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PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

FCAN Announces 2020 College Ready Florida Innovator Award Winners

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

Mobilizing students to plan for their futures takes great effort. That's why FCAN is excited to recognize school and community leaders and professionals who made impactful contributions and utilized innovative strategies this school year to increase the effectiveness of FCAN's College Ready Florida initiatives: [Apply Yourself Florida](#), [Florida FAFSA Challenge](#), [Florida College Decision Day](#), and [Plan It Florida](#).

FCAN is pleased to announce the honorees of the second annual 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 2020 College Ready Florida Innovators are:

Dr. Khristi Keefe, Early College Program School Counselor, Robert E. Lee High School, Duval County

Dr. Keefe created a strategic approach to build a college-going culture at Robert E. Lee High School through college- and career-focused activities with students and families.

Dr. Sherrie Poitier-Liscombe, School Counseling Director, Broward County Public Schools & E&D Department, Broward County

Dr. Poitier-Liscombe worked to expand Broward County's Last Chance College & Career Bound Summit to host more than 700 students, and ensured it was more inclusive for students to explore multiple postsecondary pathways through an on-site college fair and career exploration opportunities.

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Mark Vianello, Executive Director, Career and Technical Education, Marion County Public Schools, Marion County

Mr. Vianello worked to make a cultural shift in Marion County's approach to postsecondary options and student success by equipping students with the tools necessary to identify the right postsecondary path for them.

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 are usually honored at a special awards luncheon as part of the annual FCAN Summit but will be honored virtually this year.

"It takes commitment and dedication to try new approaches to inspire students in taking steps towards their futures," said Laurie Meggesin, Executive Director of FCAN. "These College Ready Florida Innovators are an inspiration to us at FCAN and to their peers throughout the state."

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. We envision a Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all. For more information, visit floridacollegeaccess.org.

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