

PRESS RELEASE

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UnidosNow Receives Manatee Community Foundation Grant for Future Leaders Academy for Girls Program

Bradenton, FL – UnidosNow was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Eugene F. and Elizabeth Hull Fund of Manatee Community Foundation to continue its Future Leaders Academy for Girls (FLAG) at Wakeland Elementary, which engages first-generation Latina girls - and their parents - in age-appropriate, culturally competent college preparation programming.

The program will provide 30 third- and fourth-grade female students, and their families, with the guidance and exposure they need to start thinking about college and other postsecondary education options. The program incorporates nationally validated best practices from throughout the country, with key components patterned after UnidosNow’s highly successful Future Leaders Academy – which engages high school students – but with activities tailored to be appropriate for elementary school aged participants.

Some of the college/postsecondary prep components include selecting an “adopted” college/university and developing team spirit activities, holding a college fair, participating in college and cultural tours, working with mentors, and engaging and empowering parents to help their children succeed academically. This full-year program aims to work with students throughout their time in elementary school with the goal of, then, transitioning into UnidosNow’s middle school program. The ultimate objective of FLAG is to contribute to the advancement of a college going culture among Latino families in our community.

With a mission to elevate the quality of life of the growing Latino community through education, integration, and civic engagement, UnidosNow aims to empower students – with support from their parents - to successfully pursue higher education.



L to R: Kelly Kirschner, UnidosNow Board Chair, Jeanie Kirkpatrick, MCF Board Member, & Juan Arcila, UnidosNow Education Initiatives Manager

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