



FLORIDA PREPAID

COLLEGE FOUNDATION FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE FOUNDATION FACT SHEET

Mission Statement: The Florida Prepaid College Foundation is committed to giving aspiring students the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and our state by providing college scholarships funded through partnerships with individuals, families, the Florida Legislature, businesses and educational foundations with an unparalleled level of efficiency.

History: Created in 1990, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation is a public-private partnership creating opportunities for deserving students to attend college. The Stanley Tate Project STARS Scholarship Program, administered by the Foundation, gives Florida Prepaid College Plan scholarships to low-income students at risk of dropping out of middle and high school. Once chosen, Project STARS students must abide by their middle or high school code of conduct, meet regularly with a mentor, remain drug and crime free and maintain passing grades. As of June 2009, 82 percent of students selected for Project STARS were meeting the requirements and preparing for college.

Scholarship Support: More than 22,608 Project STARS scholarships have been awarded since 1990, with the Florida Legislature providing half of the total of more than \$138 million spent on the program. Project STARS scholarships are funded from an annual legislative appropriation and from matching contributions from partners, including Take Stock in Children, local education foundations, school districts and other community-based organizations. Businesses, hospitals, churches and community groups also may purchase Foundation scholarships, pay 100 percent of the cost and designate the criteria. In 2009 alone, The Florida Prepaid College Foundation awarded more than 1,508 Project STARS scholarships to promising students. Other Foundation programs include the Governor's Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month scholarships and the Foundation's Governor's Recognition Scholarship and Family Literacy Scholarship.

Beneficiaries: More than half of all Foundation scholarship students are minorities and most are from single-parent or non-traditional homes. Because research indicates middle school years are critical to future academic success, Foundation scholarships typically are presented to students in the 6th through 9th grades. Many Foundation scholarship students are the first ones in their family to go to college.

Web site: floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com

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