enrollment*, National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
Students need more guidance and support

- Florida’s student to counselor ratio: 485:1
- National student to counselor ratio: 482:1
- Recommended ratio: 250:1

Source: State-By-State Student-to-Counselor Ratio Report: 10-Year Trends
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) & American School Counselor Association (ASCA), 2014-2015
POLL: What could you accomplish if you had more resources to support student postsecondary plans?
Peer Power:
The Untapped Source to Increase Postsecondary Access & Success
BRACE Cadets: The Opportunity

• Broward Schools Overview
• Challenges
• Opportunity
• Vision
267,970 Students
2nd in State; 6th in Nation
241 Schools, incl. 32 High

175,404 Students

91,533 Students
# State Accountability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Language Arts (FSA)</th>
<th>Mathematics (FSA, EOCs)</th>
<th>Science (NGSSS, EOC)</th>
<th>Social Studies (EOCs)</th>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
<th>Acceleration Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement (0% to 100%)</td>
<td>Achievement (0% to 100%)</td>
<td>Achievement (0% to 100%)</td>
<td>Achievement (0% to 100%)</td>
<td>4-year Graduation Rate (0% to 100%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Gains (0% to 100%)</td>
<td>Learning Gains (0% to 100%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High School (AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment or Industry Certification) (0% to 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Gains of the Lowest 25% (0% to 100%)</td>
<td>Learning Gains of the Lowest 25% (0% to 100%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Middle School EOCs or Industry Certifications) (0% to 100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BCPS Vision:
Educating today’s students to succeed in tomorrow’s world.
### Student Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRL</td>
<td>176,629</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>95,464</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELL</td>
<td>31,766</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP</td>
<td>37,250</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA</td>
<td></td>
<td>43.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td></td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Investments

- 475 Counselors PK-12
- 500:1 Ratio
- 55% “Other Duties”
- BRACE Advisors
- Millage Referendum
- SAT Day
- Naviance
- Adulting 101
- Money Matters

- LCAN – Broward Bridge 2 Life (B2L)
- College Fairs
- College & Career Signing Day
- College & Career Application Day
- Text, Email, Phone, Social Media
Vision

• Build a robust college and career going culture
• Enroll and complete post-secondary education
• Make students part of the "army"
• Use data to inform and measure success
The Inspiration

- Students are 2nd most powerful influencer on peers
- Leverage the strength of peer influence for good
- PeerForward
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation “To & Through Challenge” Grant
BRACE Cadets

- High school students who serve as mentors to their peers, helping them take action to prepare for college, career, and life after graduation.

- Cadets design and implement projects at their schools.
Social Media Cadets

Twitter @bracecadets
https://twitter.com/bracecadets

Instagram @bracecadets
https://www.instagram.com/bracecadets/

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/bracecadets/
Five Priorities

• Naviance
• College Readiness
• Career Readiness
• Financial aid – FAFSA, Bright Futures, Scholarships
• Alternatives to 4-year colleges
Application & Selection Process

- Application & Screening
- Interview
- Naviance experience
  - Common App a/c;
  - Self-assessments
- Draft Project Plan
- Signed Agreement
Expectations

- Mandatory Training (4+ Days)
- Submit 2 Project Plans
- Implement Approved Projects
- Submit 2 Project Reports
- Focus on Priorities
- Have fun
- $500 stipend
BRACE Cadet Projects

• Self-assessments
• Career Inventories
• College Admissions
  – Match
  – Selection
  – Application (Common App a/c)
• College & Career Fairs
• Technical Colleges Awareness
• High School Course Planning And Dual Enrollment

• SAT Workshops
• FAFSA Education and Application Events
• Scholarship
  – Boot Camps
  – Challenges
  – Application Drives
  – Essay Support
"I chose some students [in my project] to be college readiness coaches to give one-on-one help to students ... by the time this is completed, my list of students affected will be around 50."

Sarah L.
11th Grade BRACE Cadet, C1 & 2
• Cadets advocated to fund Naviance at a School Board meeting

• Cadets with Superintendent Robert Runcie
Influencers

• Bring authentic student voice to conversations about education and equity in education

• Cadets leading the inauguration of B2L
Game-Changers

- Community Events
- Supporting B2L
  Black History Month
  FAFSA Drive
“I accomplish a lot more using BRACE Cadets, than I do on my own.” BRACE Advisor
Program Benefits

- College & Career Going Culture
- Increased Capacity For District
- Leverage Youth Leadership
- More Students Taking Action
- Create New Energy & Buzz
- Personal Transformation In Students
Cohort 1 Impact Using NCAN Common Metrics
Financial Aid Indicators

**FAFSA**
- 213 Completed
- 50 FSAID created
- 209 FAFSA Readiness

**Scholarship Applications**
- 71 Bright Futures
- 345 Scholarship
- 346 Scholarship Readiness
Admissions Indicators

Completed Applications

- 72 Applied to College
- 145 College Lists
- 50 Common App a/c
- 299 College Readiness
Academic & Testing Indicators

AP, dual enrollment, GPA, on-time graduation

- 3 students signed up for dual enrollment

Students Taking SAT & ACT

- 2 students took SAT
Indicators Using BCPS Metrics

Naviance Exploration
• 376 Self-assessments
• 139 Careers Searches

Careers & Alternatives
• 41 Military, CTE

Personal Plan
• 95 Plans Created
Money Talks

Sources
• Title IV Grant
• To & Through Grant
• In-kind Support
  – Meals
  – Space,
  – Trainers/speakers

Expenses
• Student Stipends
• Trainer Stipends
• Dedicated Staff
• Uniforms
• Swag & Incentives
Success Keys – District Level

• Articulate possibilities, not problems
• Engage decision-makers & influencers early
• Allocate staff
• Create a high value brand
• Budget
• Share success not setbacks
Success Keys - Students

- Clear vision
- Clear expectations
- Meaningful incentives
- Options & flexibility
- Quality training
- Empower
- 200% support & encouragement
- Altruism & impact
60 BRACE Cadets x 4 Months = 2,452 Lives Changed

Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed [students] to change their [school].
POLL: How many students can you identify who would love to be a student influencer?
Questions?

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Register for upcoming webinars:

6/23 1-2 pm: **Unite Miami: Wraparound support for youth in foster care or experiencing homelessness**

For webinars, policy briefs, and promising practices, subscribe at: FloridaCollegeAccess.org/subscribe
Conclusion
Social Media

• @Brace Cadets