Country Roads Take Me… To College:
Meeting the Unique Needs of Rural Students

May 4, 2020
Welcome!

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Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions in the chat box

• Share on social media
  Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  #FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording.
Florida College Access Network is the heart of a movement to ensure today’s students are prepared for tomorrow’s jobs.

**Our mission:** To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career preparation, access, and completion for all students.

**Our vision:** At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025.
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.
Introduction
## Snapshot: Rural Students in Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Florida</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of schools that are rural</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of students that live in rural communities</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of rural students</td>
<td>154,538</td>
<td>95,965 (state average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of rural school-age students in poverty</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural diversity index</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated graduation rate in rural districts</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
<td>88.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% rural mobility</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Why Rural Matters 2018-2019
November 2019
### Snapshot: Rural Students in Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Readiness Indicators</th>
<th>Florida</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% rural Juniors and Seniors in dual enrollment (males)</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% rural Juniors and Seniors in dual enrollment (females)</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% rural Juniors and Seniors passing at least 1 AP exam</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% rural Juniors and Seniors who took the ACT or SAT</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Why Rural Matters 2018-2019
November 2019
Partners for Education’s Model
More than one in four of America's public schools are rural.

More than 8.9 million students attend rural schools.

Nearly half of rural students are from low-income families.

One in four rural students are students of color.
Rural is Often Forgotten

- 7 cents on every philanthropic dollar invested in rural
- Federal policies often have an unconscious rural bias
- Lack of evidence based or research informed practices from rural places
- National perception that rural areas lack capacity and best practices
To increase rural postsecondary attainment we must increase access

- Access to Qualified Teachers and Rigorous Courses
- Access to Out of School Learning with Transportation
- Access to College Campuses and College Courses
- Access to a Community Wide College Going Culture
- Access to jobs across multiple pathways
- Access to Broadband
[POLL QUESTION] Which access issue is most critical in your rural communities?
At Partners for Education we focus our direct work, learning, and impact in Appalachia.

We are supporting partners and networks nationally to implement proven practices that help rural students achieve equitable college outcomes.
We define success as earning a 2- or 4-year degree because we know this is the surest path to leading a healthy, fulfilled, and choice-filled life.
Partners for Education addresses three barriers

**Programming Gaps**
Students in Appalachian communities have limited access to high quality programs to meet their diverse needs, from cradle to career

**Capacity Constraints**
Schools and communities lack access to the tools, techniques, and supports needed to tackle the challenges students and families face

**Systems Misalignment**
Sectors, systems, and funding are not aligned to meet the needs of our communities
"In rural contexts, we don’t have the luxury of doing one thing- we have to do all things”

-Dreama Gentry, Executive Director of Partners for Education
We take a cradle-to-career approach

We ensure young people have access to quality programs and support community efforts so that all students...

Enter Kindergarten Ready
Achieve Academic Proficiency
Graduate HS College Ready
Earn Postsecondary Degree
Gain Meaningful Employment

Are Safe, Healthy, and Supported

All Students Succeed
Partners for Education Impact
We serve the majority of students in our places

For example, in our 8 county Promise Zone we serve ...

29%
Of all Learners in Early Childhood

68%
Of all elementary and middle school students

68%
Of all high school students

Note: figures here refer to our Promise Zone, a region comprised of eight counties: Whitley, Knox, Bell, Clay, Leslie, Harlan, Perry, and Letcher.
We have moved population level outcomes

3rd grade proficiency scores in reading and math have grown by 8 and 10 percentage points respectively, and have now surpassed the state average.

Note: figures here refer to our Promise Zone, a region comprised of eight counties: Whitley, Knox, Bell, Clay, Leslie, Harlan, Perry, and Letcher.
We have seen remarkable outcomes in school districts.

Braiding multiple programs and interventions in **Leslie County** resulted in a remarkable school transformation.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before PFE</th>
<th>After PFE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Reading Proficiency</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduation Rate</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School State Ranking</td>
<td>224th</td>
<td>16th</td>
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</table>

Note: average class sizes range from 100-150 over this period.

"With Partners for Education’s support we achieved the highest ACT, AP World History, and AP Bio scores in our school’s history. **The partnership has transformed our school and our district.**"

- Principal Robert Roark, Leslie County High School
Partners for Education’s College Access and Success Model
WE BELIEVE IN YOU

STUDENTS ARE OUR INVESTMENT
The Power of one Caring Adult

STUDENTS ARE OUR INVESTMENT
Successful strategies that help rural students prepare for life in college

- Lift Educational Aspirations
- Build Academic Skills
- Connect College and Career
- Engage Families as Partners

Services
Lifting Educational Aspirations

- College and Career Navigator Staff
- Structured Mentoring
- Engage with the school staff to implement curriculum
- Scaffold Approach
Building Academic Skills

- Academic Interventionist
- Rigorous Curriculum
- Case Management Approach
- Advance Placement and Dual Credit
Connecting College and Careers

- Connecting College and Career
- Student level data is used for all event planning
- Out of school learning experiences are held on college campuses
- Financial Literacy
Engaging Families

Engaging Families as Partners

Parents as Advocates

Financial Literacy
Our Work in the Frame of COVID-19
Influencing Systems and Funding

• Working with policymakers to share the needs of rural schools and students

• Collecting qualitative data from students, teachers and parents to inform policies and funding

• Identifying flexible funding to support rural student and school needs
Building Capacity of educators and parents

• Assisting districts in the move to non-traditional instruction

• Supporting teachers and college access professionals in connecting remotely with students

• Providing parents with curated resources, cradle to career, to support their student’s learning (www.partnersforappalachianfamilies.org)
Implementing Innovative Programs

• Lifting Aspirations

• Building Academic Skills

• Connecting College and Career

• Engaging Families
Questions?

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Join us:

The work will go on!

Please follow this link and be added to our mailing list

ruralsummit@berea.edu

about

upcoming

Rural College Access and Success Summits.

Manchester, New Hampshire: April 25-27, 2021
Scottsdale, Arizona: April 24-26, 2022
Learn More:

Register for upcoming webinars:

5/12 10-11 am: **Closing the Opportunity Divide: Holistically Building Career Readiness in Young Adults** with Year Up

5/19 1-2 pm: **Partnering for Success: Creating Education Alignment that Works** with National Postsecondary Strategy Institute

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Conclusion