

PRESS RELEASE

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UnidosNow's College Prep Program Receives Manatee Community Foundation Manatee Matches Grant

Bradenton, FL – The Manatee Matches giving circle of Manatee Community Foundation (MCF), led by MCF board member, Chuck Slater, will provide UnidosNow \$30,000 in matching funds to support the organization's intensive college preparation program for first generation, low income high school students in the county. The matching grant was made possible thanks to the generosity of individual donors who contributed to UnidosNow, thus, making the organization eligible to receive the Manatee Matches grant.

In addition to its summer intensive college prep program, the Future Leaders Academy, and its UnidosNow Clubs – based at partner high schools – UnidosNow will be able to provide expanded efforts in Manatee County to increase FAFSA completion rates among low income families with the support of the grant. FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and 65% of all funding for undergraduate education is disbursed through completion of this form. Currently, Manatee County students leave over \$2 million of Pell Grant funding untapped. For every 10% that a school increases its FAFSA completion rate, three percent more students enroll in post-secondary education.

The Manatee Matches grant will allow UnidosNow, in collaboration with key-partners, to offer additional community-wide FAFSA workshops for Manatee County students, an effort that the organization has undertaken on a small scale over the last year. This expansion will help students obtain Pell Grant dollars and subsidized loans. In addition, UnidosNow will offer financial literacy education for students and parents, and will assist them with scholarship applications, as well.

Manatee Community Foundation connects the charitable interests of donors with needs in the community. Since 1998, the foundation has awarded more than \$16 million in grants and scholarships, working as partners with donors to make the most of their philanthropy during their lifetimes and to ensure their charitable legacies last for good, forever. For more information, visit www.ManateeCF.org.

Founded in 2010, UnidosNow's mission is to elevate the quality of life of the growing Hispanic/Latino community in Manatee and Sarasota counties through education, integration, and civic engagement. Its education initiatives seek to empower our community's future leaders to be agents of social change through college preparation, leadership training, and community service.

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