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PRESS RELEASE  
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## **FCAN Announces 2022 Workforce Education Innovator Award Winner**

In order to earn the credentials to achieve a rewarding career, all Floridians need increased access to high-quality workforce training and education.

That's why FCAN is pleased to announce the honoree of the fourth annual **Workforce Education Innovator Award**, which honors school, community, and business leaders who prepare students of all ages for a future in high-demand fields that offer economic mobility.

**The 2022 Workforce Education Innovator is:**

### **Earn Up**

Powered by JAXUSA Partnership

Earn Up — the local college access network (LCAN) serving Northeast Florida — is a partnership of education, business, and community leaders focused on optimizing the workforce while supporting economic growth and a rich quality of life in Northeast Florida. That work includes deepening career pathway understanding and the employment opportunities that abound in the region.

To that end, Earn Up — which is powered by the JAXUSA Partnership — launched a Career Pathways microsite in August 2020 with plans for a 2021 Regional Career Pathway Campaign that aligned business and industry, school districts, colleges, and community-based organizations in promoting targeted industries, career pathways and work-based learning opportunities.

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In October 2021, the [EarnUp.org website](https://earnup.org) was revamped and relaunched to ensure consistent branding, usability on mobile devices, and a user-friendly interface. The update also included the addition of educator resources that allowed teachers to easily incorporate lesson plans with unique NEFL career pathways information right into their classrooms, whether they were operating in a hybrid, in-person, or fully remote context.

In 2021, the JAXUSA Talent Team facilitated 130 career pathways events/interactions with 2,780 participants. On the Earn Up website landing page, there were a total of 30,196 hits with a monthly average of 2,516, representing a 49% increase compared to 2020.

“Earn Up is creating new and innovative ways to connect education with career pathways in Northeast Florida, and the impact is already being felt in that region,” said Charleita M. Richardson, FCAN’s executive director. “We are proud to recognize their efforts, which are an example of the tremendous work our local college access networks do across the state.”

Nominations for the Workforce Education Innovator Award were evaluated through a competitive process. **[This year’s honoree will be recognized during the 2022 Talent Strong Florida Summit Awards Luncheon on May 11.](#)**

Please join us in congratulating Earn Up, the 2022 Workforce Education Innovator, 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](https://floridacollegeaccess.org).

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