



### Statewide Email

**DATE SENT:** December 4, 2020

**FROM:** Kathy Hebda, Chancellor

**TO:** FCS Presidents

**Via:** [Kathy.Hebda@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.Hebda@fldoe.org)

**SUBJECT:** Recognition for Great Work in Florida and the FCS

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I am excited to share this great national write up on the Florida College System and Florida's education improvements by *Inside Higher Ed*, not only because it is showing Florida and the FCS in a positive light, but there is so much good material in here for a lot of reasons.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/12/02/analysis-floridas-developmental-education-reform-worked>

Highlights of the article and study are first and foremost the gains made by our students. Have we arrived and solved all of the dev ed challenges? Of course not, in Florida we live by the mantra that there is always more work to do, but this shows that challenges can be solved and that, once again, all students can learn.

More highlights from this article:

Here is a great quote from Martha Ellis, interim managing director of the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin. "Research, such as this study, show that the **main drivers of high failure rates are not the capabilities of the students or the commitment and skill of faculty**, but rather how programs were structured and the barriers these structures imposed on students."

My second favorite quote is from Elizabeth Kopko, senior research associate at the Community College Research Center [CCRC] at Teachers College at Columbia University. "Florida's approach also **moves away from a deficit-based framework**. Instead of focusing on preparing students for college-level courses or more accurately measuring college preparedness, Florida's set of reforms aim to improve student success in college-level courses **by improving the quality of teaching and learning** and the supports available to students,"

Last and not at all least: **This work is closing equity and achievement gaps**, with results showing that rates increased for all students and that Black and Hispanic student enrollment and course passing rates increased to a greater degree.

Here is the link to the actual study published over the summer:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.3102/0013189X20933876>

Growth mindset makes a difference. Leadership makes a difference - at every level. This is the kind of meaningful work we are doing and that is being recognized nationwide, and I could not be more proud of you and to share this with you. I am excited to keep it up and do more!