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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Education Foundation celebrates new student success centers on school campuses***

(SARASOTA, Fla.) Oct. 1, 2018 -- The leaders of the Education Foundation of Sarasota County (EFSC) and Sarasota County Schools (SCS) recently celebrated the openings of Student Success Centers located at North Port High School (NPHS) and Riverview High School (RHS).

Dozens of leaders, teachers, students and community supporters turned out for the ceremonies, held Sept. 17 at NPHS and Sept. 24 at RHS.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies officially unveiled each school's new Student Success Center (SSC) and introduced dedicated college career advisors, who are full-time EFSC employees.

Established through a partnership with the district, the new centers represent a shared commitment to support the foundation's College, Career, Life Readiness Initiative that centers on enhancing postsecondary advising to prepare students for success after high school graduation.

The SSC advisors assist students and families in exploring college, technical school and career opportunities; writing resumes; completing college admissions and financial aid applications; and preparing for the SAT/ACT, among other services.

Speaking at the NPHS ribbon-cutting, in order of appearance, were: Jennifer Vigne, EFSC president; Britt Riner, EFSC board chair; Stephanie Hawkins, NPHS student and EFSC student board member; Brandon Johnson, NPHS principal; and Laura Kingsley, SCS assistant superintendent and chief academic officer.

Speakers at the RHS ribbon-cutting included: Vigne; Riner; Michael Feltovic, RHS student and EFSC student board member; B.J. Ivey, RHS teacher and EFSC board member; and Erin del Castillo, RHS principal.

Vigne also introduced college career advisors Jenna Thiel at NPHS and Rebecca Lewis at RHS.

Riner recognized supporters that helped launch the new initiative and provide continuing resources for the centers. Included were: Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Jerome and Mildred Paddock Foundation, Koski Family Foundation, Wells Fargo, William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, Fawley Bryant Architecture, and McIntyre Elwell and Strammer General Contractors Inc.

**About the Education Foundation**

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County is an independent partner working to advance philanthropic support for Sarasota County Schools. Its mission is to enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching and inspire innovation in education. Guided by the belief that education changes lives, the Education Foundation strives to match each donor's passion with high-impact projects created to ensure students graduate with purpose and are prepared for a postsecondary pathway. The Education Foundation of Sarasota County and its philanthropic investors are champions for students, teachers and schools. For more information on how to be a champion for education, visit [EdFoundationSRQ.org](http://EdFoundationSRQ.org).

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**Photo Captions:**

1. The North Port community joins the Education Foundation to celebrate the opening of the Student Success Center at North Port High School.
2. Sarasota County Schools staff, donors and community leaders join the Education Foundation to celebrate the opening of the Student Success Center at Riverview High School.