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**For Immediate Release**

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**The Education Foundation awards nearly \$700,000 in college scholarships**

**Gainesville, FL** – The Education Foundation is excited to be providing nearly \$700,000 in college scholarships this year between its *Senior Scholarship* and *Take Stock in Children* programs.

Fifty-nine students will receive two-year Florida Prepaid College Scholarships as a result of their involvement in the *Take Stock in Children* program between seventh and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

In addition, 58 students from across Alachua County will be awarded over \$220,000 through The Education Foundation's *Senior Scholarship* Program.

Thirty-eight local families, businesses and civic organizations have partnered with The Education Foundation to make these scholarship opportunities possible. A number of these scholarships have been set up to honor someone and help keep their memory alive by sending students to college. These scholarships help Alachua County Public School students pay for college expenses such as tuition, fees, housing and books thanks to these sponsors' generosity and continuous support of the *Senior Scholarship* program. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$60,000 for eligible seniors who meet the scholarships' criteria.

"This is one of the most exciting times of the year for our staff and board at The Education Foundation," said Executive Director Rachel Debigare. "Nearly 35 years ago we were founded to help students achieve their college dreams by providing college scholarships. In the first few years, we awarded approximately \$20,000 per year so it is amazing to see how our impact has expanded."

The *Senior Scholarship* program opens each spring. The scholarship portal will open again in early 2022.

For more information and a complete list of the Class of 2021 recipients, please visit <https://edfoundationac.org/senior-scholarships/>.

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The Education Foundation of Alachua County, Inc. is a 501(C)3 organization founded in 1986 to support the Alachua County Public Schools. The Foundation has three programs: *Senior Scholarship*, *Take Stock in Children* and *Catalyst for Change*. For more information, please visit <http://edfoundationac.org/about-us/>.