PLANit Sarasota is a cross-sector group of education and youth services organizations and community partners focused on increasing the rate of students who pursue a purposeful postsecondary pathway, particularly among those historically underrepresented in higher education.

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County (EFSC) is proud to serve as the convening organization for the Sarasota Local College Access Network.

In fall 2018, the Education Foundation began serving as the backbone organization to convene PLANit Sarasota for its next, broader iteration supported by early funders Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation.

**Short Term Success**
Initial concentration is on identifying nearly 43,000 middle school age to 24-year-olds facing particular barriers, including being economically disadvantaged and the first in their families to pursue education beyond high school, and level the playing field by providing resources and tools to access and navigate the postsecondary pathway from preparation to admission to completion.

**Long Term Success**
To increase the percentage of Sarasota County residents 25 years and under who have obtained a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030. This multi-dimensional problem demands a multi-pronged approach by a multi-partner collective for transformational change. The PLANit Sarasota collective impact answers the demand with each stakeholder pooling their unique knowledge base and constituent reach for the greater good and use data to achieve the long-term vision to extend outreach and services to all youth and their families throughout Sarasota County.
The Sarasota Ballet is one of the nation’s most exciting ballet companies. Each season, The Sarasota Ballet produces over 30 performances across 3 venues in Sarasota and participates in a touring schedule to prestigious venues across the nation. The Sarasota Ballet operates nationally recognized education programs through The Sarasota Ballet School and The Margaret Barbieri Conservatory and maintains a Community Engagement platform offering over 80 community activities annually.

**MISSION:**
To enrich lives, captivate emotions and strengthen community through the art of dance. Vision: To infuse our community with the highest quality and diversity of dance in America.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Sara Robinson | 941.225.6504  
srobinson@sarasotaballet.org

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Ballet Performances Education Programs Community Engagement

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.sarasotaballet.org

The Suncoast Black Arts Collaborative is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to: Advocate for greater exposure to African American Artists throughout the Suncoast Arts community and to provide educational forums/symposia to expose students to the work of African American Artists.

**MISSION:**

BLACK ARTS: BUILD...COLLABORATE...SUSTAIN! Our present efforts are to conduct a series of Arts and Racial Justice Panels to expand the understanding and commitment to racial equity in the arts. We are planning an educational panel to develop a discussion on the importance of diversity in the arts in our school curriculum.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Collaboration and partnerships with the arts, cultural organizations and school system in our community.
2. To provide them with a resource to address diversity, equity and inclusion in all programs.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Michele Redwine | 941.359.5959  
michele.d.redwine@verizon.net

**WEBSITE:**
https://suncoastblackartscollaborative.org/
Since 1987, the Van Wezel Foundation has partnered with the City of Sarasota to foster a connection between the people, the bay and the spirit of human creativity. Each year, the Foundation provides grants to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall to support arts education and integration throughout our region. Together, we serve more than 35,000 students with enriching arts-based education opportunities and professional development for more than 400 teachers across five counties. In 2018, the city of Sarasota approved a master plan to develop 53 acres on the Bayfront into a vibrant, accessible park with a new performing arts center at the heart of it. The Foundation is leading The Future is Now Campaign to help the community realize the promise of the master plan.

**MISSION:**

The mission of the Van Wezel Foundation is to create a world-class performing arts center that enhances the community, supports arts education, and inspires young minds.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

1. Arts education and integration, serving thousands of students, families and educators each year.
2. Virtual arts experiences through partnerships and collaborations to reach even more children.
3. Realizing the vision of the Sarasota Performing Arts Center to be built on The Bay Park.

**WEBSITE:**

https://vwfoundation.org/

**CONTACT INFO:**

Sasha Hausman, CFRE | 941.271.4176 x 107
shausman@vwfoundation.org

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**MISSION:**

FPL's mission is to provide customers with clean, reliable and affordable energy.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

Energy services Development Sustainability

**CONTACT INFO:**

Devaney Iglesias | 941.316.6266
devaney.iglesias@fpl.com

**WEBSITE:**

https://www.fpl.com/
Suncoast Credit Union

Suncoast Credit Union is a not-for-profit, financial cooperative working to improve the quality of members’ lives by maintaining a strong, secure and innovative credit union. Following our mission, Suncoast Credit Union is an active participant in the communities of the 21 counties we serve. Since its inception in 1990, Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has donated over $32 million to help provide a better future for the children in our communities.

MISSION:
Our mission is simple – to improve the quality of our members’ lives by maintaining a strong, secure and innovative credit union.

CONTACT INFO:
Lisa Fogg | 800.999.5887 ext. 59900
lisa.fogg@suncoastcreditunion.com

WEBSITE:
https://www.suncoastcreditunion.com

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Manasota ASALH was founded in 1996 and is the largest of the fifty branches that comprise the national ASALH network. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Month, in 1915. Our members are residents of Bradenton and Sarasota and the surrounding communities, as well as an increasing number of institutional partners.

MISSION:
To promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information on Black life, history and culture to the global community and we welcome all who wish to join us in this important work.

CONTACT INFO:
David G. Wilkins | 989.980.0555
wilkinsdg60@gmail.com

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. Information on Black life, history and culture, delivered in courses, lectures, letters, presentations to audiences in formal and informal settings, designed to promote the Mission of ASALH
2. Scholarships to college-bound students.
3. Community and comradery to like-minded members, partners and others seeking to understand the life, history and culture of people’s of African descent.

WEBSITE:
https://asalh-manasotafl.org
The primary mission of Gamma Xi Boulé’ is to positively impact the Sarasota/Manatee community through a range of youth development initiatives for underserved young people that are supported by our membership and aided with the resources of our foundation.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Career and leadership counseling and mentoring.
2. Paid work internships for high school students from local underserved communities.
3. College scholarship program

**CONTACT INFO:**
Carl Battle | 610.999.6423
carlbattle@aol.com

**WEBSITE:**
https://gammmaxiboule.com/gamma-xi-foundation

Herrera Psychology provides the highest quality behavioral health and psychoeducational services to support children and adolescents in reaching their social, emotional, psychological, and academic goals.

**MISSION:**
Herrera Psychology provides the highest quality behavioral health and psychoeducational services to support children and adolescents in reaching their social, emotional, psychological, and academic goals.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Psycho-educational assessments with comprehensive reports
2. Mental health therapy
3. High School Education and College
4. Admissions Planning

**CONTACT INFO:**
Deborah Hobson | 813.395.9049
deborah@drstacieherrera.com

**WEBSITE:**
http://herrerapsychology.com/
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Junior Achievement is a non-Profit youth organization that works with community volunteers and partners to provide hands-on, experiential education in financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship to K-12 students.

MISSION:
To inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.

CONTACT INFO:
Samantha Brewer | 941.780.2868
samantha.brewer@ja.org

WEBSITE:
http://www.jasarasota.org

The Sarasota County Library system offers services, materials and spaces that allow the community to access information and resources, explore interests, and connect with others. There are 10 physical libraries throughout the county and a virtual library accessible through our website. In addition to books, libraries offer computers, wi-fi, digital resources, meeting rooms, and community programming on a wide variety of topics.

MISSION:
The Sarasota County Library System offers equal access to information, fosters lifelong learning and inspires community engagement.

CONTACT INFO:
Ann Hardy | 941.861.5461
ahardy@scgov.net

WEBSITE:
https://www.scgov.net/government/departments/libraries

FIND YOURSELF AT THE LIBRARY

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. Access to physical and digital books and resources.
2. Access to computers, Wi-Fi, printing, and creative equipment such as sewing machines and 3-D printers.
3. Meeting rooms available for free to not-for profit groups (scheduling required).

https://www.scgov.net/government/departments/libraries
The Safe Children Coalition is a community coalition blending available resources to support, advocate, grow, and educate the children and families we serve.

The Schoolhouse Link serves as the contacted homeless education liaison for Sarasota County Schools. The program works with families and youth who live in a variety of temporary living situations. The purpose of the program is to ensure that students in transition are able to enroll, attend and succeed in school.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Schoolhouse Link ensures homeless students are able to enroll attend and succeed in school.
2. Assists with backpacks, school supplies, school uniforms, and emergency clothing.
3. Provides community referrals for things like shelter and rent assistance. Is able to assist homeless students with the completion of their FAFSA and provide documentation of homeless status.

Ellen McLaughlin | 941.923.6001
emclaughlin@sccfl.org

https://sccfl.org/

The purpose of the Sarasota Housing Authority - Youth Thrive program is to engage young people, enrich their lives, inspire them to dream and empower them to set and work toward goals that will enable them to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. SHA Youth Thrive seeks to accomplish this by offering as many educational and life-enriching opportunities as possible directly to youth living in public housing.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Providing quality affordable housing to enhance to low income families to promote their independence.
2. Training programs that will enhance adult participants’ life skills and develop additional job readiness skills that will lead to employment and ultimately a better quality of life.
3. Youth Programs. After-school Tutoring, a Summer Enrichment program, and other educational and life-enriching opportunities on select weekends and school

Candice McLeod | 941.323.1444
cmcleod@sarasotahousing.org

https://sarasotahousing.org

**MISSION:**

Sarasota Housing Authority (SHA) is committed to providing quality affordable housing to enhance the lives of our residents and promote their independence. Sarasota Housing Authority (SHA) offers training, employment and educational opportunities to assist residents of the Sarasota Housing Authority in realizing economic self-sufficiency. We believe that achieving success for the entire family is best served by utilizing a two-generation approach to resident services and programs.
United Way Suncoast fights to break the cycle of generational poverty through educational programs for children; building financial strength and skills for adults; volunteer activation and support in a crisis. We are focused on creating community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen the cornerstones for a good quality of life.

**MISSION:**
To provide leadership that improves lives and creates lasting community change by mobilizing the caring people of our communities to give, advocate, and volunteer. United Way Suncoast fights for the education and financial stability of every person in the communities we serve.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Bronwyn Beightol | 941.932.8257
bbeightol@uwsuncoast.org

**WEBSITE:**
https://unitedwaysuncoast.org/

Teen Court gives young people the chance to right their wrong by answering to a jury of their peers. Justice for youth by youth and teens helping teens. Positive redirection through empowerment with resources and guidance will introduce the students to the benefit of law abiding citizenship. Upon successful completion the student is free of an arrest or conviction on their juvenile record.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Second Chances
2. Community Service Opportunity through Civic Engagement
3. Positive Redirection for youth that have got off track
4. Wrap Around Services for a struggling teen

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.sarasotateencourt.org
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Women’s Resource Center is a 501(C)3 nonprofit focused on providing women of all ages and backgrounds with support, resources and services in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. College Mentoring
2. Career Coaching
3. Mental Health Counseling

WEBSITE:
https://www.mywrc.org/

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Students grade point averages are typically in the range of a 3.0 and above. These students are evaluated upon a completed modified learning style delineator created by Dr. Gehndyu. Results collected then determine the plan of action. This program is not intended to fix students who struggle academically, this initiative is intended for those students whose GPA’s don’t correlate with their SAT or ACT test.

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
- SAT/ACT Prep/Tutoring
- Tutoring for Academic Classes
- College/Technical School Planning

WEBSITE:
https://SRQeducationgroup.com

MISSION:
To engage, enrich, educate and empower women of all backgrounds.

CONTACT INFO:
Deborah Chapman | 941.545.3053
dchapman@mywrc.org

MISSION:
Our mission is to level the academic playing field for all students to participate in higher education.

CONTACT INFO:
Janjay Gehndyu | 941.807.6703
Drj@srqeducationgroup.com
Today in Sarasota County, a student, energized by the work we do, is advancing on a learning pathway leading to a purposeful, successful life. Because our work is driven by a collective vision that each and every student graduate with purpose, fully ready to succeed in life. Our WHY is essential and basic: To champion students to optimize their fullest potential. Our intention is to convene a coherent, accessible network of resources and infrastructure for forming relationships to help each and every student to identify their aspirations and realize their fullest potential.

**MISSION:**
To enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching, and inspire innovation in education, guided by strategic philanthropy.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Jennifer Vigne | 941.927.0965
jvigne@edfoundationsrq.org

**WEBSITE:**
https://edfoundationsrq.org/

As a public liberal arts honors college, New College offers a distinctive educational experience that includes real-world research opportunities from Day One, small class sizes, and intellectual challenge from highly credentialed faculty and talented, motivated peers. New College graduates go on to dynamic careers and pursue prestigious fellowships; and they earn graduate degrees at one of the highest rates of any college in the country.

**MISSION:**
New College of Florida prepares intellectually curious students for lives of great achievement. It offers a liberal arts education of the highest quality, encourages the discovery of new knowledge, and fosters the individual’s effective relationship with society.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Bill Woodson | 941.487.4106
wwoodson@ncf.edu

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.ncf.edu/
**MISSION:**

Ringling College of Art and Design recognizes that artists and designers play a significant role in society. The College’s primary mission is to provide programs leading to degrees that prepare students to be discerning visual thinkers and ethical practitioners in their chosen area of art and design.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

1. Baccalaureate programs in art and design.
2. Community education through its gallery, library, continuing education and community service programs.
3. Supporting the cultural richness of the area via the Sarasota Museum of Art.

**CONTACT INFO:**

Pat Mizak | 941.893.2858
pmizak@ringling.edu

**WEBSITE:**

https://www.ringling.edu/

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**MISSION:**

To educate, inspire, and motivate students of all ages to gain access to post-secondary education and/or training by linking education, career, and life opportunities

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

1. Post-secondary planning
2. College application assistance
3. Scholarship and financial aid guidance

**CONTACT INFO:**

Kim Kindell | 941.480.3178
rotaryfutures@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**

https://rotaryfutures.org/
The School District of Sarasota County prepares students to achieve the highest learning standards by engaging a high quality staff, involved parents, and a supportive community.

MISSION:
The School District of Sarasota County prepares students to achieve the highest learning standards by engaging a high quality staff, involved parents, and a supportive community.

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
We support all children in pursuit of their academic, athletic and artistic endeavors. We work hard to ensure our students graduate on time, are college and career ready and prepared for success in a global society. Every Student. Every Day.

CONTACT INFO:
Dr. Brennan Asplen | 941.927.9000
https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2576

WEBSITE:
https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/

Sarasota County Schools boasts 54 schools that expertly cater to the diverse needs of over 43,300 students. We are one of two Florida school districts to consistently earn an A-grade every year since 2004 and have been awarded the Mid-Sized School District of the Year by the University of Cambridge. Our passionate educators empower students to take charge of their academic & personal success, a practice we believe fosters lifelong growth & achievement.

MISSION:
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, guided by measurable standards of institutional excellence, provides engaging and accessible learning environments that result in student success and community prosperity.

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
- Associate and Bachelor’s Degrees
- Certificates Professional Development
- Enrichment Classes

CONTACT INFO:
Dr. Todd G. Fritch | 941.752.5200
FritchT@scf.edu

WEBSITE:
https://www.scf.edu/

SCF is a dynamic state college dedicated to meeting the educational and workforce training needs of citizens and businesses in the region. SCF serves approximately 11,000 college credit students annually at campuses in Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and Venice, and online. Another 14,000 participants annually attend professional development and personal enrichment classes.
Suncoast Technical College provides quality technical education to meet workforce development and community needs. Many of our programs can be completed in one year “Career in A Year”!

**MISSION:**
Suncoast Technical College provides quality technical education to meet workforce development and community needs.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Darby Larkin | 941.924.1365
darby.larkin@sarasotacountyschools.net

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.suncoast.edu/

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The UF Innovation Station Sarasota County (UFISSC) is the first physical extension of the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering in Florida providing access to unique and high-value UF resources. The UFIS-SC establishes and grows partnerships with the private, academic, and public sectors in the region with a focus on growing the region’s innovation economy.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Providing a pipeline of engineering talent and technology to serve the region.
2. Supporting the creation of new startup companies, providing access to unique R&D talent and infrastructure.
3. Supporting the development of an educated workforce to serve the innovation economy.

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.eng.ufl.edu/sarasota
The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus provides high quality bachelor’s and graduate-level education and scholarly activity in a personalized learning community that prepares successful leaders and responsible citizens.

**MISSION:**

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus provides high quality bachelor’s and graduate-level education and scholarly activity in a personalized learning community that prepares successful leaders and responsible citizens.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Suzanne Gregalot | 941.359.4200
suzannegregalot@usf.edu

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

1. Education
2. Scholarships
3. Student Life

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.usf.edu/

For over 50 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast has been matching youth in meaningful, enduring, professionally supported mentoring relationships with adult volunteers who defend their potential and help them achieve their biggest possible futures. Big Brothers Big Sisters’ evidence-based approach is designed to create positive youth outcomes, including educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence, and improved relationships.

**MISSION:**

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Gina Taylor | 941.488.4009
gtaylor@bbbssun.org

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

1. One-to-one mentoring with ongoing support and resources for mentors
2. Educational support and positive youth development via school-based and community-based mentoring programs
3. Resources and guidance for the children and families we serve

**WEBSITE:**
https://bbbssun.org/
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties has been a lead youth-serving organization since 1970. The organization provides enriching after-school and summer programs to thousands of youth, ages 6 to 18, in Sarasota, Venice, North Port and Arcadia. Programs are designed to empower youth to excel in school, build character, become leaders, adopt healthy habits, explore career paths and create plans for success after high school graduation.

**MISSION:**

Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

**CONTACT INFO:**

Bill Sadlo | 941.366.3911
bsadlo@bgcsdc.org

**WEBSITE:**

https://www.bgcsdc.org/

In partnership with schools and at our Sarasota center, we focus on the development of the whole girl. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by girls and their families, we also advocate for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for all girls.

**MISSION:**

Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

**CONTACT INFO:**

Jamie Kattrein | 941.350.6139
jamie@girlsincsrq.org

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**

1. Afterschool/Summer Camp Care
2. Research-Based Leadership Programming
3. Career and College Readiness

**WEBSITE:**

https://girlsincsrq.org/
Take Stock in Children of Florida was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization in Florida that provides a unique opportunity for deserving low-income youth/students, many from minority families, to escape the cycle of poverty through education. We offer our students college scholarships, caring volunteer mentors and hope for a better life. Our comprehensive services start in middle school, continue through high school and include their transition into college.

MISSION:
Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

CONTACT INFO:
Lisa Bechtold | 941.266.6231
lisa@takestocksarasota.org

WEBSITE:
https://takestocksarasota.org

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. Mentoring
2. College Success Coaching
3. Scholarships

Nonprofit organization servicing low-income, first-generation Latino students and their families in Sarasota and Manatee counties, also offering affordable college prep and career readiness services through a complete approach to student counseling and coaching.

MISSION:
To empower the growing Hispanic/Latino population in our region to achieve the American dream through education, integration, and civic engagement.

CONTACT INFO:
Cintia Elenstar | 941.237.0607
cintia@unidosnow.org

WEBSITE:
https://unidosnow.org/

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. Future Leaders Academy- a comprehensive two-year college prep program for students aspiring to pursue a 4-year, 2-year college degree, or high-quality certification. Participants are matched with a mentor and benefit from UnidosNow high school clubs.
2. Parent Leadership- empowering parents with life and cultural skills through social capital build-up, English classes, strong support with partner organizations for expecting parents, and information on the educational system in the United States.
3. Future Leaders Academy- a program for middle school and elementary school students, designed to address barriers that many low-income, first-generation students face in pursuing post-secondary education.
The Charles and Margery Barancik family has long believed in the power of philanthropy to shape our world and enrich the lives of all people. It was the expression of this belief that led them in 2014 to establish the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation—a private, family foundation located in Sarasota, Florida. The Foundation creates initiatives and awards grants in Sarasota and beyond.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. The Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations.
2. The Foundation also leads initiatives on important community issues such as First 1,000 Days Sarasota County, Teacher Retention and Recruitment, Here4YOUth Mental Health Initiative and Partners for Green Places to influence climate resilience.

**CONTACT INFO:**
John Annis | 941.773.9513
info@barancikfoundation.org

**WEBSITE:**
https://barancikfoundation.org/

Community foundation that uses donor dollars to empower nonprofit agencies to run and manage programs that support our community in all ways needed.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Grant making
2. Scholarships
3. Empowering nonprofits to make an impact on our community.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Nicole Light | 941.556.7102
nlight@cfsarasota.org

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.cfsarasota.org/
PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MISSION:
Together with our donors, we transform our region through bold and proactive philanthropy.

CONTACT INFO:
Kelly Carlstein | 941.486.4618
carlstein@gulfcoastcf.org

WEBSITE:
https://gulfcoastcf.org/

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. We are the philanthropic home of nearly 1,000 families, individuals, organizations, and businesses that have established charitable funds here.
2. Grants and initiatives in the areas of health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment.

William G. & Marie Selby Foundation

MISSION:
We are a collection of charitable funds created by individuals and organizations to support their favorite causes, in our region and around the world.

By investing in people through academic scholarships and supporting capital projects of local organizations, the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation looks beyond what is and enables change for what can be.

CONTACT INFO:
Molly Swift | 941.957.0442
mswift@selbyfdn.org

WEBSITE:
https://selbyfdn.org/

The Selby Foundation is a private foundation started in 1955 by William G. and Marie Selby. The foundation serves Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties by providing capital grants to nonprofit organizations and scholarship opportunities for undergraduate students.

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
1. Selby Scholar Program, a need-based scholarship program for high-achieving students to pursue undergraduate degrees.
2. Capital grants to nonprofit organizations
Alum-Worx connects companies, educators and recent graduates to launch innovation, creativity and careers. Alum-worx supports and empowers companies and emerging talent through talent management systems grounded in real-word, project based work experiences.

**MISSION:**
To connect innovation, creativity and technology in ways that engage emerging talent while providing cost effective and efficient programming.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Cynthia Gravino | 941.777.4550
info@alum-workx.com

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Talent and career development for new graduates
2. Academic consulting and programming development for higher education
3. Small business start-up and development assistance and programming

**WEBSITE:**
https://alum-worx.com/

CareerEdge Funders Collaborative, a national-award winning workforce and employer-led innovative initiative, is making waves by turning the traditional model for workforce investment in Florida on its head. CareerEdge partners directly with employers in fast-growing sectors in the regional economy, to help them fill skills gaps and meet their employment needs, while at the same time assisting individuals in entering the workforce and moving up career ladders.

**MISSION:**
CareerEdge Funders Collaborative, a national award-winning workforce and employer-led innovative initiative, is making waves by turning the traditional model for workforce investment in Florida on its head. CareerEdge partners directly with employers in fast-growing sectors in the regional economy, to help them fill skills gaps and meet their employment needs, while at the same time assisting individuals in entering the workforce and moving up career ladders.

**AVAILABLE SERVICES:**
1. Employer Partnerships with our industry specific council meetings, incumbent worker training grants and the regional workforce council
2. Internship reimbursement and Fast Track Training
3. Apprenticeships and on the job training

**CONTACT INFO:**
Mireya Eavey | 941.556.4045
meavey@sarasotachamber.com

**WEBSITE:**
https://careeredgefunders.org/
CareerSource Suncoast is a private, non-profit corporation that operates in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Our primary focus is to help businesses grow by providing workforce solutions for talent recruitment and development and helping job seekers and workers manage their careers. We offer programs and partnerships recognized locally and statewide. Our staff members are certified workforce professionals often recognized by their peers as leaders in workforce development.

**MISSION:**
To recruit, train and retain talent for employers on the Suncoast.

**CONTACT INFO:**
James Disbro | 941.358.4200
jdisbro@careersources.com

**WEBSITE:**
https://careersourcesuncoast.com/

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Emerging Lotus Inc. goal is to provide assistance to low to moderate income individuals for their participation in educational programs that feature training in personal development, leadership training, career readiness, arts advocacy, and environmental awareness.

**MISSION:**
Emerging Lotus Inc. seeks to develop individuals, and enhance the value they add to their communities.

**CONTACT INFO:**
Olympia Baylou | 941.500.4410
info@emerginglotusinc.com

**WEBSITE:**
https://www.emerginglotusinc.com/

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Available services:

1. Basic career and employment assistance - job search assistance; career/employment-related assessment services; interviewing techniques; resume assistance
2. My Suncoast Scholarship & Training - Job/work readiness training, occupational skills training, on-the-job training, etc.
3. Young Adult Services (out-of-school) - career counseling, work readiness and job search assistance, paid internships/work experience, and scholarship/tuition assistance.
4. THRIVE (Entrepreneurial Services) - helps new businesses start and existing small businesses grow. Supports the regional entrepreneurial community with flexible and affordable workspace, and skill development resources.
PLANit Sarasota Workgroups:

- **Career Explorations** - Increase awareness of college and career pathways for all students, with emphasis on students not currently identified as college or career bound.
- **Data & Community Report** - Provide the workgroups and our key partners with a feedback loop of key performance indicators to measure our progress by. Create a dashboard of performance metrics to monitor progress and adjust tactics.
- **FAFSA** - Increase Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rate.
- **Persistence** - Establish structured, individualized supports to mitigate the persistence problem with aspiration for every student to find their spark.
- **Having a Plan** - Develop career, college, and/or life readiness by exposing young people to relevant options; encouraging exploration; and increasing communications between employers and students.

For more information, or to join a PLANit Sarasota workgroup, please contact Thomas Williams, PLANit Sarasota Director, at twilliams@edfoundationsrq.org.