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DONORS
AND *Shakers*



3 AdventHealth and the Mosaic Company are the Foundation's 2026 Diamond and Platinum sponsors, respectively



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In January, SFSC Nursing students accepted scholarships from the Florida College System Foundation, Florida Blue, and the SFSC Foundation.

Health Sciences Students Receive Scholarships

During the January meeting of South Florida State College's District Board of Trustees, 33 students studying for careers in the health sciences received approximately \$28,704 in scholarships.

The Florida College System Foundation (FCSF) and Florida Blue provided \$14,352 toward scholarships to students in Nursing, Surgical Services, Dental Education, Radiography, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Health Services Management programs. Because the scholarship criteria requires its money to be equally matched by private donors, the remaining 50% came from donations to the SFSC Foundation.

The students may use the scholarships for tuition, textbooks, lab fees, and childcare.

Students receiving the scholarships are studying within three health science disciplines:

Nursing: Guillermo Garcia Mulero, Sabrina Villegas, Andrea Vasquez, Reyna Quintero, Esther Smith, Trinity Vansickle,

THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM FOUNDATION, FLORIDA BLUE, AND THE SFSC FOUNDATION AWARDED \$28,704 TO 33 STUDENTS WHO ARE PURSUING DEGREES IN HEALTH CARE.

Mikayla Wesley, Alysia Mayer, Zareana Fogel-Thomas, Dominique Morales, Letisha Romero, Alexis Franklin, Denijah Rochester, Rodrick Rivers, Noemi Secundino, Kaley Piggott, and Cristina Lopez-Rojas

Surgical Services: Tabitha Trevelyan and Sierra Bullard

Dental Education: Nereida Flores Becerra, Stephany Palafox, and Blanca Solis

Radiography: Angela Salazar, Valerie Martinez, and Brisa Luevano

Paramedic: Ashley Leppe and Ismael Mejia

EMT: DaNayja Sturn, Kearsta Danser, Casey McLaughlin, and Savannah Mullins

■ **SCHOLARSHIPS** CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

With Community Support, Education Unlocks the Potential of Our Students

Education is more than a pathway to a career, it's the key that unlocks potential, transforms families, and strengthens entire communities.



Every scholarship awarded, every barrier removed, and every student supported represents a life changed and a future reimaged. When we invest in education, we invest in hope, opportunity, and the belief that with the right support, anything is possible.

This belief drives everything we do at the SFSC Foundation, and through the unwavering support of our generous donors, we've been able to turn it into reality. Together, we've awarded hundreds of scholarships that have changed the lives of students who might otherwise have had to put their dreams on hold, helping them build brighter futures for themselves and our community.

The past few months have been filled with meaningful engagement and celebration. From our festive holiday events in December to the excitement of the Ninth Annual Million Dollar Golf Shootout in January, we've been reminded time and again of this community's incredible spirit and dedication to our students. As we look ahead, we hope you'll join us for the Boots and Bling, Learning and Legacy Gala on April 17 at the Hotel Jacaranda. This special evening is more than just a fundraiser, it's a celebration of our students' achievements and the community that makes their success possible.

To all our community partners and sponsors, thank you for believing in the power of education and for helping us fulfill the mission of the SFSC Foundation. Your investment in our students is an investment in our community's future, and together, we continue to prove that at South Florida State College, It's Possible!

With gratitude,
Emily W. Dabolt, Executive Director, Institutional Advancement



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Coordinator, Institutional Advancement and Alumni Development

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*Past Foundation Presidents

4 Ways to Support the SFSC Foundation

1 Become a Friend of SFSC by setting up an online recurring donation of \$25 or more per month using the QR code.



2 Sponsor a fundraising event, such as the Annual Learning & Legacy Gala, the Jacaranda Jubilee, the Christmas Luncheon, or the Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout.

3 Give stock or securities. For information, call 863-453-3133 or email foundation@southflorida.edu.



4 Join the SFSC Heritage Society by including the SFSC Foundation in your will or trust, or name the SFSC Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

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.

AdventHealth Becomes the 2026 Diamond Sponsor

The SFSC Foundation's 2026 Diamond Annual Sponsor is AdventHealth Sebring. A Diamond Annual Sponsor pledges \$20,000 in opportunities and support to the College through the SFSC Foundation.

"At AdventHealth, we believe that investing in education is investing in the future of healthcare," said Jason Dunkel, president and CEO of AdventHealth Sebring, Wauchula, and Lake Placid. "Our partnership with South Florida State College helps prepare the next generation of compassionate, skilled healthcare professionals who will serve our communities with excellence."

AdventHealth supports SFSC's students, faculty, staff, and the region it serves. Students complete clinicals at AdventHealth locations and learn from their experienced and caring nurses. They are not just a generous sponsor; they are a community partner in providing opportunities for our Health Science students to receive the training



and knowledge they need to pursue a lucrative and caring career in healthcare.

"AdventHealth Sebring exemplifies what it means to be a true community partner," said Emily W. Dabolt, SFSC executive director of institutional advancement. "Its support of the SFSC

Foundation impacts the lives of our students by removing barriers and creating pathways to success. When organizations invest in education, they invest in the future of our entire community, and we're grateful to have AdventHealth Sebring standing with us."

Mosaic is the 2026 Platinum Sponsor

The Mosaic Company has become the SFSC Foundation's 2026 Annual Platinum Sponsor by making a donation of \$10,000.

Headquartered in Tampa, Mosaic works to support food security through its crop nutrition products and is committed to enhancing agricultural productivity.

"Supporting the SFSC Foundation is one way we're helping to ensure students have access to quality education, training, and the nourishment they need to succeed, because when students thrive, communities thrive," said Kirsten Turner, Mosaic public affairs manager.

The Mosaic Company hosts its annual two-day emergency response training at SFSC's Highlands Campus. SFSC's Public Safety and Health Sciences faculty and staff provide training that equips Mosaic employees with the



knowledge and skills needed to respond during emergency situations.

"We're honored to partner with Mosaic as a Platinum Annual Sponsor of the SFSC Foundation," said Emily W. Dabolt, executive director for the SFSC Foundation. "Their commitment to our students reflects a shared belief that education is the foundation of thriving communities. Together, we're ensuring that talented, hardworking students have access to the opportunities they deserve, building a brighter future for our region, one student at a time."


We Thank Our 2026 Annual Sponsors

DIAMOND LEVEL

PLATINUM LEVEL

GOLD LEVEL
  
SILVER LEVEL
 
BRONZE LEVEL
  
  



College faculty, SFSC Foundation staff, and students in the Electrical Lineworker program turned out to thank Duke Energy for providing them with a pallet winder trailer that will assist with their training.

Duke Energy Donates Pallet Winder Trailer to Electrical Lineworker Program

Duke Energy donated a 1987 Pallet Winder Trailer to SFSC's Electrical Lineworker program on the Hardee Campus in Bowling Green, Fla.

We are grateful to Duke Energy for its meaningful support of our students and our Electrical Lineworker program. This equipment enhances training opportunities and ensures that our students are well-equipped for the careers ahead of them. Representatives from Duke were on site to speak with students about preparing for a career in power distribution and what to expect.

SFSC extends a special thank you to Nancy Dodd, whose leadership has been instrumental in securing Duke Energy's support for our students. We congratulate you on your retirement and look forward to seeing you soon.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Andy

Association of Florida Colleges Scholarship

"This scholarship helps tremendously by covering the costs of getting to school, purchasing necessary supplies, and allowing me to participate in off-campus events such as the Dental Hygiene Symposium in Orlando and Capitol Day in Tallahassee, where I can meet others and advocate for our profession."



sfsc foundation
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

■ SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health Services Management: Lorena Martinez-Bautista and Denise Blaine

The Florida Blue Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship was created to sustain a source of funding for student scholarships at Florida colleges to meet the growing need for skilled nurses and allied health professionals who serve the state's diverse population.

"These scholarship recipients represent the future of healthcare in our region," said Emily W. Dabolt, SFSC executive director of institutional advancement. "Florida Blue's investment goes beyond supporting individual students — it strengthens the entire

healthcare infrastructure of our community. By removing financial barriers for students in high-demand fields, Florida Blue is ensuring that families across our region have access to skilled, dedicated healthcare professionals when they need them most. We are deeply grateful for this partnership."

The FCSF is a nonprofit organization that solicits donations from corporations and individuals for distribution to Florida's 28 community and state colleges. SFSC has received scholarships for health sciences students since 2006. Florida Blue provides individual and group health insurance to millions of Floridians.

The Learning & Legacy Gala
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Boots & Bling

Friday, April 17, 2026
6-9 p.m.
The Hotel Jacaranda
19 East Main Street, Avon Park, FL 33825

Individual Tickets: \$100

Cocktails + Silent Auction
Good Eats + Outta Hand Band
Dancing + Student Testimonials

Tickets and Sponsorships Available Online
863-453-3133 | foundation@southflorida.edu
southflorida.edu/sfscgala

AdventHealth
2026 Annual Diamond Sponsor

Mosaic
2026 Annual Platinum Sponsor



Top: Jeff Taylor was the Putt Challenge finalist.

Left: Although 90 golfers participated in the Million Dollar Golf Shootout's qualifying rounds, 11 men and one woman advanced to the final event.

Million Dollar Golf Shootout Raises Over \$15,000 for Athletics

THE NINTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DREW 90 GOLFERS TO THE SHOOTOUT AND 45 TO THE PUTT CHALLENGE.

The SFSC Foundation hosted its ninth annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout sponsored by Bill Jarrett Ford on Jan. 17. The event raised over \$15,000 in support of SFSC Athletics.

Golfers participated in the three-day Golf Shootout and Putt Challenge,

which began on Jan. 15 at Sun 'N Lake Golf Club in Sebring. Throughout the qualifying rounds, 90 golfers swung for the \$1 million prize, and 45 golfers tried to putt their way to \$10,000.

The top 12 shootout qualifiers were: Kyle Braxton, Trent Adrian, Mike Nelson, Brooke Sortore, Ty Van Bulck, Todd Smith, Steve Sortore, Michael Thayer, Greg Lundgren, Michael Kelly, Jeff Taylor, and Paul Sippl. The Putt Challenge finalist was Jeff Taylor.

“What a fabulous turnout! We

are so grateful to our community for showing up and supporting our student-athletes,” said Emily W. Dabolt, executive director of the SFSC Foundation. “This event wouldn’t be possible without the dedication of our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers, who believe in investing in our students’ futures.”

Proceeds benefit SFSC Panther Athletics in women’s volleyball, women’s cross country, men’s baseball, and women’s softball. SFSC’s student-athletes assisted throughout the Golf Shootout.

Auto Students Work on Donated Car

The SFSC Foundation thanks Fran Cisneros, for her generosity in donating her car to the SFSC Automotive Service Technology program. She was highly impressed that within 11 days of donating her vehicle, the students were already diagnosing the issue and working on the car. It was truly a sight to see our generous donor interact with our students and get excited knowing that her car was helping our students learn.



Pamela Karlson is Inducted into Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame

On Dec. 4, SFSC's most prestigious alumni honor was awarded to Pamela Karlson during the SFSC Foundation's annual Christmas Luncheon at the Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park. She is the fourth inductee into the Hall of Fame, joining Jeff Sikes, Jeffrey Roth, and John Sedlock.

"The SFSC Alumni Association is proud to honor Pamela Karlson as our 2025 Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame inductee," said Anastasia Fuchser, SFSC Alumni Association coordinator. "Her dedication to her community and her strong reputation in her career field makes us proud to call her a Panther alumna."

Karlson is a practicing attorney and owner of Karlson Law Group in Lake Placid. She graduated from Stetson University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, with a focus in Political Science and Russian Studies. She earned her a Juris Doctor from Samford University School of Law in Birmingham, Ala. in 1994.



Peggy Sueppel, SFSC assessment and accreditation coordinator, nominated Karlson to the Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame. "Pam has served our community her whole life, including serving as SFSC's board attorney for many years," Sueppel said. "She is active in local organizations and generously supports many groups and individuals in our community. She was awarded the Champion for Children award, which alone says a lot about her devotion to the youth of our area. She is well respected and has been a great supporter of South Florida State College."

In Highlands County, Karlson has volunteered with Ag Venture and Florida Rural Legal Services. She is past president of the Greater Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce and was vice president of the Leadership Highlands Class of 2004. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid.

View the Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame at southflorida.edu/community/alumni/panther-alumni-society.




Lake Placid attorney Pamela Karlson (center) was inducted into the SFSC Panther Alumni Hall of Fame in December.



ALUMNI

Reunion




**FREE
EVENT**

**SATURDAY
11
APRIL**

11 a.m. – Social
11:50 a.m. – On-Field Recognition
Noon – Baseball Game
1 p.m. – Softball Game

South Florida State College Ballfields
600 W. College Drive, Avon Park, FL 33825


OPEN TO ALL SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE ALUMNI



Scan the QR code to register today!

Registration includes SFSC swag, Sebring Sodafest Tasting Cards, ballgame food, tailgate games, and a good time.

FREE EVENT, but you must register.



SFSC Foundation Adds Four New Members to its Board of Directors

The SFSC Foundation welcomes Chris Campbell, Sarah Evers, Jacob Cook, and Dr. Amy Bennett to its Board of Directors. The new members are bringing fresh ideas and support from the three counties in South Florida State College's service district. We look forward to seeing how this Foundation Board works as a team to build for the future at SFSC.

Dr. Amy Bennett, representing DeSoto County, has more than 30 years of experience in education, serving students



Dr. Amy Bennett

and families across Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. Over the course of her career, Dr. Bennett has taught at every educational level from elementary to secondary schools, and adult education. A passionate

advocate for student success and community engagement, she is dedicated to creating opportunities that empower learners and strengthen communities, and believes in the power of education to transform lives.

Chris Campbell, representing Highlands County, possesses extensive experience in business leadership and community



Chris Campbell

service. Campbell has worked in the insurance industry for over 25 years and is the owner of an insurance agency. He is currently serving as the Highlands County commissioner for District 5 with a seat on the

Insurance Committee. He is also a member of the Sebring Airport Authority and the Value Adjustment Board. He serves on the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Future Technology Committee for the Florida Association of Counties. His priorities

include supporting educators, bringing vocational and technical programs to the area, and creating jobs locally. His combination of business insight, public service, and dedication to education make him a valuable addition to the Foundation's leadership team.

Jacob Cook, representing Highlands and Hardee counties, is vice president and chief operating officer of AdventHealth Sebring,



Jacob Cook

Lake Placid, and Wauchula where he is dedicated to advancing whole person care through operational excellence and compassionate leadership. During his decade with AdventHealth, he served as executive

director of operations at AdventHealth Lake Wales, leading initiatives such as expanding the emergency department and launching the hospital's Robotic Surgical Program. He also guided the development of Health Park Operations across Central Florida, supporting multisite growth and innovation.

Sarah Evers, representing Hardee County, is the chief operating officer of The Development Group, Hardee County's



Sarah Evers

premier economic development organization. With a strong background in economic development and strategic planning, she has led initiatives that drive business growth, workforce development, and community

investment. Evers brings a deep understanding of the unique challenges facing rural communities and has a proven record of securing funding and fostering public-private partnerships. Evers' commitment to education and regional advancement makes her a valuable member of the Foundation Board.

Foundation Raises \$25,100 on GivingTuesday

GivingTuesday 2025 was a success!

The SFSC Foundation extends our heartfelt gratitude for the generous contributions from the community, friends of the Foundation, faculty, staff, and alumni during our GivingTuesday 2025.

Thanks to the support of individual donors on Dec. 2, GivingTuesday efforts raised \$15,100. A matching donation from The Thakkar Family Foundation added another \$10,000 and brought the overall total to \$25,100.

This is amazing and what an impact it will have for the College and our students. To the participating individuals on GivingTuesday, you are making a difference! You are supporting leaders and building for the future starting with higher education at South Florida State College.

A special thanks to the Thakkar Family Foundation for their commitment to build for a brighter future as a matching donor. The impact this match made was powerful in helping to yield life-changing results.





South Florida State College
600 West College Drive
Avon Park, FL 33825

On the Calendar

Foundation Events

Boots & Bling 2026 Learning and Legacy Gala

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 | 6 P.M.
The Hotel Jacaranda
RSVP required.

The Jacaranda Jubilee

MONDAY, NOV. 30, 2026 | 6:30 P.M.
The Hotel Jacaranda Veranda
RSVP required.

GivingTuesday

TUESDAY, DEC. 1, 2026 | All day online
southflorida.edu/support-sfsc/givingtuesday

The Christmas Luncheon

THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 2026 | 11:30 A.M.
The Hotel Jacaranda
RSVP required.

Board Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 | NOON
Zoom

Board Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 | 5:30 P.M.
SFSC Board Room

SFSC Events

Spring Commencement

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2026
Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the
Performing Arts
SFSC Highlands Campus