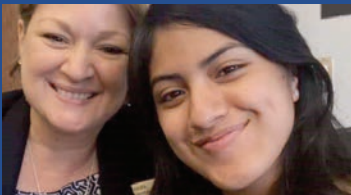


...inside
DONORS
AND *Shakers*



3 Take Stock in Children benefits from late donor's significant gift.



4 Take Stock in Children brings home the Gold — again!



5 Meet the staff of the SFSC Foundation and Take Stock in Children.

SFSC to Help Power Communities with \$15,000 Grant from Duke Energy Foundation



THE GRANT IS FUNDING NEW EQUIPMENT AND ENHANCED TRAINING IN SFSC'S ELECTRICAL LINEWORKER PROGRAM, BENEFITING STUDENTS AND A COMMUNITY THAT DEPENDS ON LINEWORKERS TO KEEP ENERGY FLOWING.

South Florida State College (SFSC) received a \$15,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation to create powerful communities in its service district of Hardee, DeSoto, and Highlands counties. The College is one of 18 organizations across Florida to receive grants supporting innovative workforce education and training programs through Duke Energy Foundation's Powerful Communities

program.

The grant infuses SFSC's Electrical Lineworker program with enhanced and updated equipment, increased training capabilities, enhanced readiness for job opportunities, and preparation for natural disasters, such as hurricanes. Equipment that will be purchased with the grant money are climbing kits that assist students in climbing utility poles; chromated copper arsenate-coated utility poles that students will use to practice rigging, setting, and climbing; aluminum conductor steel-reinforced wire to rig power transmission lines; and cross arms for the tops of power lines that students will use to become proficient in rigging and setting cross arms on power poles.

"The College is excited about its continuing partnership with Duke Energy and the opportunity to upgrade and

■ Continued on page 7

We're Sharing Stories About People Who Made a Difference

FOUNDATION DONORS ARE MAKING A LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT ON SFSC STUDENTS.

As we look forward to the holidays and being thankful for our friends, families, and the kindness we share within our community, I want to thank all of you for your support of South Florida State College and your participation at our events throughout the year.

Imagine, if you would, you are a student. You're dealing with the pressure of maintaining your grades, perhaps holding down a job, and trying to support your family. Now imagine you're given a scholarship that covers the exact amount you need to obtain a degree, a degree that will eventually open the doors for you to have a better future not only for you, but for your family as well.

When we take a moment to look at the lives we're impacting, hear their stories, and see through their eyes what it means to be a student at SFSC, we can see how your gifts truly make a difference. That is what you're doing when you support SFSC. You are making a huge impact, a life-changing impact on our students. Thank you!

In this fall edition, you'll read about how Duke Energy is making that kind of impact on the lives of our Electrical Lineworker students and how a thoughtful, generous planned gift will impact the lives of our Take Stock in Children students for years to come.

We recently hosted the Inaugural Legacy Showcase honoring Joe and Gloria Davis for their contribution



to the College. Although they were unable to attend, those who did attend enjoyed the entertaining songs of Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos and sang

along with their upbeat playlist and requests. We had a blast!

With December right around the corner, we have the Jacaranda Jubilee coming up where you can enjoy the delicious menu that our Culinary Arts students prepare for guests while we watch the fun floats pass by in the Avon Park Christmas Parade. That same week, we will celebrate the holidays with the Foundation's Annual Christmas Luncheon where we enjoy each other's company and honor our students.

There are so many stories that we could share all because someone cared enough to step up and say, "I want to make a difference. I want to leave a legacy."

We can't do what we do without you. As we near the end of this calendar year, your contribution will make a significant impact on the lives of SFSC's students and this community. Would you consider making an end of the year gift to SFSC?

Thank you for joining us at our events, attending our cultural arts programs, or coming to take a tour at one of our beautiful campuses. You are making a difference.

Jamie Bateman
Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement



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DONORS AND Shakers

is produced semiannually by the South Florida State College Foundation, Inc., to inspire charitable contributions in support of South Florida State College. The SFSC Foundation raises awareness of the value of an SFSC education and promotes student success through scholarships, facilities development, and program support. By supporting SFSC, the SFSC Foundation endeavors to enhance the ability of residents in our district to obtain a college education.

Supporter of Local Children's Organizations Leaves Significant Gifts to Take Stock in Children After Death

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Known to friends and neighbors in Highlands County as “Gabe,” Gabriel G. Read spent his career as an educator and understood the importance of nurturing and enriching the lives of children and, ultimately, residents of an entire community. Because of his generosity, local youth involved in Take Stock in Children can look forward to furthering their education.

After growing up in Missouri, Read served as a machinist mate in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and went on to earn his master's degree in education from the University of Miami. He spent over 30 years teaching reading skills as a professor at Miami-Dade College.

In Dade County, Fla., Read had been highly active in the community—he served as a councilman and mayor of Hialeah Gardens and he was a member of the Northwest Dade Area Chamber of Commerce.

After retirement, Read and his family moved to Avon Park, where he became politically active and known for his Op-Eds that were published in the local newspaper. Because he liked to entertain people and educate them about the United States and civic responsibilities, Read was also noted for portraying Uncle Sam in full costume—with beard, stove-pipe hat, striped pants—at local parades.

He also carried forward his passion for education and became involved in organizations that focus on nurturing children. He was active in Junior Achievement, the Sebring Optimist Club, Florida Ridge Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Guardian Ad Litem program, and Take Stock in Children.

“He became a mentor with Take Stock in Children in January 1999 and was a mentor for 12 years,” said Don Appelquist, retired South Florida



Local students participating in Take Stock in Children will ultimately benefit from a substantial gift from the estate of Gabe Read.

State College (SFSC) dean of Resource Development and executive director of the SFSC Foundation, Inc. “That’s how I got to know him.”

The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for Take Stock in Children within the College’s service district of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. Take Stock in Children is a statewide program that provides at-risk children with a mentor and a college scholarship. In return, Take Stock scholars sign contracts in which they promise to remain drug-free, to avoid behavior that would get them into trouble with law enforcement, to attend school regularly, and to earn satisfactory grades. The students’ parents also sign the contracts and agree to provide home environments conducive to education. The local Take Stock program has been in place for 20 years and has awarded college scholarships to more than 400 local students.

“After I got to know Gabe through Take Stock, he said that he wanted to make a donation to the organization,” Appelquist said. “The first thing he did was take a life insurance policy that he had and donate it to the Take Stock program. He made Take Stock

in Children the owner and also the beneficiary of the life insurance policy.”

Read died in September 2018. “Gabe was in a nursing home at the time he passed away,” Appelquist said. “I got a call from an attorney who said, ‘Gabe Read named you as executor of his estate.’” Appelquist was stunned because Read had never mentioned naming him as executor.

When Appelquist received a copy of Read’s will, he found that Read had divided his entire estate into three equal parts, giving one-third of his estate to Take Stock, one-third to the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and one-third to the Boys and Girls Club of Highlands County. “It wasn’t a huge amount of money, but it was significant particularly for these organizations,” Appelquist said.

“So, Gabe made two planned gifts,” Appelquist said. “His first planned gift was through the life insurance vehicle of which he transferred ownership and beneficiary status of the policy directly to Take Stock in Children. The rest of it was made through his will to the three local agencies that devote efforts to the youth of our county.”

■ Continued on page 7

Take Stock Brings Home the Gold and More While Creating One-on-One Time with Mentors

Take Stock in Children, a non-profit organization representing 45 affiliates in 67 counties in Florida, provides a unique opportunity for at-risk students to escape the cycle of poverty through education. Locally, scholars are given two-year college scholarships, caring volunteer mentors, support from college success coaches who help navigate their path to college and career readiness, and hope for a better life.

The staff of Take Stock in Children (TSIC), whose lead agency just happens to be the South Florida State College Foundation, are all smiles since earning high honors at Take Stock's 2019 College and Career Conference. Not only did TSIC DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands walk away with receiving gold (which is tied to performance level funding), but they also took home the prestigious and coveted Luminary Award. Although this is the eighth year Take Stock has earned the distinction of being ranked gold, this is the first time they have received the Luminary designation, which is only in its second year of inception.

Obviously these accolades could only happen with the help of our valued mentors, the Take Stock trio wholeheartedly agrees. Caring mentors who go out of their way to volunteer their time and talent to be there for these teens definitely contributes to the Take Stock team's recipe for success.

But even before receiving these awards, the Take Stock employees realized the importance of their mentors and decided to take their "mentor orientations" on the road this year, stopping by banks, offices, schools, other places of employment, and South Florida State College (SFSC) locations in DeSoto, Hardee, Lake Placid, and the Highlands Campus—all in an effort to meet individually with mentors at their convenience, wherever they could.


"Although we knew it would take much more time and effort on our part we decided it was an opportunity to expand our mentor engagement," said Danielle Ochoa, student services coordinator for TSIC. "Since two of us now have new schools and one of us is brand new, we needed some quality time to get to know some mentors we had not yet met, as well as reconnect better with the ones we do know."

At Take Stock in Children, we take pride to ensure students, as well as mentors, come first. "For without this dynamic duo, there would be no Take Stock in Children," said Karen Sanchez, college success coach. "They are both valuable assets to the program and have demonstrated their willingness and commitment—so why shouldn't we?"

"Although Take Stock has typically held group mentor orientations at various locations where mentors can interact with other mentors, there's nothing like some one-on-one time to make everyone feel embedded in the program," said Linda



Roman, college success coach. "It also offers the opportunity for confidential dialogue about any concerns regarding their mentees, provides a chance to ask questions and personally address their needs, and the added bonus of meeting on their turf, on their time."




SFSC FOUNDATION
MILLION DOLLAR HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF SHOOTOUT

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Qualifying:
Thursday and Friday
11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
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Sunday Shootout: 9 a.m.



\$10/Bag of 10 Balls
Open to the Public

Meet the Foundation and TSIC Staff



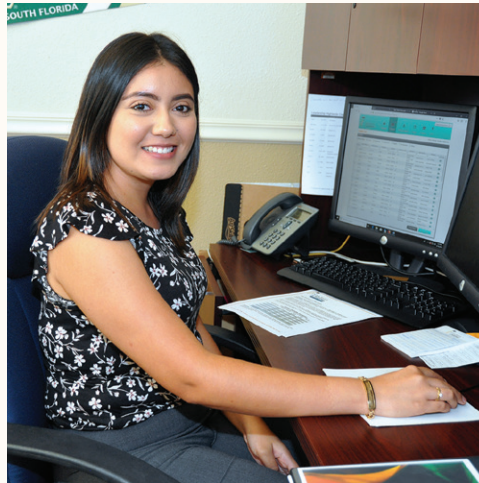
Danielle Ochoa

Danielle Ochoa has been with Take Stock in Children since 2014. Although she left us for a short stint, she returns rejuvenated to take on the lead as a student services coordinator, expanding her TSIC role. A lifelong resident of Hardee County, Danielle brings a unique approach to her position, as she herself was once a TSIC scholar. A University of Central Florida graduate, Danielle covers Avon Park and Hardee County schools in addition to her administrative duties.



Linda Roman

Linda Roman has been with TSIC for three years with a recent move to a full-time position. In addition to serving collegiate and full-time dual enrolled students, Highlands Career Institute, and Sebring Middle and High Schools, she is now covering Lake Placid High School and Lake Placid Middle. Linda taught middle school for 15 years so she has the know how to navigate the Highlands County School System. She also brings former media and corporate communications experience to the table.



Karen Sanchez

Karen Sanchez, whose territory includes DeSoto County Schools, brings a fresh set of eyes to the Take Stock team. She was born and raised in Arcadia, so she has some lifelong connections. A recent graduate of the University of South Florida, Karen is now pursuing a master's degree online from her alma mater. Working part-time for TSIC provides her with a fairly flexible schedule to be able to devote time to her graduate studies.



Anastasia Saunders

Anastasia Saunders comes to SFSC with over 10 years of experience in fundraising and development. Her wealth of knowledge, education, and experience in event management as well as her passion to better our community is a great contribution to the SFSC Foundation. In her new role, she will assist in growing our Alumni Association and strengthening our Foundation which she feels will in turn allow the educational opportunities at SFSC to continue to grow and provide further advancement for our students.

A native of Avon Park, Anastasia graduated from Avon Park High School before obtaining her bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University.

#GIVINGTUESDAY
December 3, 2019

sfsc foundation
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Annual Day of Giving Returns Dec. 3

In past years, the SFSC Foundation has raised more than \$10,000 on #GivingTuesday, and it hopes to match or exceed those donations when the annual day of giving returns on Dec. 3.

#GivingTuesday first began in 2012 as joint initiative by the 92nd Street Y and the United Nations Foundation, who sought to redirect attention to charitable giving during the height of the Christmas shopping season. It was established to take place on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and two of the year's biggest shopping days – Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

As the observance has grown in prominence in the past seven years, nonprofit organizations all over the nation have used #GivingTuesday to raise money for their causes and to emphasize the rewards that a generous spirit brings to those who give.

Through the support of its donors, the SFSC Foundation raises money that contributes to the work of South Florida State College. Each year, donations are used to establish student scholarships, create endowed teaching chairs, and fund capital improvements and other needs not met by budgetary funding.

On #GivingTuesday and throughout the year, you can assist the Foundation in its mission by sending donations to: SFSC Foundation, 13 East Main Street, Avon Park, FL 33825. Make credit card donations by calling 863-453-3133.

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAIR

Fall Is Here



Fall is just around the corner and in New England the leaves are changing their colors. Here in Florida, it's as hot as ever! Beat the heat and stay

connected to SFSC by attending any of the shows at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts, the SFSC University Center, or any of the exhibits at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) or a sporting event at Panther Gym or Panther Field. You can even take a class or two through Community Education or Corporate Education. Stop by the library. Our alumni lunches may have been suspended for September and October but I invite all of our alumni, especially our new ones who graduated over the summer, to join us when the Lunch Bunch resumes in 2020.

Go Panthers!

Lena D. Phelps

Chair, SFSC Alumni Association

Class of 1984

Retiree Lunch Meetings Continue at the Jacaranda

All SFSC retirees are invited to luncheons being held at the Hotel Jacaranda on the second Thursday of the month from September through May.

At the next lunch meeting on Jan. 9, Dr. Maday Leon will explain how the bachelor's program in elementary education is supplying new teachers to area school districts. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m., and guests are welcome to a Dutch treat lunch featuring the Jacaranda's southern-style buffet. There is no December meeting due to fall Commencement.

INAUGURAL LEGACY SHOWCASE



October 12, 2019

The SFSC Foundation's Legacy Society is grateful to the generous sponsors who made our Dueling Pianos concert in October a success. Your support enriches the lives of our students and builds leaders in our community. Thank you for contributing to the mission of South Florida State College.

ORANGE LEVEL



BLUE LEVEL



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Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Leitzel

Twilight Glass & Mirror
Dr. and Mrs. Sid Valentine
Jed and Robin Weeks

ANNUAL SPONSOR



DUKE ENERGY GRANT *continued from page 1*

improve the training capabilities of our Electrical Lineworker program through this grant,” said Erik Christensen, SFSC dean of applied sciences and technologies. “The grant allows us to enhance that program with updated training equipment and tools which will enable us to provide expanded training opportunities for our students. As a result, our graduates will be better prepared to enter the workforce and the disaster recovery capabilities of our service district will strengthen.”

SFSC’s Electrical Lineworker program prepares students to work as electric line technicians in the construction, maintenance, and repair of electric utility overhaul and underground systems. Through 1,500 contact hours of training at the SFSC Hardee or DeSoto Campus, students gain an understanding of electrical systems, operations, and safety while mastering competencies in electrical distribution, basic electrical theory, and underground electrical construction operations. They learn how to maintain electric power systems and use electrical distribution equipment. The program provides practice in climbing, framing, building single and three-phase overhead lines, pole top and bucket rescue techniques, operating bucket trucks, and maintaining and repairing underground systems. Students who successfully complete the program earn a Career Certificate.

“We are proud to support South Florida State College’s Electrical Lineworker Certificate program,” said Catherine Stempien, Duke Energy Florida president. “The grant helps fund equipment that enables students to practice skills and gain real-world experience, directly aligning with industry changes and Duke Energy’s smarter energy future and grid modernization initiatives. Our workforce development grants help build stronger communities across the state by empowering a well-prepared workforce to meet needs in high-

demand fields.”

“We value our partnership with Duke Energy and all that they do in support of our college and this community,” said Jamie Bateman, SFSC executive director of institutional advancement. “Duke Energy’s team has gone the extra mile to work with our students and explain all of the requirements necessary for them to be placed into a lineworker career. Our partnership goes beyond this grant as they work with our program directors in giving our students a competitive advantage when applying for positions after graduation. It’s this type of partnership and this type of friendship that exemplifies the meaning of community. We are grateful for their dedication and partnership.”

The Duke Energy Foundation’s Powerful Communities program makes strategic investments to build powerful communities where natural resources thrive, students excel, and a talented workforce drives economic prosperity for all. Every year, the Foundation gives more than \$30 million to communities throughout Duke Energy’s seven-state service area.

For more information about SFSC’s Electrical Lineworker program, contact Christopher Yeomans, electrical distribution professor, by emailing yeomans@southflorida.edu or calling 863-784-7045.

Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities that Duke Energy serves. More information about the Foundation and its Powerful Communities program can be found at duke-energy.com/foundation.

Duke Energy, a Fortune 125 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy holding companies in the United States. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit.

GABE READ *continued from page 3*

As the former executive director of the SFSC Foundation, Appelquist has seen how donations and planned gifts like Read’s to the SFSC Foundation and Take Stock in Children have made a difference in the lives of local children and SFSC students. “If you spend your life caring about something—an entity, an organization, youth, a philosophy—then one of the best things you can do is continue to support that organization after your death through a planned gift,” he said. “The funds might, otherwise, go to pay estate taxes or something like that. This way, you can make a significant gift, much more than you might be able to make out of your monthly budget while you’re still alive. You can continue to support those charities and those causes into the future.”

“Gabe is leaving a significant impact on these three agencies that help the youth of Highlands County in this way,” he said. “It’s more than he would have been able to do while he was living.”

CELEBRATE



Join us for great food and a bird’s-eye view of the Avon Park Christmas parade from the veranda of the Hotel Jacaranda.

**THE JACARANDA JUBILEE
MONDAY, DEC. 2
6:30 P.M.**



Celebrate the holidays and welcome a new year with your friends at the SFSC Foundation!

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, DEC. 5
11:30 A.M.**

RSVP REQUIRED



South Florida State College
13 East Main Street
Avon Park, FL 33825

On the Calendar

Foundation Events

MONDAY, DEC. 2, 2019

The Jacaranda Jubilee

6:30 p.m., The Hotel Jacaranda
(RSVP required)

TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 2019

Giving Tuesday

All day

THURSDAY, DEC. 5, 2019

Christmas Luncheon

11:30 a.m., The Hotel Jacaranda
(RSVP required)

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, JAN. 16-19, 2020

3rd Annual Million Dollar

Hole-in-One Shootout

Sun 'N Lake Golf & Country Club

Sponsorships are available for all of our events. Please contact the Foundation for more information.

Board Meetings

TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 2020

Board Meeting

Noon, SFSC Highlands Campus

TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 2020

Executive Board Meeting

Noon, Location to be determined

SFSC Events

THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 2019

Fall Commencement

Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts
SFSC Highlands Campus