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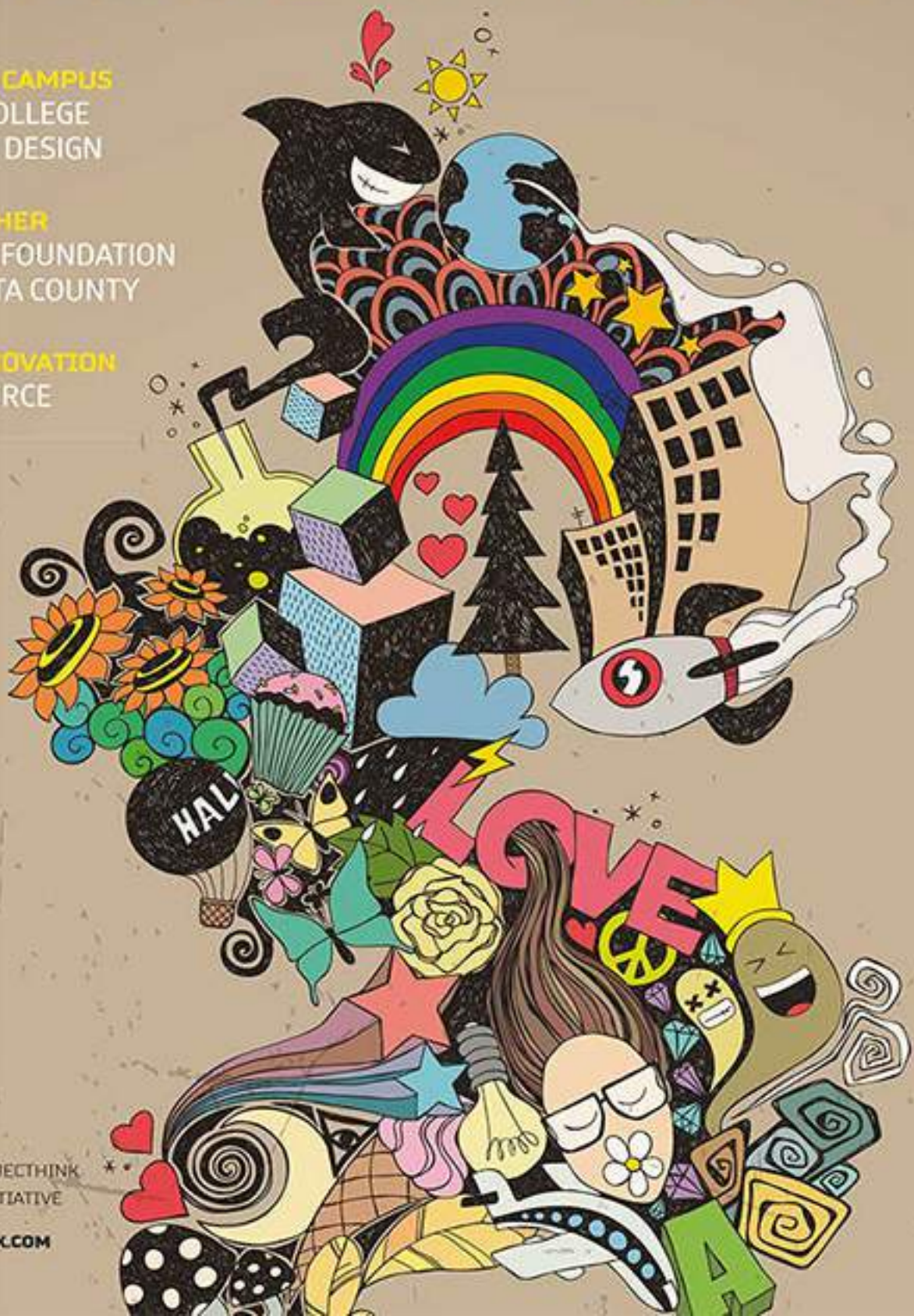
CREATIVITY CAMPUS
RINGLING COLLEGE
OF ART AND DESIGN

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Ringling College
of Art + Design

RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN



Ringling College of Art and Design's exponential growth has spurred a wave of positive transformation in both the educational opportunities the institution has made available and the new architectural landmarks that serve as sources of learning and inspiration for students, faculty, administration, and the community. In keeping with President Larry R. Thompson's vision to create spaces that allow for innovation in education, each new building is a visual affirmation of that philosophy and provides a home for cultivating creativity. Each space reflects the forward-thinking learning, dedicated faculty and administration, and engaged students it houses and the educational exploration that occurs within its walls making each building a place of collaborative engagement and infinite possibility. As Dr. Thompson says, "It's not about the buildings; it's about what happens inside the buildings." **And it's that very magic that propels the institution down the pathway to preeminence.**

DR. LARRY R. THOMPSON

PRESIDENT | RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

WITH THE RAPID EVOLUTION and expansion of technology in the 21st century, it is imperative that education follow suit and embrace new approaches to learning. Dr. Thompson recognizes this need for innovation, and his clear vision is leading Ringling College to serve in a leadership role of excellence in education. "Part of what needs to happen is a total rethinking of how students and young people are educated. Much of today's educational system is built on a foundation devised in the 19th century. Students—and systems—have changed and evolved. And education must also. Too often, humans do not recognize this necessity. We get stuck; we do things we've done before," says Dr. Thompson.

Banishing rut-like thinking, Dr. Thompson has not only advocated for creativity in education, he has walked the talk by implementing various innovative programs at Ringling College. One such program gives all Ringling students the opportunity to work in a real world setting. The goal is to eliminate the

common dilemma of the recent graduate: not having enough experience to get a job but not being able to gain experience without a job. To address this issue, Dr. Thompson established the "Collaboratory" in partnership with The Patterson Foundation. It takes the place of a typical internship or work-study experience, but in a unique manner. Through this program, companies in need of art or design-related concepts work with Ringling students to garner a fresh, creative perspective. In turn, students gain professional experience before graduation. For example, this past year, General Motors partnered with Ringling students to design potential cars 20-30 years in the future. Establishing an elective Collaboratory class, GM came in and mentored students who created incredible designs, which began as sketches and were later modeled in clay. "We are proud to say that out of 12 students in that class, eight were offered jobs at GM, solely based on their remarkable work," Dr. Thompson shares.





"Part of what needs to happen is a total rethinking of how students and young people are educated . . . Students—and systems—have changed and evolved."

— Dr. Larry R. Thompson, President

This unconventional approach to learning underscores the value of creativity. The need for innovative problem solving is universal and can be translated from art and design to practical implementation across all industries. Dr. Thompson says, "It drives me crazy when people see the arts as just fluff. It is core to the success of the future of this country. If we just focus on STEM, we will lose. We need to embrace STEAM – adding the A for the arts," he explains. "All companies, not just creative companies, need creative people and we must educate ALL students to be creative. Take GM, for example, they are no longer just a manufacturer, they are in the business of creating mobile sculpture."

Infusing education with creativity is critical for our country's future. In order to foster a creative environment, Dr. Thompson believes we must focus less on standardized, multiple choice tests and offer more tests with multiple answers. "Currently, education places too much on individual performance, rather than supporting collaboration," says Dr. Thompson. "It takes design-

thinking and creativity to reimagine what education can be so it meets the needs of students today." Dr. Thompson's vision for the educational system as a whole looks a lot like the Collaboratory he has created – a supportive learning environment where students are "fully engaged and working together rather than sitting in a massive lecture hall listening to a professor at a podium. It's about students congregating and working in teams because that's what happens in the real world."

Changing traditional approaches to education requires risk, but Dr. Thompson is willing to take that risk. Under his leadership, the College has grown to include a number of new facilities and programs that encourage creativity and new ways of thinking, many of which have opened their doors over the past year.

These are major investments, but they are worth it because, as Dr. Thompson says, "Creativity is the energy source of our future and will drive the economy. Yes, it may be scary, but in order to prepare our students for success and thrive as an institution, we must be willing to adapt in the present to prepare for the future." ●●●



DR. PETER A. MCALLISTER

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

"Change is the new constant ... You have to think differently, which is certainly what creatives do."

— Dr. Peter A. McAllister,
Vice President of Academic Affairs



Ringling College
of Art + Design

"IN ORDER TO THRIVE In today's world, you have to think out-of-the-box all the time," says Dr. Peter A. McAllister. "Change is the new constant."

Dr. McAllister, the new Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ringling College, recently relocated to Sarasota from Los Angeles. He is thrilled to support a creative and holistic student experience and shares his enthusiasm for the innovation that will establish Ringling College as an international powerhouse. Dr. McAllister was drawn to the College and inspired by the rapid expansion and growth under the leadership of President Thompson. "The students, the faculty, and their synergy, that's what I'm excited about," he says. "We are growing and advancing, and the new additions to our campus empower our talented faculty to best prepare students for the professional world."

Among those expansions is the Richard and Barbara Basch Visual Arts Center. This state-of-the-art, 38,000-square foot addition to campus will house facilities for glass, woodworking, printmaking, photography, sculpture, and digital fabrication, in addition to the newest on-campus exhibition space, the Lois and David Stulberg Gallery. The Visual Arts Center is a physical manifestation of the support of the College's long-time friends and glass aficionados, Richard and Barbara Basch. And, as such, it has been built and designed with the needs of Ringling creatives in mind—inspiring from the outside and conducive to hands-on artmaking on the inside.

"You have to think differently, which is certainly what creatives do," explains Dr. McAllister. And growth of the campus and curriculum will herald fresh perspectives, breathing life into the ever-changing art and design world. ...

RICHARD AND BARBARA BASCH VISUAL ARTS CENTER



BRAD BATTERSBY

FILM DEPARTMENT HEAD



AS HEAD OF RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN'S Film Department, Brad Battersby incorporates a practical and collaborative approach to teaching to ensure the success of his students and "shatter the myth of the starving artist." He employs an innovative, educational mix of open dialogue, practical hands-on application, connection with successful artists, and a focus on storytelling-based filmmaking. The first step is being open to a multitude of ideas. He says, "I don't really care for the traditional teacher model, because that's only one voice, only one kind of mentor or expert talking to a whole group of people. I think the filmmaking business, the mass media business, has multiple voices. It's that diversity of culture and storytelling that actually gives the students a better, more realistic idea of where they could fit in with the industry."

When Battersby came to Ringling College in 2009, the Film program was in its infancy. He notes, "It was tough because these other schools like NYU and USC had been able to build quite a reputation over the years. It's difficult to compete but I knew we had to. I wanted to figure out how we could deliver education in a more efficient and effective way that benefits the students. Fortunately, that fell right in line with what Ringling College is all about. Ringling is all about career services. And, in the end, we want to know that we've done everything possible to give our students a leg up in the industry." To accomplish his goal, Battersby focused on forging relationships with notable guest artists in the film industry, creating organic first-hand and technical experiences for his students. Working with Semkhor Networks Inc., he co-founded The Ringling College Studio Lab, a 36,000 square foot professional soundstage and post production facility that invites renowned writers, directors, and actors to collaborate with film students. Through the visiting artist program, Battersby and his students worked with director Tim Sutton on his feature film "Dark Night," which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival to rave reviews. Students attending Sundance were able to network with industry insiders and make valuable professional connections. As the Studio Lab welcomed more guest artists, the opportunities for students continued to open up. Battersby says, "People were saying, 'Maybe we could hire some of your students for our projects. I could use an intern, I could use an assistant.' All of a sudden, one summer, I realized, every one of our film students who wants a job in the industry, or wants an internship, has one! We got really excited with that. That's one of the reasons I myself as an artist am a filmmaker...because I love collaboration. I think it's key to success and to forging a career—even to staying in your career."

Battersby believes that each student has a unique approach to storytelling and encourages them to develop their identity as an artist, noting, "The world will always sit up and take notice of an original voice." If Battersby has his way, the whole standard of storytelling, the technical aspects learned, and the connections made at Ringling College will keep his students in the industry with the ability to build a successful future and brilliant career. ●●●

DAVID SHAPIRO

SEMKHOR NETWORKS, INC.



THE RINGLING COLLEGE STUDIO LAB



WITH THE OPENING OF THE RINGLING COLLEGE STUDIO LAB, Sarasota is poised as the

exciting, new destination for film production. Co-founder of the Studio Lab and owner of Semkhor Networks Inc., David Shapiro is passionate about the opportunities the new facility will bring to students and the region, noting that Sarasota's unique cultural mix was instrumental in the success of the program. The main focus of the Studio Lab is to integrate real world, top-tier productions, with recognized talent, into Ringling's academic program. "I don't think anywhere else could support such a wildly creative project," he says. The future home of film in Sarasota nestles in a new creative space where mentors and professors encourage a hunger for creativity. Ringling College, through Semkhor, has established dynamic partnerships in the film industry and developed interactive learning opportunities that provide students with direct access to notable artists such as Anna Paquin, Dylan McDermott, Kevin Smith, and Ethan Hawke, among countless others who provide practical experience for students eager to learn from real world film projects. Shapiro and Semkhor Productions help bridge commercial and nonprofit endeavors by picking what projects to green light for the Studio Lab. Each film project is chosen with regard to its community benefit and the experiential value to students. "Artists really appreciate a platform that allows them the freedom to produce projects according to their own vision without the typical pressure associated with making a film or series," states Shapiro. The Studio Lab's supportive and encouraging environment helps students tap into their creativity and rise to new levels of innovation in their craft. As a result, young filmmakers are helping to create high-end projects, at a low cost, and implementing unconventional ways of thinking that are appreciated by the artist and bring a unique aspect to their studies. With so many exciting film projects underway, Shapiro hopes to encourage a love for the art of content creation throughout the Sarasota-Manatee region by enriching the area both economically and creatively. ●●●

KRISTINA KEOGH

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

"Libraries are community centers where people come together to communicate and collaborate."

- Kristina Keogh, Director of Library Services



ALFRED R. GOLDSTEIN LIBRARY



AS DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES FOR RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN, Kristina Keogh is on a mission to celebrate and showcase the Alfred R. Goldstein Library as a haven of accessible learning and connectivity for all, and as a place that allows for discovery through serendipity, helping to cultivate new interests and passions. Keogh has, with colleagues across the College, been busy expanding the role of the Library, integrating the importance of research, providing access to digital tools, adapting services to serve students, and implementing programs that speak to innovation—including potential plans to work with the College's Institutional Technology department to create a virtual reality space. Contrary to the view that libraries will become extinct as technology evolves, Keogh believes that their role will become more vital and necessary in an increasingly automated world. "Libraries are community centers where people come together to communicate and collaborate," notes Keogh. "We help people who may not have computers or internet cross the digital divide. The use of public libraries is skyrocketing across the country. As the home of books, videos, and even special collections items, as well as the Academic Resource Center for writing, studying, and time-management support, the Library acts as a 'cocoon for creation' at Ringling College." In keeping with this collaborative philosophy, the Goldstein Library hosts various interactive events for students, community members, and nonprofit organizations to encourage out-of-the-box engagement. One such event, the #SRQHacks Hackathon produced by the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, connects 13-18 year-old students with technology mentors to build and pitch mobile apps, providing the participants with hands-on experience and a glimpse of a potential career path. To further the growth of the Goldstein Library, Keogh is connecting and collaborating with other groups in the area, actively tapping into the rich culture and

diversity of the Sarasota community to expand resources recognizing that it is the donations and contributions of passionate community members that ensure the tools and knowledge the Library provides will be accessible for generations to come. ...



**Ringling College
of Art + Design**

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The highly anticipated Ringling College Museum Campus, located at the historic Sarasota High School, will open its doors in 2019. A true campus for the community, it will house the Sarasota Museum of Art and the Ringling College School of Continuing Studies.

ANNE-MARIE RUSSELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SARASOTA MUSEUM OF ART

ANNE-MARIE RUSSELL IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO EDUCATION. As Executive Director of the Sarasota Museum of Art, Russell believes "Art cultivates empathy. And empathy allows us to access knowledge beyond the limits of our world." While many associate art museums with exhibitions, the curatorial program is just one facet of this exciting and multidimensional educational institution. The Museum will offer a wide range of programming for all ages, from early childhood education to therapy for Alzheimer's patients and veterans suffering from PTSD. Lifelong learning is a concept that is embodied in the Museum's public engagement program, serving as a reflection and complement to the School of Continuing Studies, which will offer courses to students of every age and skill level. "This community campus will be a place for everyone—you may spend four years as a matriculated college student on another campus, but for the remainder of your lifetime, you can learn with us." The Museum is all about intuitive and experiential learning. "I am a great believer in people's innate wisdom and knowledge of the world," Russell shares. "We have a wide range of cognitive and perceptive skills that we bring to bear when we encounter something. I believe that everyone possesses these abilities, and that we can help them find and hone those intuitive talents." This unbiased, raw genius is especially prevalent in children. "The most creative, innovative thinkers you will ever encounter are kids," Russell says, which is why a major goal of the Museum is to open pathways for public education in a realm outside of school. Russell's diverse team makes a difference in the community by engaging with everyone because, as she says, "Everyone is a museum stakeholder." ■ ■ ■



RINGLING COLLEGE MUSEUM CAMPUS

JEFF SCHWARTZ

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
AND DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

JEFF SCHWARTZ STARTED OFF AS A VISITING ARTIST at Ringling College, working in the first-year program as a teacher. Twenty years later, he has become an integral part of the institution as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Schwartz is an advocate for fine arts as a field that generates transferrable skills for many work environments. Throughout his tenure at the College, he has had the opportunity to see all sides of the artistic learning experience and to develop a keen ability to shape learning experiences that create interest, excitement, and opportunities in and beyond the classroom.

Schwartz embraces new approaches to education—going against the grain and questioning traditional education techniques. Further, he defines this type of thinking as a "300-year-old model that's antiquated and makes little sense anymore. For instance, who says four years is the right amount of time for anything? It's an arbitrary figure. Who says 15 weeks for a semester is the right amount of time?"

Willing to ask the questions that many are too afraid to and with goals and visions that are revolutionary, Schwartz recognizes the need for community collaboration and support. This ideology is reflected in the programs and events offered by the Ringling College School of Continuing Studies, which will live alongside the Museum and is designed with the community in mind. The programming offers courses for every age and skill level, and invites discourse among its diverse student population.

Not only will this transformation in education help the community, it will also build it. As the Ivory tower model of education disappears, Ringling College's mission is to stimulate community members and leaders to get involved with the creation of nonlinear learning and Schwartz will be leading the way. ■ ■ ■





IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND RAPIDLY EVOLVING WORLD, innovation is key to meeting society's challenges. Preparing our children for the future means inspiring innovation in our classrooms, beginning with our elementary schools and extending beyond high school graduation. With the primary mission of providing philanthropic support to our public schools, the Education Foundation of Sarasota County is poised to facilitate a culture of innovation for our students and teachers. Creating a culture of innovation isn't rocket science but it does require purposeful intent and strategic implementation. It's grounded in creative thinking coupled with a growth mindset that is action-oriented and solution-focused, and is inclusive of exploration, collaboration, and engagement.

The Education Foundation encourages and rewards teachers to use their creativity and imagination, serving as a motivator to ignite the capacity for innovative thought in our students. We are nimble, imaginative, responsive and flexible providing us the ability to pilot programs and quickly fund projects that allow educators to expand their lessons and propel students to realize their full potential. ●●●

"When students can envision a future for themselves beyond high school and see the pathways by which they may achieve their postsecondary goals, they are more likely to remain in school, take advantage of those opportunities, and ultimately find success."

—Anonymous Donor

ENHANCING THE POTENTIAL OF STUDENTS

Completing a postsecondary credential has never been more important as it creates opportunities for job stability and social mobility. According to the Lumina Foundation, since 2011 the U.S. economy has added 11.5 million new jobs for workers with some postsecondary education yet only 80,000 new jobs have been created for those with a high school diploma or less. The case is clear: we need to help our students not just graduate from high school, but graduate with a realistic and achievable plan to pursue some level of postsecondary education whether via technical school, community college or a 4-year college or university. Beyond job skills, students must gain the core competencies needed to become responsible global citizens. The Education Foundation supports Harvard education expert Tony Wagner's premise to "nurture [students'] creativity and spark their imaginations, while teaching them to learn from failures and persevere. Play, passion, and purpose: These are the forces that drive young innovators." As such, we must prepare students for their inevitable future by reinforcing creative thinking, encouraging problem solving and expanding skill-set potential, all of which are requisite components in the 21st Century.

One such example is the 2nd annual #SRQHacks, a three-day competition where the Education Foundation brings more than 100 middle and high school students together to be mentored by designers, developers, and entrepreneurs who expose them to technology and coding by working in project-based teams. Innovators



have an inclination and a capacity to examine what others often leave unexamined, and this exciting event nurtures the very tenets that Wagner purports. In Sarasota County, home to many creative originals, our aspirations and vision match the community culture. Backed by the will of the community, the Education Foundation is empowering our students to move ahead, to be willing to take a risk, to innovate, and to try untested concepts.

In theory and in practice, the Education Foundation can operate, innovate, and mobilize resources to help all students enhance their full potential. 🌈





Hands-on STEM Experiences

"We must constantly be looking for the 'Next Practice' in order to take students fully and competently into their future. This cannot happen without staying on the cutting edge and remaining keenly aware of innovative models of educational delivery."

— Sarasota County
School Teacher

Aspiring higher also entails investing in our educators. Without excellent teachers, our priorities will not be achieved and the Education Foundation supports Sarasota County educators in multiple ways. *EducateSRQ*, a cornerstone program for nearly three decades, is the Education Foundation's vehicle for awarding grants that provide educators with funds to support innovative classroom and school-wide projects designed to:

- INSPIRE TEACHERS TO TAKE CALCULATED RISKS WITH THEIR INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO ENHANCE LESSON PLANS;
- CREATE A CULTURE OF COMMUNITY BY FOSTERING COLLABORATION THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS;
- PROVIDE K-12 STUDENTS A BROAD RANGE OF UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES; AND
- PREPARE STUDENTS FOR 21ST CENTURY CAREERS.

Over the years, the program has expanded from supplying much needed classroom materials to rewarding teachers for innovative projects and lesson plans. The grants program has awarded nearly \$4 million since its inception, providing Sarasota County's incredibly talented teachers the ability to enhance their curriculum and create engaging experiences for students.

The desire to inspire innovation on a larger scale led the Education Foundation to create schoolwide grants. Imagine an entire middle school increasing their STEM knowledge through a schoolwide rocketry program that spanned nearly six weeks. Picture another school planning, constructing, and maintaining a hydroponics lab that, due to ongoing student involvement, will supply fresh food to their lunch program. These types of innovative projects are exactly what makes *EducateSRQ* so impactful.

The Education Foundation also supports ongoing professional development for Sarasota County educators. The Lori White Endowment Fund, launched last year, was established to provide a sustainable investment in our teachers. Working in partnership with Sarasota County Schools, the Education Foundation is identifying relevant and meaningful experiences for our teachers to excel and be innovative in realizing our goals for our students – together. 🌟🌟🌟

A CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION

A great education is born out of innovation. It's measured by how many lives have been transformed, how many ideas have been raised, and how many new discoveries have been made. True innovation doesn't stop short of raising questions, but develops solutions and summons the courage to change for the greater good. The mission of the Education Foundation of Sarasota County is to enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching, and *inspire innovation* in education.

We are fiercely committed to our partnership with Sarasota County Schools, the belief that education changes lives, and the desire to help every student reach his/her potential. It is the many champions for education within our community that help ensure the mission of the Education Foundation can be accomplished and realized. These champions are the individuals and organizations that advocate for our students and teachers through their generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure. It is through their continued support, along with new supporters who are inspired by our mission, that we can look forward to continued innovation, expanded impact, and the ongoing success of our students and educators in Sarasota County.

We are passionate about our beliefs and work with contagious enthusiasm to fulfill our mission. If you want to join our efforts to propel our next generation forward, we welcome your involvement. ●●●



"Ride to Read" grant at Tuttle Elementary School

"We must aspire to make a greater impact on every student in every classroom. Our kids are a third of our population but 100 percent of our future."

- Tom Koski, Board Chair,
Education Foundation of
Sarasota County



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CAREERSOURCE SUNCOAST'S STATE OF JOBS CONFERENCE



CareerSource Suncoast's annual State of Jobs Conference welcomes hundreds of students from Manatee and Sarasota counties to inspire their futures and how it relates to college and careers. The State of Jobs Conference (SOJC) provides a unique experience to learn about leadership, communication, career exploration, college preparation and career readiness, all while building relationships with more than 75 top professionals from our region's various industries. At the 2017 State of Jobs Conference, students selected from one of six career tracks including healthcare, information technology, engineering/manufacturing, arts/culture, business/entrepreneurship and hospitality/tourism. It is because of the generous investments from over 25 community partners that this experience is provided free of charge to the students and school districts. You can learn more about the State of Jobs Conference by visiting www.StateofJobs.org.

CareerSource Suncoast also uses the State of Jobs Conference to survey students on their perceptions concerning college and careers. This data is collected, analyzed and compiled into the State of Students Report. The report is available at www.StateofStudents.org.



**CareerSource
SUNCOAST**

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CareerSource Suncoast is a 501(c)(3) and one of 24 regional workforce boards established in the state of Florida. Their main focus is to connect career seekers with employers looking for qualified talent. "We do not 'fit in with the mold' of your typical workforce region," says Director of Education & Community Investment, Chris Laney. "We continuously adapt to the ever-changing workforce and strive to develop career seekers to meet employers' needs. A huge part of this is CareerSource Suncoast's partnerships with local high schools, universities and technical colleges" says Laney. By working with these educational institutions, CareerSource Suncoast is able to collaborate and help design programs that benefit career seekers.