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## Message from Complete Florida

Welcome! We continue to support returning adults as they pursue their college degrees, and that means [Complete Florida](#) tries to break down any barriers this population might face. To that end, we have issued a challenge to our partner institutions, which include colleges and universities throughout the state. We asked them to submit proposals that outline ways they can implement

the use of Open Education Resources in their general education classes or in a course that is part of a [Complete Florida online degree](#). The proposal deadline is May 1. Up to \$60,000 may be requested per proposal. We are also planning to continue the conversation about adult degree attainment with other stakeholders in the equation as we plan to take part in the Florida College Access Network's annual convening in May in Orlando with co-presenters from Complete College America and The Graduate Network. Stay tuned for more updates.

Michelle Horton

Complete Florida Director



## Challenge Issued

Because textbook costs affect student success and graduation rates, Complete Florida has issued a challenge to partner institutions to

increase the use of Open Educational Resources in Complete Florida programs and general education courses. Proposals are due to [Michelle Horton](#) by May 1. Proposals must include a one-to-two page description that explains the implementation of current or proposed plans to use OER, plus a timeline and budget for the project. The OER must cover material for a general education course requirement or material specifically associated with a course in a Complete Florida degree program. Look for the announcement of the OER Challenge winners in a future edition of the Complete Florida Newsletter. In the meantime, if you know of any type of OER available to students we may share with our partner institutions, please send an email to our communications manager, [Brandy Allport](#), so we can spread the word.

## Join Us

Save the date, and join us for a conversation that includes stakeholders throughout the state and the nation! Complete Florida will host a convening during the [Florida College Access Network Annual Summit](#), on May 10 and 11 in Orlando. Complete Florida invites partner institutions to participate in a discussion called "Coaching to Completion: Improving Degree Attainment for Returning Adults." Representatives from [Complete College America](#) and [The Graduate Network](#) will share information on national efforts about this topic. Complete Florida partner institutions can have their conference registration paid for by Complete Florida. Questions? Email [Michelle Horton](#).



## FCAN Webinar

Register for a free Florida College Access Network webinar called "Getting to the Finish Line: Unique Postsecondary Barriers Adult

Students Face." The online discussion, led by Kathy McDonald, assistant director of network partnerships for FCAN, and Michelle Horton, director of Complete Florida, will happen at 2 p.m. March 15. Join the conversation about common hurdles adult students face and how creative institutions meet the challenge. Horton will share results from a recent Complete Florida survey that highlights students' perspectives. To register, [click here](#).

## Student Spotlight

Shaneka Brown, 39, is currently pursuing her A.S. degree in Business Administration at Florida State College at Jacksonville. Shaneka works full-time as an eligibility specialist at a company that helps clients research, coordinate and secure health-care benefits. Her goal is to finish a bachelor's degree in human resource management and work in the field. Shaneka also has two sons, ages 16 and 21. She works from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and is enrolled in 12 credit hours of coursework at FSCJ. All of her classes are fully online. "You have to be organized, organized, organized to do all this," Shaneka said. "I go to work, and then in the afternoons and evenings and on weekends, I do school work." For a humanities class she is taking this semester, Shaneka often puts on headphones during her lunch break to listen to material for assignments. When Shaneka does school work at home, she jokes that her sons know to leave her alone unless they have issues that involve "fire, flood or blood." Shaneka started down the path to finish her college degree 16 years ago. "I always knew I would finish what I started," Shaneka said. When she returned to FSCJ, an advisor told Shaneka about Complete Florida. Shaneka applied for and received a Complete Florida scholarship. "Since I am a bit further along in life, incurring a massive student debt is not appealing to me. Therefore, any funds that I can receive to offset any potential need for loans is much appreciated. I can complete my education with peace of mind, not having to worry about a huge bill at the end of my self-improvement journey."



## What We're Reading

- [Valuing Learning, Wherever It Occurs](#)
- [Shared Benefits of Adult Postsecondary Access](#)
- [Using Data Mining to Explore Why Community College Transfer Students Earn Bachelor's Degrees with Excess Credits](#)



## Who Are We?

Complete Florida is a high-tech, low-hassle, online program for busy adults to finish their college degree and land their dream job. We provide free concierge coaching services for students returning to college.

[CompleteFlorida.org](#).

## By the Numbers

**14** Partner schools

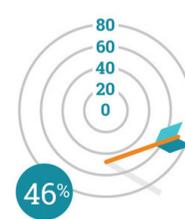
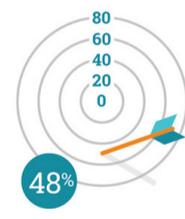
**130+** Degree programs available through Complete Florida partner institutions

**6,100+** Students working with a Complete Florida Coach

**\$630,000+** Awarded in scholarships from Complete Florida

**758** Graduates

## The Impact of Textbook Cost on Students



## What Students are Saying

"I am pursuing this degree as a transitional approach into my second career."

~Dana

"Complete Florida stands for what I believe in. I will be able to finally complete my college education and reach my career goals."

~Thomas

"With a full-time job and a family, keeping up with the pace has been challenging but also enriching and enjoyable."

~Candace

"I realized how short life really is and there is no need to delay what I have been wanting to pursue since high school."

~Nikki

"Earning this degree will give me the opportunity to move into another growing industry where I can advance my career."

~Suzanne

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