

### CELEBRATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year's **Educational Strategies and Student Engagement Institute (ESSEI)** was a huge success! Many thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors who helped make the event a success!



*Thank you!*



### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION** As part of her Hope for Healing Florida initiative, First Lady Casey DeSantis announced a new, multi-faceted initiative called **"The Facts. Your Future."** campaign that aims to arm Florida's youth with the facts regarding drug abuse and the effects it can have on their day-to-day life and future. More about this campaign can be found in the following link: <https://www.flgov.com/2019/12/04/first-lady-casey-desantis-launches-the-facts-your-future-campaign-in-partnership-with-florida-attorney-general-ashley-moody-education-commissioner-richard-cocoran-surgeon-general/>.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS** The State Board of Education approved an amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, F.A.C., to allow recently exited English language learners (ELLs) to continue to receive accommodations for the statewide assessment program. The revised rule becomes effective in December 2019. Information about this amendment and the person to contact concerning the Statewide Assessment Program for English Language Learners can be found in the following link: <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8764/dps-2019-164.pdf>.

### PREPARING FOR COLLEGE & CAREERS

#### IMPROVING FREE INQUIRY, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

An updated version of the **COLLEGESCORECARD** is available. With the redesigned program, students can find accessible, customized, and relevant data on potential earnings and debt based on fields of study, graduation rates, and even apprenticeships for two-year programs, four-year degrees, certificate programs and graduate programs. Use the following link to access the redesigned **COLLEGESCORECARD**: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>.

### SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

**2020 WOMEN'S HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST** The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is seeking entries for the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest for students in grades 6–8. Winning essayists will be awarded prizes and recognized at a special ceremony at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual LEAD Summit to be held at the Capitol in Tallahassee on February 6, 2020. A link to the official entry form can be found using the following link: <http://fcsww.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/2020FinfillableEssayForm.pdf>.  
**Deadline for applications: December 20, 2019.**

**2020 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG VOCATIONAL EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP** Florida is once again participating in the Congress-Bundestag Vocational Exchange Scholarship Program. This scholarship/exchange program provides an opportunity for 25 graduating high school seniors from across the United States to spend one year in Germany learning the German culture and exploring their career interests. A link to the application can be found on the Florida Department of Education's website at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/the-congress-bundestag-vocational-yout.stml>. Students must submit their completed applications via email to [CBYX@nacelopendoor.org](mailto:CBYX@nacelopendoor.org). **Deadline for applications: January 15, 2020.**

**PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PTSA) HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** Florida Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) offers a minimum of four (4) scholarships, one each in the following categories: University, Fine Arts, Community College and Vo-Tech, to a student graduating from a PTSA high school each year. This is a one time (non-renewable) award of \$2000 to students interested in pursuing higher education. Students can complete the Florida PTA Scholarship application using the following link: <https://floridapta.org/florida-pta-scholarship-application-form/>. **Deadline for applications: February 1, 2020.**

### TOOLS YOU CAN USE

**FIRST NATIONAL DATABASE OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE** A new online tool from the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University explores and compares student test scores and achievement gaps by race, poverty level and gender using NAEP data. The tool explores 1) Average Test Scores which are influenced by classroom and out of school experiences, 2) Learning Rates which measure how much students' scores improve each year while they are in school, and 3) Trends in Test Scores, which over time shows growth or decline in educational opportunities. Explore more about this tool [here](#).

**FROM RISK TO OPPORTUNITY: AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS KEEP KIDS SAFE** This report shows that the peak in juvenile crime on school days occurs between 2-6 p.m. and provides powerful examples of afterschool programs making a positive difference in young people's lives, and lifts up law enforcement voices who see the influence programs can have in their community. Full report [here](#).

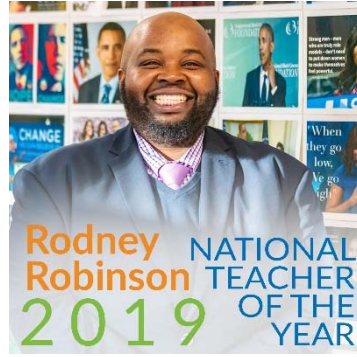


In case you missed it, below includes two videos from two of this year's ESSEI keynote speakers.

## Rodney Robinson

2019 National Teacher of the Year

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_ZeqU-jzQr1tAV9qNwp3LvQ6AArZsI32/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_ZeqU-jzQr1tAV9qNwp3LvQ6AArZsI32/view)



**Rodney Robinson** is a 19-year teaching veteran. In 2015, Robinson started teaching at Virgie Binford Education Center, a school inside the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center, in an effort to better understand the school-to-prison pipeline.

Robinson has received numerous awards for his accomplishments in and out of the classroom, most notably the R.E.B. Award for Teaching Excellence. He is a member of Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney's Education Compact Team, which includes politicians, educators, business leaders, and community leaders, and is working with city leaders and local colleges to recruit underrepresented male teachers into the field of education. He has also worked with Pulitzer Award winning author James Foreman on developing curriculum units on race, class, and punishment as a part of the Yale Teacher's Institute.



## Dr. Latisha Woodley

Kansas City Public Schools  
Executive Director of Student Support Services

<https://youtu.be/fmU6-4DKXGM>

**Dr. Lateshia Woodley** was an alternative education student now district administrator that specializes in working with turnaround school transformation initiatives.

Dr. Woodley has received numerous awards and accolades, which include the 2011 Outstanding Woman in Education Award, 2012 Resolution from the Georgia House of Representatives, 2013 Acknowledgements from the US Department of Education, 2016 National Dropout Prevention Center Crystal Star Award and the 2016 GAAE Administrator of the Year Award, 2017 Central Learning Community Principal of the Year, 2017 ASCD Emerging Leader, 2017 IALA Author of the Year for Education and the 2017 Shining Star Educator Award.

### PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Dr. Misty Bradley**, Senior Educational Program Director, [Misty.Bradley@fldoe.org](mailto:Misty.Bradley@fldoe.org)

**Robin Phillips**, Program Specialist, [Robin.Phillips@fldoe.org](mailto:Robin.Phillips@fldoe.org)

**SuZi VanGaasbeek**, Program Specialist, [Susanne.VanGaasbeek@fldoe.org](mailto:Susanne.VanGaasbeek@fldoe.org)

*Disclaimer: Links provided for information and reference only. The Florida Department of Education does not endorse a specific program or news source.*