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PRESS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Helios Education Foundation awards \$2 Million Grant to Florida College Access Network**

*Four-year investment will support growth of college access movement across Florida*

**Tampa, FL**— Helios Education Foundation today [announced a four-year, \\$2 million grant to Florida College Access Network](#). The grant will provide support for Florida CAN's work, outlined in [our new strategic plan](#), in the areas of research and knowledge development, communications and public will-building, statewide programmatic initiatives, and supporting the development of local college access networks (LCANS). LCANS are regional coalitions of leaders, organizations and stakeholders representing K-12, higher education, nonprofits, philanthropy, business, and local government that collectively commit to ensuring that all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve a postsecondary education. Such coalitions currently represent 23 counties and about half of Florida's population.

“Helios’ partnership has been instrumental since Florida CAN launched our first strategic plan in 2013, and we are especially grateful for Helios’ ongoing support as we embark on this next phase of our work,” said Laurie Meggesin, Florida CAN’s executive director. “Like Helios, Florida CAN and our partners are committed to overcoming systemic barriers to equity, access and success for Florida students. Research demonstrates that increasing opportunities to achieve a postsecondary education will help deepen our state’s talent pool, strengthen our economy, and improve the lives of students, families and communities throughout our great state. We are deeply thankful for Helios’ leadership and commitment to Florida’s college access movement.”

### **About Florida College Access Network**

The mission of the Florida College Access Network is to create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college & career preparation, access, and completion for all students. Our Big Goal is to increase the percentage of Florida residents who hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by the year 2025. For more information, visit [www.floridacollegeaccess.org](http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org).

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