

The Alachua County Education Compact is mobilizing the community around education to better prepare students for higher education and sustainable careers.



Pledging their commitment to transforming education, job and career opportunities for Alachua County students and school children, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Tim Giuliani and more than 20 of the region's business, government, community and education leaders—including University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Ph.D., Santa Fe College President Jackson Sasser, Ph.D., and Alachua County Public Schools Superintendent Owen Roberts, Ph.D.—today signed the Alachua County Education Compact. The aim of the Compact is to facilitate the achievement of six goals that would result in all students graduating from high school; having access to and being prepared for college and/or career success; having access to pathways to sustainable jobs and careers; developing healthy lifestyle habits, an appreciation for the arts and a sense of social responsibility.

“The Alachua County Education Compact signals our community's commitment to outcomes now and over the long term that will measurably benefit our kids,” said Gainesville Area Chamber President/CEO Tim Giuliani. “Those outcomes would reflect improved school readiness, increased high school graduation rates, and students prepared to be the aligned, talented workforce our region needs to both create and seize opportunity.”

The Compact—which would augment and help to coordinate existing efforts to facilitate connections between business and academia—seeks to create greater opportunities for students and schools, ultimately benefiting local businesses by creating a talent pipeline and workforce armed with relevant skills, and

better prepared to provide and create value for employers. “Schools are the lifeblood in the community, and until all Alachua County students and school children have access to school readiness and career opportunities, we all have work to do,” said University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Ph.D., who also noted the Compact goals support the University's ability to recruit world-class faculty.

Several Compact goals also align with Superintendent Owen Roberts' efforts to propel the school district to new heights. “A community cannot rise above the ability of its people,” said Alachua County Public Schools Superintendent Owen Roberts. “Here in Alachua County, we have the capacity, brain trust, economic opportunity and heart to create the kind of talent needed to ensure a bright future for our students, children and region.”

In addition to those outlined by the Superintendent, Alachua County has education assets—including the state's preeminent university and most educated workforce, the nation's No. 1 community college, a K-12 system on the cusp of transformational change and, most recently, high schools ranking in the top two percent of high schools nationwide—that poise the county to leverage and realize opportunity by supporting and implementing education improvements to benefit all students and the region at-large. “With the whole system working in unity to improve opportunities, every student can win,” said Santa Fe Community College President Jackson Sasser, who posed a pivotal question during his remarks: “By not doing this, who are we selecting to not be successful?”

Since 2013, multiple discussions around education in Alachua County have evolved into a larger, more focused and action-centered conversation around a community-wide effort to improve and align education with the talent needs of business. Throughout the dialogue, community leaders, including Santa Fe College East Gainesville Initiative Executive Director Karen Cole-Smith, Ph.D., who also is a member of Envision Alachua's Task Force on Education, have focused on ensuring that as economic development opportunities are created, bridges are built to include and benefit East Alachua County students.

“Education remains the great equalizer,” said Cole-Smith. “The Envision Alachua Task force was passionate about finding innovative, inclusive K-12 solutions that would help to ensure everyone in Alachua County has access to a high quality of life.”

The Alachua County Education Compact will facilitate a systemic and holistic approach to improving education outcomes by focusing on areas including K-12, early childhood education, parent education, higher education, workforce development and career preparedness.

The Alachua County Education Compact is a collaborative of Alachua County's education, business, workforce development and government institutions, philanthropic and community-based organizations, parents and families working collaboratively to improve systemic outcomes in education. The purpose of the Alachua County Education Compact is to mobilize the community around education and better prepare students for higher education and sustainable careers.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

K-12

EARLY
CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION

PARENT
ACADEMY

HIGHER
EDUCATION

WORKFORCE

OUTCOMES

Improve school readiness rates
Increase high school graduation rates
Increase access to post-secondary credentials
Create an aligned and productive workforce



GOAL ONE

All students graduate from high school

GOAL TWO

All students have access to and are prepared for college and/or career success

GOAL THREE

All students have access to pathways to sustainable jobs and careers

GOAL FOUR

All students develop an appreciation for the arts

GOAL FIVE

All students develop healthy lifestyle habits

GOAL SIX

All students develop a sense of social responsibility



Signing Ceremony

May 18, 2015
Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce



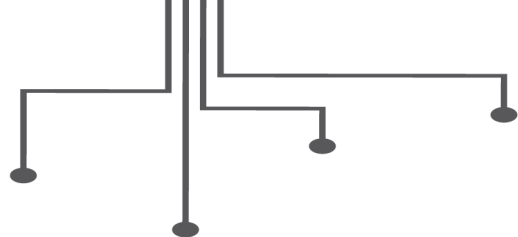
The Alachua County Education Compact is:

- Creating new opportunities to tell the Greater Gainesville story of talent pipeline innovation
- Garnering statewide and international attention
- Developing a framework to benchmark and measure success of its six goals



To learn more about accomplishments since the signing ceremony, visit:

GAINESVILLECHAMBER.COM



ACEC

Alachua County Education Compact

Owen Roberts
Superintendent
Alachua County
Public Schools

By signing the Alachua County Education Compact, I pledge to support its goals, contribute to its positive outcomes and implement measures to ensure its sustainability.

The Signers

John Carlson
Chair
Gainesville Area
Chamber of Commerce

Tim Giuliani
President
Gainesville Area
Chamber of Commerce

Rick Staab
Chair
Gainesville Area
Chamber of Commerce FDN

Jackson Sasser
President
Santa Fe College

Kent Fuchs
President
University of Florida

Gib Coerper
Mayor
City of Alachua

Leanetta McNealy
Chair
Alachua County
Public Schools

Sadie Darnell
Sheriff
Alachua County
Sheriff Office

Charles Chestnut, IV
Chair
Alachua County Board
of County Commissioners

Deborah Bowie
President & CEO
United Way of
North Central Florida

Diane Smith
Executive Director
Junior Achievement
Alachua

Evelyn Fox
President
NAACP
Alachua County Branch

Judy Boles
Executive Director
The Education Foundation
Alachua County

Karen McCann
President
Alachua County
Education Association

Rose Fagler
Mgr, Community Relations
Plum Creek

Kevin Monroe
Executive Director, Operations
Cox Communications
Central Florida

Don Davis
Vice-Chair
CareerSource
North Central Florida

Rodney Long
President & Founder
Martin Luther
King Jr. Commission

Darry Lloyd
President
African American
Accountability Alliance

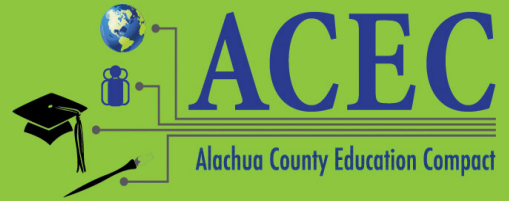
Ed Potts
President
Alachua Chamber of
Commerce

Doug Jones
Mayor
City of Archer

Matthew Surrency
Mayor
City of Hawthorne

Barzella Papa
President & CEO
Community Foundation of
North Central Florida

Ed Braddy
Mayor
City of Gainesville



The purpose of the Alachua County Education Compact Strategies is to build a bridge to connect the business community, faith-based groups and community service groups with the education community to help enhance collaborative efforts to improve our schools, our community and to develop the whole child.

1. Support and enhance collaborative partnerships with arts, business, civic, cultural, education, faith-based, health and social service communities to support the development of the whole child.

2. Support and enhance high-quality teaching and learning in classrooms and other learning environments.

3. Support and enhance innovative practices and/or programs that are working to enhance learning, inclusion of the arts, healthy lifestyles and social responsibilities.

6. Ensure opportunities and support services for students and families.

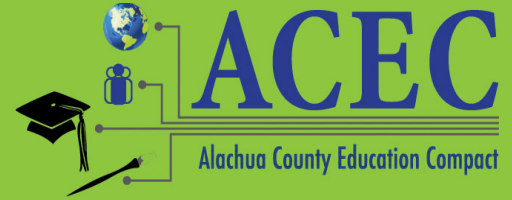
5. Provide students multiple pathways for workforce and career preparation.

4. Coordinate advocacy on Pre-K through 20 funding and educational policy issues at every level of government.





STRATEGY 1



Support and enhance collaborative partnerships with arts, business, civic, cultural, education, faith-based, health and social service communities.



- Create and coordinate an information hub to more efficiently utilize volunteers, mentors, resources and referrals.
- Organize business and community support around priority initiatives to increase student learning and better prepare students for college and careers in a diverse society.
- Coordinate and support access to informal learning opportunities for students and educators within the above communities.
- Establish a coordinator position to bring together resources, community cultural institutions and businesses for the purpose of ensuring that each grade level visits each of these local cultural institutions.
- Obtain additional funding to underwrite the implementation and sustainability of initiatives.



Support and enhance high-quality teaching and learning in classrooms and other learning environments.

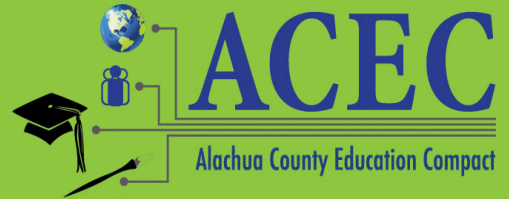


- **Support and enhance professional development and education of early childhood educators (birth to 5 years).**
- **Provide resources and opportunities for professional development of teachers, staff and administrators.**
- **Facilitate sharing best practices from early childhood education through post secondary education.**
- **Support alignment of high school learning outcomes with college and career entry expectations.**
- **Continue to upgrade and refresh all learning environments with the tools, technology and equipment needed to develop and enhance subject-specific instruction; work with outside sources to supplement efforts.**
- **Support educators to foster a culture of inclusion by valuing diversity and individual differences.**
- **Facilitate the enhancement of positive teacher and student interactions.**





STRATEGY 3



Support and enhance innovative practices and/or programs that are working to enhance learning, inclusion of the arts, healthy lifestyles and social responsibilities.

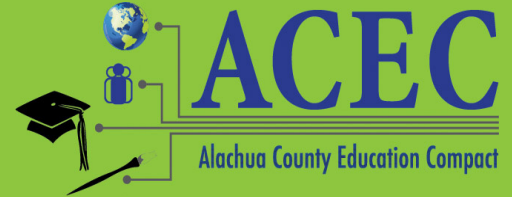


- **Support innovative and evidence-based strategies that bolster quality early education programs.**
- **Support innovative programs promoting learning in the arts in schools, classrooms and the community.**
- **Support innovative programs promoting healthy lifestyles.**
 - o Educate parents and children on the health impact of life choices including nutritional, physical activity and hygiene best practices.
 - o Support and facilitate curricular and extra-curricular physical activity programs.
 - o Support collaboration between private, community and governmental entities to provide access to existing facilities for recreation activities.
 - o Develop a comprehensive age-appropriate health education program.
- **Support innovative programs promoting social and personal responsibility.**
 - o Encourage students to develop critical thinking about the impact of life choices promoted by popular media.
 - o Help parents and students make informed decisions about the use of social media and its impact on life choices.
 - o Facilitate access to service learning and volunteer opportunities.
 - o Encourage students to value diversity.





STRATEGY 4



Coordinate advocacy on Pre-K through 20 funding and educational policy issues at every level of government.

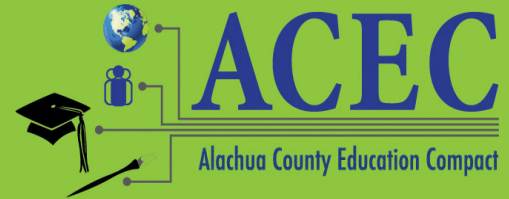


- **Build capacity to advocate on areas of mutual concern including equitable and expanded funding.**
- **Advocate for relief from state and federal mandates and regulations that require specific use of funds.**
- **Provide information, tools and resources to encourage parents to advocate for educational policy issues.**





STRATEGY 5



Provide students multiple pathways for workforce and career preparation.

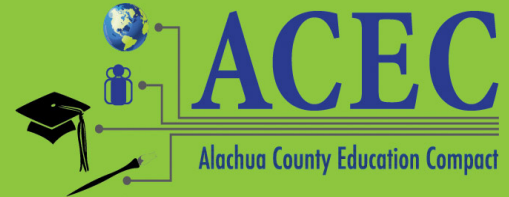


- **Support initiatives that integrate challenging academic content with real-world career applications and preparation.**
- **Support the efforts of the institutions of higher education to improve post-secondary success.**
- **Educate families and guidance counselors about the value of career and technical education.**
- **Continue to implement collaborative strategies between K-12 and post-secondary institutions that help students focus on career planning including, college, career and technical education.**
- **Continue to leverage partnerships and implementation of career academy programs to ensure that all secondary students have access to quality, rigorous and engaging career pathways.**
- **Build employer partnerships to provide career relevant internships and job shadowing opportunities.**
- **Partner with local business and government to encourage and expand job and career opportunities.**
- **Increase community support for career preparation and financial literacy education.**





STRATEGY 6

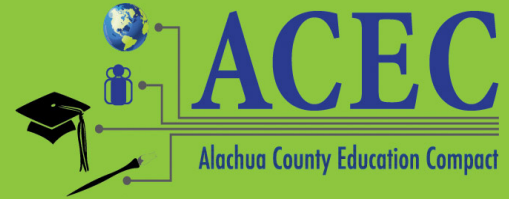


Ensure opportunities and support services for students and families.



- **Identify gaps and align community efforts to provide coordinated health and social services to students and families in centralized locations.**
- **Increase investment (of time, money and in-kind resources) by civic, business and community groups in identified high-needs areas.**
- **Support parent engagement through partnerships with the Parent Academy and other community-based organizations.**
- **Collaborate with criminal justice agencies to develop programs to reduce gang involvement and juvenile crime.**
- **Provide opportunities for parents and children to visualize a more enriched education, by engaging in field trips to museums, cultural events and other education-related activities.**
- **Expand awareness of volunteer and service learning opportunities.**
- **Expand and develop adult education programs to increase employability of the current workforce.**
- **Develop a plan to utilize childhood health-related data to guide program planning and implementation.**





Alachua County Education Compact Strategy Development Committee



Elio Chiarelli - Kidder Advisers, LLC

Karen Clarke - Alachua County Public Schools

Karen Cole-Smith - Santa Fe College

Linda Fuchs - University of Florida (First Lady)

Melissa Gentry - Florida Department of Health, Alachua County

John McNeely - Santa Fe College

Russell Robinson- University of Florida College of the Arts

Eric Segal - Harn Museum of Art

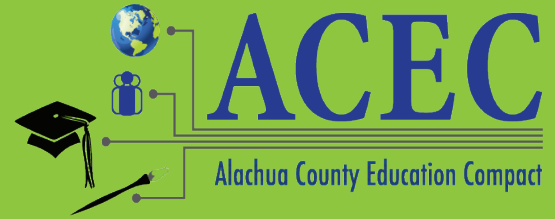
Gordon Tremaine - Early Learning Coalition

Nancy Waldron - University of Florida College of Education

Stefanie Waschull - Santa Fe College

Robert Woody - Santa Fe College Board of Trustee

Facilitator: Ian Fletcher - Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce



The purpose of the Alachua County Education Compact is to mobilize the community around education and better prepare students for higher education and sustainable careers.

Metrics and Measurable Outcomes



GOAL ONE:
All students graduate from high school

DATA POINTS

- Graduation Rates
- Promotion Rates
- Credit Accumulation
- Kindergarten Readiness Rates
- Attendance
- Behavioral Referrals



GOAL TWO:
All students have access to and are prepared for college and/or career success

DATA POINTS

- Advanced Course Enrollment
- Advanced Courses & Exam Passing Rates
- % of students at 3 & above
- College Readiness Level on State Exams
- SAT & ACT Scores
- FAFSA Completion Rates
- Scholarship Amounts
- College Acceptance Rates
- College Going Rates



GOAL THREE:
All students have access to pathways to sustainable jobs and careers

DATA POINTS

- Career Technical Education (CTE) Participation Rates
- # of CTE Certifications
- # of Earned CTE College Credits
- Placement Related to Field of Study (Internships & Jobs)



GOAL FOUR:
All students develop an appreciation for the arts

DATA POINTS

- Student participation in performing & visual arts in secondary school
- # of hours students spend participating in art activities, outreach & performances
- # of awards & recognitions
- Ranked appreciation for the arts (self-reported via student survey)



GOAL FIVE:
All students develop healthy lifestyle habits

DATA POINTS

- # of hours spent exercising
- # of positive lifestyle choices (self-reported via student survey)
- Participation in health-oriented clubs
- Participation in sports and/or sports-related activities/clubs
- Knowledge of mental health resources
- # collected via Body Mass Index (BMI) Screenings



GOAL SIX:
All students develop a sense of social responsibility

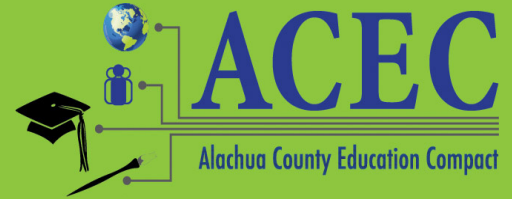
DATA POINTS

- # of hours of community service
- # of hours spent participating in civic clubs and activities

OUTCOMES:

Improve school readiness rates
Increase high school graduation rates
Increase access to post-secondary credentials
Create an aligned and productive workforce





Alachua County Education Compact Measurement Development Committee



Lisa Armour - Santa Fe College

Deborah Bowie - United Way of North Central Florida

**Rachel Debigare - The Education Foundation of Alachua
County**

Jackie Johnson- Alachua County Public Schools

Owen Roberts - Alachua County Public Schools

Steven Stark - Alachua County Public Schools



