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PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Good Work! FCAN Announces 2020 Workforce Education Innovator Award Winners**

*3 innovators recognized for achievements in workforce education*

With 50% of jobs at risk of being replaced by automation in the next several decades, now more than ever Florida needs to shrink educational attainment gaps so that Floridians have the credentials they need to prepare for tomorrow's jobs.

That's why FCAN is pleased to announce the honorees of the second annual Workforce Education Innovator Awards, which honor school, community and business leaders and professionals who strive to prepare students of all ages for the educations and careers that are right for them, especially in high-demand fields.

The 2020 Workforce Education Innovators are:

**Dr. Michelle Horton, Director of Complete Florida and Assistant Vice President of Online Innovation, Complete Florida**

Dr. Horton worked to increase Complete Florida's student retention rates to 70% and enrollment by 14% through individualized coaching.

**Mitch Heater, Career Specialist, Broward County Public Schools & E&D Department, Broward County**

Mr. Heater worked to ensure students in the juvenile justice system were exposed to college and career opportunities by mobilizing the community to support these students through partnerships and job training.

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**Julia Kasper, BRACE Advisor, South Plantation High School, Broward County**

Ms. Kasper created partnerships with the Plantation Chamber of Commerce and Florida Apprenticeship Department to bring more job shadowing and apprenticeship opportunities to students. Kasper also introduced the first EMT program into a traditional high school in Florida.

The Workforce Education 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.

"These Workforce Education Innovators are ensuring students have the support they need to earn a degree or credential that can lead to a rewarding career," said Laurie Meggesin, Executive Director of FCAN. "We are pleased to honor these Workforce Education Innovators who are ensuring students have the information, guidance and support to know about the education options available to them that can put them on the path to rewarding careers."

Please join us in congratulating these dedicated professionals on this well-deserved recognition.

**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](http://floridacollegeaccess.org).

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