



Florida | Campus Compact

News

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Florida Campus Compact Launches Connect2Complete at Tallahassee, Broward and Miami Dade Colleges

Campus Compact, a grantee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has awarded funds to Florida Campus Compact and three Florida colleges to launch new pilot program called Connect2Complete (C2C). In partnership with Broward College, Miami Dade College, and Tallahassee Community College, Florida Campus Compact will launch this pilot program to help community college students overcome obstacles to graduation. They will join other state Compacts and community colleges in Ohio and Washington to pilot and develop a national model.

Tallahassee, FL — Florida Campus Compact, a statewide organization of college and university presidents, has received funding from its national organization, Campus Compact, to try new approaches intended to help community college students persist in school through to graduation. The 36-month grant will fund Connect2Complete (C2C) pilot programs at Campus Compacts in Florida, Ohio, and Washington state, at three colleges in each of those states, with the goal of developing a replicable model that can improve student success.

Florida Campus Compact Executive Director DeeDee Rasmussen states that, “this was a very competitive selection process and we’re very pleased that Florida Campus Compact was selected as one of only three states participating in the new pilot program. TCC, Broward and Miami Dade students will benefit greatly and we hope to develop and soon replicate new best practices from this project.”

Nationally, only 40% of community college students complete their programs of study. In Florida, the graduation rate of full-time, associate degree-seeking community college students is only 25.6%. This problem is compounded for students who require remediation, lowering their chance of graduating within 4 years to 16.8%. The need for improvement in Florida’s college completion rates is evident, and Florida Campus Compact will leverage its coalition of college partners to seek a solution through Connect2Complete.

C2C will directly benefit students entering developmental education and Pell eligible students who are statistically more likely to struggle to complete college. Peer advocates will work alongside faculty in

developmental education classes, individually, and in small groups to support students in goal setting, making connections to college life, navigating college systems, and linking to college services designed to help students complete their credentials.

Campus Compact received funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch Connect2Complete. A competitive application process was employed and each state proposed initiating a diverse set of pilot projects through which they will define best practices in student engagement and advocacy in an effort to increase community college students' persistence toward completing credentials by connecting them to peer advocates.

Campus Compact President Maureen F. Curley explains, "We will mobilize over 150 peer advocates to support 4,500 students enrolled in developmental education courses. In collaboration with our community college and state Compact sub-grantees, we will develop model strategies that have the potential to be adopted at community colleges across the country to help these students achieve the goal of graduation — so valued by them and their families."

Campus Compact is a nonprofit coalition of nearly 1,200 college and university presidents—representing over 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national association dedicated to this mission, Campus Compact is a leader in building civic engagement into campus and academic life. For more information about Campus Compact, visit <http://www.compact.org/>. Over 50 colleges and universities comprise Florida Campus Compact. For more information visit <http://www.floridacompact.org>.

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For more information or to arrange an interview regarding Connect2Complete in Florida, please contact: Courtney Kuntz, Director of Programs & Development, at 850-488-7782 or Courtney@floridacompact.org.

Maureen Curley, Campus Compact president, is available for interviews regarding Connect2Complete. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact: Sue C. Kelman, Director of Communications, 617.357.1881, x207 or email skelman@compact.org

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