



MEDIA ALERT
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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Florida College Access Network Announces Leadership Transition

Tampa, FL —Florida College Access Network (FCAN) today announced its Executive Director Braulio Colón will be transitioning to serve as a founding member of its board of directors and joining Helios Education Foundation as Vice President and Program Director for Postsecondary Education Initiatives, effective May 13.

After three years leading the network, Colón's transition comes at the completion of an extensive strategic planning process involving multiple national and state partners along with various leaders and stakeholders across Florida. The result is a comprehensive three-year strategic framework and business plan designed to help FCAN build and strengthen local cross-sector collaborative efforts that can help organizations reach more students for postsecondary success.

"My experience with the Florida College Access Network has been remarkable and one that has no doubt shaped my professional and personal life in a very positive way," said Colón. "I embark on this transition with complete confidence, not only knowing that FCAN is strong, but all of its partners, stakeholders, and supporters remain committed to ensuring its success."

University of South Florida Vice Provost for Student Success Dr. Paul Dosal will serve as acting interim director and will chair the search committee charged with finding Colón's successor. "Braulio has been a dedicated, hard-working, reliable, and loyal director and friend, to me and so many others around the state," said Dosal. "We will work to find a successor with the same passion, commitment, and leadership that Braulio has provided FCAN since its inception."

Florida College Access Network is built on the relationships, experiences, and lessons-learned from the previous network development efforts under ENLACE Florida. In October of 2011, Helios Education Foundation awarded the University of South Florida a planning grant to build on the success of ENLACE and support the development of Florida's first collaborating network of national, state, and local entities committed to increasing Florida's degree attainment rate to 60% by the year 2025.

The project, designed to bring a strategic focus to a growing network, provided FCAN with the opportunity to develop its strategic plan, bring additional partners to the table, and secure a strong foundation for future growth focused on community impact for students. The project was also financially supported by the Florida Department of Education and the Lumina Foundation for Education. Additional contributing partners included the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Florida Philanthropic Network, NorthStar Bank, State University System of Florida, National College Access Network, and Michigan College Access Network.

"I want to thank all of our partners and friends across the state who have contributed their expertise and provided input on the FCAN plan that focuses on what the local community needs are for mobilizing and strengthening collective action," said Colón. "I look forward to continuing to contribute to the efforts of FCAN as we seek to improve Florida postsecondary access and success through collaboration."

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