



**To:** Members, Board of Directors  
**From:** *EW* Eric Williams, Ed.D., CEO & President  
**Date:** 3/4/26  
**Subject:** Confidential Board Update

### Notes

1. Thank you for your role in a successful Night For Champions event. We raised awareness of unmet needs among students and teachers as well as our efforts to address those needs, including program expansion. We also raised almost 950K of gross revenue, with net revenue of approximately 722K. When one adds FY26 contributions from donors who gave at the gala in 2025 and not 2026 to the FY26 net amount, this amount far exceeds the FY25 net revenue from the gala. Nancy Mireles and the Development Team will provide a more detailed financial analysis relating to the event.
2. Last year Board members played a key role in the success of the Principal Appreciation Breakfast. Board members and staff members were seated at tables throughout the room and recorded input from principals on a variety of topics. We plan to engage Board members who attend the breakfast this year in a similar role. The event will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. on March 31 at the Vineyards Country Club. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 10 to Wyatt and me to let us know if you plan to participate.
3. We invite you to join us on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for one of the most inspiring traditions of Golden Apple – the Surprise Prize Patrol. We will visit schools across the district to celebrate the Golden Apple Recipients. It is a heartwarming day filled with excitement and recognition for outstanding educators. If you're able to join, we kindly ask that you inform Nancy Mireles, Wyatt Blatt, and me by Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Participants should arrive at Champions For Learning by 7 a.m. on March 16 to ride the prize patrol bus – the bus will return to Champions For Learning by 4:15 p.m. Please remember that this date is CONFIDENTIAL! 😊
4. Yuly Lara, one of our College & Career Success coaches, is taking the lead on the recruitment and application process for grade ten students and our Pathways to Success – Accelerate program. You'll recall that an average of 27 students were admitted to this program (under a different name) in FY23 to FY25. We aim to increase the number of grade ten students admitted to the program this year by approximately 50% to 40 students. The application deadline is March 18. We currently have 22 completed applications and 47 applications in progress. In a recent application cycle, one third of completed applicants did not meet the income eligibility requirements for the scholarships we award. We are reaching out to families to support students with applications in progress and we are collaborating with CCPS on recruitment and support of students during the

- application process. Kudos to Lisa Morris (CCPS Senior Director, Strategic Engagement & Initiatives) for her role in enlisting school-level support in this area.
5. The Volunteer Recruitment Social on February 18 was a big success, with attendance by more than fifteen current volunteers who brought more than fifteen prospective volunteers. As a result of this event, and many other outreach efforts, we've already recruited 37 volunteers! Given timeline requirements relating to Take Stock in Children (TSIC), we are assigning 30 of these 37 volunteers to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be admitted to TSIC. The other 7 volunteers will fill some of the 38 mentors we need for our Pathways to Success – Foundations program. We still need to recruit 31 more mentors!
  6. Last month Alfonso Mancini and I discussed the increased expenditures relating to changes relating to Golden Apple and he arranged for the two of us to meet with Jeff Kunberger at the Suncoast Federal Credit Union Foundation. This meeting led to an additional gift from Suncoast of \$25,000 bringing their FY26 total gift to \$445,000, their highest gift ever. Alfonso also arranged for Anne Stavelly and I to attend a meeting of Collier County branch managers to share information regarding volunteer opportunities.
  7. Examples of other individuals and groups with whom I've met or attended events with since early February include the following: CCPS senior leadership regarding schoolwide innovation grants; Future Ready Collier leadership; Marcelo Alvarez; the announcement of a 50K classroom makeover grant from FPL at Manatee Middle School; two Golden Apple Selection Committee meetings; Consortium of Florida Education Foundations Strategic Planning Committee (I was asked to serve on this committee); the Consortium's quarterly membership call; the Consortium's quarterly call for new foundation executives; Zannon Garza (Director, DeAngelis Diamond Foundation; they first gave in 2003 and last gave in 2019; we successfully reconnected with them through this meeting); Matt Zwack (President of Owen Ames Kimball); and weekly meetings with Richard Perry, our development consultant with Giving Pathways.

#### Emails and Other Documents

1. *Community Engagement & Volunteer Board Update*; email from Anne Stavelly; March 2, 2026; p.4
2. *Development Team Board Update with two attachments*; email from Nancy Mireles; March 4, 2026; pps.5-14
3. *Educator Programs Board Update*; email from Marilyn Daniels; February 27, 2026; pps.15-16

4. *Financial and Administration Update*; email from Ann Kohler; March 2, 2026; p.17
5. *Student Programs*; email from Kristin Carolan; January 30, 2026; p.18
6. *Message from Collier County Public Schools*; pps.19-21

### Communication

1. February 25th, *Night for Champions Gala Raises Over \$935,000 for Education*, Champions For Learning
2. February 27, *Champions For Learning gala raises \$935K for schools*, Gulfshore Business

### Key Dates

1. Principals Breakfast – March 31, 2026, 8 a.m. check-in with breakfast and program from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; Vineyards Country Club
2. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – April 7, 2026; exact time TBD; The Players Club and Spa
3. Take Stock in Children Induction Ceremony – April 11, 2026; the Bower Chapel in Moorings Park
4. Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers – April 17, 2026; the Hyatt Regency, Coconut Point

## Community Engagement & Volunteer Board Update

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From Anne Stavelly <astavelly@championsforlearning.org>  
Date Mon 3/2/2026 1:07 PM  
To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

### **Student Programs:**

We are still actively recruiting mentors for our Pathways to Success - Foundations program.

We're working with Student Programs team to match TSIC mentors and mentees.

### **Entrepreneurship Program:**

Final School pitch dates have been confirmed by CCPS and I've begun soliciting judges.

### **Educator Programs:**

We are working with Marilyn on the coordination of an April debrief and thank you breakfast for the Golden Apple Committee.

### **General Updates:**

Our next Volunteer Quarterly newsletter will go out on Friday, March 6.

I provided a presentation to the Pelican Bay Widow's Group on March 5.

Thank you,  
Anne

### **Anne Stavelly**

*Director of Community Engagement*

3606 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 150

Naples, Florida 34104

Direct: (239)687-1370

***Make a Difference ~ Volunteer!***

## Development Team - Board Updates

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From Nancy Mireles <nmireles@championsforlearning.org>

Date Wed 3/4/2026 1:16 PM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

 2 attachments (73 KB)

Spring Appeal\_Segment 1 - w.o. notes.docx; Collier County media advisory & press release\_CFL and CCPS Teacher Quotes Included.docx;

### Chief Development Officer (Nancy Mireles)

Since our last update we celebrated an incredible evening together at Night For Champions! Thank you to everyone who participated.

We are continuing to enhance and strengthen our overall development strategies. We have been working on our communications calendar focused on varying audiences (acquisition, general donors, major donors & planned giving prospects); we are reworking our gift acknowledgement processes; we are clarifying our story and how to best share our message of need and opportunities for support.

In the coming weeks I am focused on strategies to closeout a successful fiscal year 2026 budget and begin working on our strategies for FY27.

### Annual Giving and Grants (Rebekah Telfer)

- Grant Awards
  - FPL Classroom Makeover Grant – I submitted all pre-award documentation for the \$60,000 grant award (\$50,000 for Manatee Middle School and \$10,000 for CFL); grant award will be made in March
    - The official award announcement and check presentation event was held at Manatee Middle School on 2/24/26 press release attached and link for news coverage here:  
[https://www.winknews.com/news/collier/manatee-middle-school-gets-50k-science-lab-upgrade-from-fpl-in-collier-county/article\\_9836a93b-3997-41b4-a10b-645f9d15a7fa.html](https://www.winknews.com/news/collier/manatee-middle-school-gets-50k-science-lab-upgrade-from-fpl-in-collier-county/article_9836a93b-3997-41b4-a10b-645f9d15a7fa.html)
  - Suncoast Credit Union Foundation – an additional \$25,000 investment was made in support of the Golden Apple Program. This brings our 2025-2026 total grant award to \$245,000. Sydney is helping me with distributing a press release and posting on social media during the week of 3/2/26
  - EverBank – awarded \$10,000 for General Student Program

- Naples Children Foundation – awarded \$225,000 for CCP for FY27
- Grant Applications and Reports Submitted
  - Bank of America – survey report for FY24 grant award submitted
  - Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation – mid-year report for FY26 grant award submitted
- Grant Applications and Reports in Process
  - Collier Community Foundation – report for DAF Grant award is due 3/30/26
  - Moorings Park – the next grant cycle should be announced in March
  - Hobbs Foundation – LOI is due 4/1/26
  - Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation – LOI opens 4/1/26 and is due 4/24/26
  - I'm continuing to research potential national funders to increase our revenue from foundations/grants
- Spring Appeal
  - The copy for the four segmented letters is written. The content is a composite story focused on incoming eighth grade students and the problems they face in accessing educational opportunities. The letters were inspired by Richard Perry of Giving Pathways. (copy sample attached)
  - We are working with Elephant Creative on the design. The letters will be 8.5x14" with a detachable response device for donors to make their gifts by mail. The letters will also include a QR code for donors to make their gifts online.
  - Three of the four segments are recent and lapsing donors. The fourth list is current TSIC volunteer mentors, many of whom have never made a gift.
  - Mailing lists are being reviewed by the Development Team
- General
  - I'm putting together a program outline for the new Pathways to Success Program to help guide communications, marketing, and fundraising efforts with help from Eric and Kristin
  - I am helping the Development Team revamp our acknowledgement letter process
  - I am helping the Development Team create Donor Offers to help connect donors with our impact and how investments support certain areas of our work
  - I am helping Marilyn write the bios for the selected Golden Apple teachers

**Director of Digital Fundraising & Operations (Sydney Fahrenbruch)**

After a successful Night For Champions Gala, my primary focus has been on post-event communications, including:

- Sending a 24-hour follow up email to event guests, and a more detailed follow up email to event guests on 2/24. Both emails had an open rate of over 75%, demonstrating a high level of engagement from this core group of constituents.
- Sending out a post-event press release highlighting the success of the event, which so far has been picked up by Gulfshore Business (link can be found in communication section)
- The post-event press release is also shared on our website and social media channels.
- Updating the website and social media pages with photo galleries
- We will also have a full-page ad running in Naples Daily News this Wednesday 3/4.

I have also been working with the team to close out all payments from Fund-A-Need and live auction, utilizing the GiveSmart platform.

Outside of post-event, I have been working on:

- Planning Golden Apple Prize Patrol with Marilyn, focusing on coordinating photography and press; as well as working with Gulf Coast News and The Naples Studio to plan the Golden Apple Television Broadcast.
- Working with various team members to plan the marketing rollout for our Student Programs expansion, establishing consistent brand standards for our new program.
- Working with Nancy, Becky and Mary on creating new workflows for gift acknowledgements and establishing a cadence of follow up emails for stewardship.

### **Director of Special Events (Wyatt Blatt)**

- Night for Champions: With the 2026 Night for Champions Gala in the books, we are focused on doing follow-ups and closing out the financials.
- Golden Apple Celebration:
  - Last week we met with the staff of the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, The Naples Studio, and Harmons Audio Visual to do a walkthrough of the event space and go through the timeline of the event.
  - Invitations are out and hit the mail as of last week.
  - All board members should have received an invitation in the mail; for those who would like to purchase tickets you can coordinate directly with Wyatt.

### **Major Gifts (Danielle Viens-Payne)**

- Veritus donor qualification process – Danielle's caseload
  - Sending qualification letters weekly in small groups of 10-20 donors
  - 51 qualified major donors so far

- Completing post-gala stewardship calls, setting up stewardship plans for new donors
- Donor and prospect meetings
- Sending 6-month-post-gift impact letters to appropriate donors
- Working with development consultant weekly
- Working with Mary and Nancy on updating the donor walls
  - First focusing on updating the Visionary Trust Wall of \$1M+ lifetime giving
- Exploring potential hosts for 1-2 parlor meetings in the Spring
- Working with Wyatt, Anne, and Board members on cultivating and stewarding corporations
- Continuing personalizing major gift stewardship plans for each donor
- Cultivating spring gifts

**Nancy Mireles, CNP**

*Chief Development Officer*

3606 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 150 Naples, Florida 34104

Direct: (239) 687-1372

Championsforlearning.org



**CHAMPIONS FOR  
LEARNING**

Dear [Informal Salutation],

Sometimes they talk about what they want to be when they grow up: an engineer, a doctor, a teacher.

Other times they talk about their favorite hobbies: sports, arts and crafts, video games.

But often, they talk about how college seems like a pipe dream: they're taking care of younger siblings while their parents work late into the night at a second job to make ends meet, they're learning English as a second language and don't know why terms like "GPA" or "Advanced Placement Class" or "FAFSA" are important, they're afraid that their families' lack of information and resources is how their dreams end.

When we interview 8th grade students for enrollment into our Student Programs, we hear many such stories about challenges and hardships. Families move to the United States, to Collier County, because they know opportunities for success abound; however, access to those opportunities remains out of reach for many students. **These kids want to go to college, but they don't know how to get there.**

Students like Alaina, for example, are entering a pivotal point in their educational journey: the upcoming transition to high school. In the back of their heads, they're already thinking about what will come next after they graduate. College admissions and enrollment, along with career readiness, are complicated processes that often have layers of steps involved. Those steps begin as soon as a student reaches high school.

In Collier County, nearly 60% of public school students come from households where English is not spoken at home. This means that students like Alaina struggle to figure out what classes to take, what extracurriculars to prioritize, or which skills to begin building. School counselors are quickly overwhelmed by the number of students they are assigned and are unable to provide tailored, personalized support to each one. Parents are compassionate and provide encouragement, but many are just as unfamiliar with how to be set up for post-secondary success as their children.

**Students like Alaina go from wondering: "How do I do this?" to believing "I can't do this."**

This is why Champions For Learning exists. We are bridging the gap between access to educational attainment and students who lack the resources and guidance to fully unlock their enormous potential.

And we need your help to do this.

[Informal Salutation], recently we sent you our 2025 Impact Report to show you how your past investments in education empowered and transformed individual lives. Can we count on you to help ensure that more students like Alaina can enroll in our program to receive critical resources, support, and guidance? Educational success should not be defined by circumstance. Your gift replaces confusion with guidance and doubt with encouragement. **You can be the reason students like Alaina see that their dreams are achievable and take confident steps toward their future.**

In partnership,

Eric Williams, Ed.D., CFP®  
President and CEO

**P.S. Make your impact today! Your gift to the Champions Fund helps Champions For Learning open doors to educational opportunity for even more students like Alaina.**

Code: 2026SPRING1

**Media Advisory –**



**Media Contact:**  
Natalie Fisher  
561-413-8162  
Natalie.Fisher@FPL.com

**\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 24 \*\*\***

*(Media event only; not open to the public)*

**FPL TO CELEBRATE STEM CLASSROOM MAKEOVER GRANT AWARD WINNERS**

**WHAT:** One School in Collier County is the newest recipient of Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL) \$50,000 STEM Classroom Makeover Grant. Ten schools across Florida have been selected for grants for the 2025-26 school year.

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, members of the media are invited to attend the celebratory announcement alongside Manatee Middle School, one of the winning schools, school district representatives, education leaders and FPL employees. Now in its fifth year, FPL's STEM Classroom Makeover Grant continues to transform learning environments across our service territory. The grants provide transformational learning opportunities in classroom settings through technology and resources that advance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum and increase student exposure to STEM education and careers.

With FPL's commitment to fostering innovative approaches to learning, the updated classroom will inspire and empower students in their pursuit of knowledge in STEM.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Feb. 24  
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

**WHERE:** Manatee Middle School - 1920 Manatee Road, Naples, FL 34114

**VISUALS:**

- Before visuals of the classroom
- Large celebratory yard sign in front of the school
- Student, teacher, local elected officials and FPL representative interviews

**WHY:** FPL is dedicated to supporting education and empowering communities. The STEM Classroom Makeover Grant program is just one of the many ways FPL invests in the future of our youth and promotes educational excellence.

**Editor's Note:** Reporters will be required to provide photo ID to enter school property.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to Natalie Fisher at [Natalie.Fisher@FPL.com](mailto:Natalie.Fisher@FPL.com)

**Press Release -**



Florida Power & Light Company  
Media Line: 561-694-4442  
Feb. 24, 2026  
@FPL\_Newsroom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*One Classroom in Collier County wins prestigious STEM Classroom Makeover Grant*

Juno Beach, Fla. – Hundreds of local students will have new opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) Classroom Makeover Grant program has selected its 10 winners for the 2025-26 school year. One school in Collier County received a \$50,000 grant to transform their classroom into an innovative learning space, igniting a passion for STEM among its students.

*“Having the honor of teaching at Manatee Middle School for over nine years, I have seen firsthand how hard our students work and how deeply they deserve the amazing*

*educational opportunities this FPL grant awards them,” said Collier County Public Schools Science Teacher Shanna Moss. “This outdoor science lab is more than a makeover, it’s a place where our students can feel inspired, work together, and truly experience the joy of discovery. I am beyond grateful for the generosity of FPL and so excited to watch our students learn, grow, and thrive because of it.”*

The winning school in Collier County:

1. Manatee Middle School

Each school will have one year to redesign and revitalize their classrooms, infusing them with cutting-edge technological resources, modern equipment and hands-on learning materials. From virtual reality and 3D printers to robotics kits and interactive displays, these schools will purchase the supplies they need to foster a dynamic learning environment that encourages critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

“At FPL, we are committed to empowering students through education and we recognize the limitless opportunities that STEM learning can bring,” said FPL Vice President of External Affairs and Economic Development Pam Rauch. “With STEM education forming the anchor of a thriving future, these grants are designed to spark creativity, exploration and a lifelong passion for learning within our communities. As we celebrate the fifth year of this program, we are proud to continue expanding its reach and positively impacting even more students.”

Now in its fifth year, FPL’s STEM Classroom Makeover Grant program, supported by the NextEra Energy Foundation, a corporate foundation of NextEra Energy, Inc. and FPL, provides \$50,000 grants for eligible Florida schools to offer transformational learning for economically disadvantaged students in K-12 Title 1 public, charter or private schools or for schools serving a minimum of 40% economically disadvantaged students. Funds are available to address technology or resources that will advance STEM curricula, exposure and careers to diverse students in a classroom setting.

*“Champions For Learning is proud to support Collier County Public Schools — from individual teachers to entire schools and districtwide initiatives — as we work together to improve student achievement across our community,” said Eric Williams, President & CEO of Champions For Learning. “We are especially excited to partner even more closely with CCPS to bring Manatee Middle School’s outdoor STEM classroom to life, thanks to the generosity of Florida Power & Light. This investment will expand hands-on learning opportunities and inspire students to explore future careers in STEM.”*

For more information on FPL's educational programs, visit [FPL.com/Education](https://www.fpl.com/education).

### **About Florida Power & Light Company**

Florida Power & Light Company is America's largest electric utility, delivering reliable power to more than 6 million customer accounts — serving approximately 12 million people across Florida. By leveraging a diverse energy mix, including nuclear, natural gas, solar and battery storage, FPL operates one of the most fuel- and cost-efficient power generation fleets in the U.S. and has earned the ReliabilityOne® National Reliability Award for seven of the last ten years. FPL is a subsidiary of Juno Beach, Florida-based NextEra Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NEE), which is one of the largest electric power and energy infrastructure companies in North America and is a leading provider of electricity to American homes and businesses. NextEra Energy is also the parent company of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, which, together with its affiliated entities, is advancing America's energy future with one of the largest and most diverse portfolios of power generation and infrastructure solutions. For more information about NextEra Energy companies, visit these websites: [www.NextEraEnergy.com](https://www.NextEraEnergy.com), [www.FPL.com](https://www.FPL.com), [www.NextEraEnergyResources.com](https://www.NextEraEnergyResources.com).

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## Educator Program Board Updates

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From Marilyn Daniels <mdaniels@championsforlearning.org>

Date Fri 2/27/2026 2:42 PM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

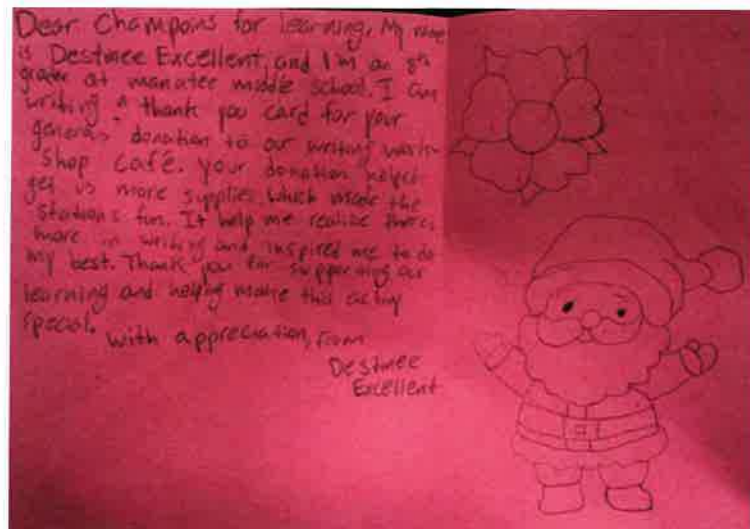
### Educator Programs – Board Update

#### Classroom Grants Cycle Overview (2025–2026)

The Classroom Grant cycle for the 2025-2026 school year will conclude May 4, 2026. Teachers must spend their grant award money, as indicated in their budget itemization, and complete an Outcome Report by this date. An Outcome Report consists of three components:

1. Find It Fund It Reports:
  - a. a brief narrative describing the project outcome,
  - b. the number of students impacted, and
  - c. project and/or student photos.
2. Project Receipts – documenting all expenditures (internal documentation).
3. A Thank-You Note addressed to the donor(s) (internal documentation).

Outcome Reports are shared through the Find It Fund It portal. Here is an [example of a completed outcome report](#) for this year.



#### Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program (2025-2026)

The Golden Apple Selection Committees have completed all 58 Teacher of Distinction classroom visits. Scheduling visits required a great deal of communication and collaboration among teachers and the selection committee, with many changes throughout this process. The committee has been very understanding, patient, and flexible with each change! The four committees reconvened and completed the

selection process! Planning is underway for Golden Apple Prize Patrol and the Golden Apple Teacher Celebration.

### **Thank-A-Teacher comments!**

"Ms. McCosh is a dedicated teacher to the education of her students. She finds the best in children and works to make them stronger by using their strengths. My child is now an adult, but I will never forget the time he was able to learn and grow under the direction of a teacher like Ms. McCosh. She is a golden treasure to her students." - CMS Student

"When I was a part of his class my Junior year, I felt comfortable to be in his class. I was able to talk to him about anything, even when I was feeling down. This teacher is very understanding and connecting with the students that desire to be good in school. Being in his class has made me understand that if I really want to achieve something, I have to want it bad enough. He deserves to be seen by others and show everyone how he has impacted his students' lives." - IHS Student

### **Art for Democracy**

Students throughout Collier County are encouraged to demonstrate their civic understanding through artwork for the categories of Faces of Democracy, The History of Democracy, and the Voting Process. A memorial for Chuck Molke was established through the Community Foundation of Collier County to honor student achievement in this program. Each year since, the Foundation awards Best in Show; a \$500 scholarship for the high school student winner, and a \$500 donation to the K-8 school's art department winner. Here are a few photos from the ceremony.



### **Educator Programs**

Office: 239.643.4755

[EducatorPrograms@championsforlearning.org](mailto:EducatorPrograms@championsforlearning.org)

**[ChampionsForLearning.org](http://ChampionsForLearning.org)**

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## Financial and Administration Update

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**From** Ann Kohler <AKohler@championsforlearning.org>  
**Date** Mon 3/2/2026 4:41 PM  
**To** Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

### **Finance**

- The closing of February 2026 has begun.
- The FY2027 budgeting process is currently underway. I have been meeting with Directors to review and discuss department budgets. Major changes and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year are being identified, and a preliminary budget will be prepared.

### **Administration & IT**

- I met last week with our representative from Dex Imaging to review our current copier leases. She will be providing detailed usage history reports for our existing copiers and presenting potential options to reduce costs and improve efficiency.
- CFL currently maintains an IT service contract with Softrim. Due to ongoing IT issues, including a persistent printing problem that has disrupted operations for several consecutive days despite multiple onsite service visits, and an overall unsatisfactory response time, we have initiated a review of alternative IT service providers.
- In addition, we have begun evaluating a potential transition from onsite servers to a cloud-based environment. Moving to the cloud would eliminate the need for physical servers and reduce hardware and maintenance costs while providing improved scalability, security, and predictable monthly expenses.
- A cloud-based system would also strengthen business continuity. In the event of an emergency, such as a hurricane, staff would be able to work remotely without interruption and reduce the risk of data loss associated with onsite equipment.

### ***Ann Kohler***

*Chief Finance & Administration Officer*

3606 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 150, Naples, FL 34104  
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[akohler@championsforlearning.org](mailto:akohler@championsforlearning.org)

### **ChampionsForLearning.org**



CHAMPIONS FOR  
LEARNING

***"Celebrating 35 years of supporting Collier County Students and Educators"***

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**Board Update**

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**From** Kristin Carolan <KCarolan@championsforlearning.org>

**Date** Mon 3/2/2026 7:57 AM

**To** Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

**Student Programs:**

Our 10th grade application currently has 43 in progress and 12 completed. Yuliana is reaching out to schools and families to assist with completion. Student advocacy meetings have been ongoing for Q3. Champions For Learning will be hosting contract signing for the 30 new 8th graders entering the Take Stock In Children program on March 11th and 12th. Thirty-eight 8th graders have been invited into the Pathways to Success- Foundations program. The contract signing for that will be March 24th and 26th. CFL had 12 students attend Night For Champions. Students enjoyed sharing their stories and networking with guests. On March 3rd and 4th, our Seniors will be in for a lab on "College Budgeting" and mentors are invited to attend. Students will be on Spring break during the week of March 8th. CFL will not be hosting mentor sessions over Zoom that week. On March 12th, we will be taking students to Meals of Hope for a Day of Service. Mentors have been invited to attend with their students. 84% of CFL Seniors have completed and gotten their FASFA results. Tracy Jones is reaching out to community partners offering FASFA assistance for anyone that still needs to complete. As of February 26th, we've assisted 343 students and 183 parents, outside of our Champions families, with their FAFSA applications and financial aid questions.

**Kristin Carolan**

Sr. Director of Student Programs  
3606 Enterprise Avenue, #150  
Naples, FL 34104

**Direct: 239-687-1376**

**Office: 239-643-4755**

[kcarolan@ChampionsForLearning.org](mailto:kcarolan@ChampionsForLearning.org)



**CHAMPIONS FOR LEARNING** To serve as a catalyst for educational success by investing in Collier's students and educators.

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## The Promise That Changed My Life

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From Collier County Public Schools <do-not-reply@collierschools.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 4:48 PM

To Eric Williams <ewilliams@championsforlearning.org>

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Champions for Learning. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Having trouble viewing this email? [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)



### From the Office of the Superintendent

Dear CCPS Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Partners,

During my senior year at Naples High School, I sat in Mr. Bill Godley's U.S. Government class. He challenged us to think deeply. He expected more. He believed we were capable of college-level work, which is why he also taught the dual enrollment courses I took through Edison Community College, now Florida Southwestern State College.

At the time, I didn't fully understand what that opportunity meant. I just knew someone believed in me.

Looking back, I know it changed my life.