



PRESS RELEASE

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UnidosNow Partners with United Way Suncoast to Promote College Readiness at Area Schools

Sarasota, FL – Thanks to a generous grant from the United Way Suncoast, UnidosNow will develop and implement a multi-pronged, multi-generational approach to college readiness among low-income middle school students at McIntosh and Booker Middle Schools. The program will engage various stakeholders in a collaborative process, including students, parents/grandparents, teachers/counselors, and community partners. In partnership with these stakeholders, UnidosNow will work with middle to top performing students in 7th and 8th grades, helping them plan for a pathway to post-secondary education, as they transition to high school. The program components will also focus on addressing the barriers that will allow parents to be actively engaged in the process.

In addition, UnidosNow will launch a guidance counselor support program for Latino students at Riverview High School. This innovative new program will leverage best practices identified across the country, and is patterned after the highly successful Future Leaders Academy model developed by UnidosNow.

The objective of both initiatives is to contribute to the advancement of a post-secondary-going culture among Latino families in Sarasota. Latinos represent the fastest-growing segment of the region's population. Their ability to secure a good education will have major ramifications for our society, overall. Yet, gaps in academic achievement, college admission, and graduation rates disproportionately impact Hispanic students.

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.

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