

**Regional Scholarship Providers Network (RSPN)  
Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
SCF Lakewood Ranch**

1. **Meeting Attendees** – There were 23 attendees at the January meeting.

1. Linda	Benedict	CareerSource Suncoast
2. Susie	Bowie	William G. and Marie Selby Foundation
3. Diana	Dill	Take Stock in Children Sarasota
4. Laura	Dykstra	Community Foundation Sarasota County
5. Lynette	Edwards	Delta Sigma Theta
6. Heather	Ferrigno	Education Foundation of Sarasota County
7. Brent	Giangregorio	Women’s Resource Center
8. Bianca	Harris	Education Foundation of Sarasota County
9. Kristin	Jablon	Catholic Community Foundation of SWFL
10. Caitlin	Joyner	Rotary Futures
11. Ron	Kline	ASALH
12. Carlos	Moreira	University of South Florida
13. Theresa	Quinn	Take Stock in Children Manatee
14. Gina	Rosabal	UnidosNow
15. Gayle	Ross	Charlotte Community Foundation
16. Julie	Spicer	William G. and Marie Selby Foundation
17. Kristin	Taylor	Gulf Coast Community Foundation
18. Bradley	Tibor	State College of Florida Foundation
19. Jenna	Thiel	Education Foundation of Sarasota County
20. Lori	Tomlinson	State College of Florida Foundation
21. Clara	Villanueva	University of South Florida
22. Taylor	Wey	University of South Florida
23. Kiarra	Womack	William G. and Marie Selby Foundation

2. **Welcome** – Susie welcomed the group and thanked SCF, also noting the multi-county representation at the meeting. She reviewed the reasons for the creation of the RSPN emphasizing that the goal is really about building community. The group objectives include *strengthen relationships, improve communications, increase collaboration, share information, and learn and develop together.*
3. **Intro** - Kiarra reviewed the agenda and asked attendees to introduce themselves along with providing their New Year’s Intention. Below is a synopsis of the responses.
- a) Family Time, Relationship Building, Mindfulness, Balance, Wellness, Magic, and Devotion
4. **Education Foundation of Sarasota County Presentation**- Heather Ferrigno, Scholarships Manager, and Jenna Thiel, Student Success Coach at the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, presented the organization focuses on life readiness and academic support for students. They primarily provide college success services for Sarasota County students and offer direct scholarships for high school students. They run various student programs such as FAFSA workshops, 1:1 student success

coaching, resume, ACT/SAT support, and mentoring. They host college/career fairs as well as scholarship workshops and convene a group of community partners (Planit SRQ) led by Thomas Williams. Every year Heather maintains and updates a scholarship directory of funding opportunities for Sarasota residents to gain access to more funding opportunities. The system can be filtered and searched by specific groups. RSPN members suggested adding a section to reflect opportunities for continuing college students and undocumented students. Heather's goal is to continue adding scholarships from providers that support Sarasota County residents to grow the directory.

5. **Scholarship Selection Process**— Kiarra Womack presented opportunities for fine-tuning the scholarship selection process. In breakout groups, members discussed parts of their selection processes and changes they made or are considering. Below is a summary.

What We Learned:

- There are 3 general stages of the Scholarship Selection Process
    - Initial Stages & Timeline
    - Review
    - Selection & Final Stages
  - Initial Stages & Timeline:
    - Start planning and outlining your selection process early
    - Adjust and Review scholarship criteria and requirements each cycle
      - Sharing inclusive practices and criteria with donors to assist your process
    - Market to your audience
    - Have an informed practice that is amendable to educational rulings, trends, and actual student needs
  - Review
    - Select Scholarship Reviewers that reflect the recipients you desire
    - Thoroughly train reviewers on your criteria and inclusive selection
    - Consider putting in place a rubric to ensure you select, best-fit recipients
    - Communicate scholarship expectations to candidates upfront
  - Selection & Final Stages
    - Only collect information from candidates that is necessary to your program
    - Minimize student burden, combine follow-up tasks in one message
    - Solicit feedback from candidates, recipients and reviewers
  - Share meeting takeaways by completing the survey [HERE](#). If interested, indicate your priority for a follow-up meeting on the scholarship selection process in the survey.
6. **Scholarship Season Reflection & Celebration** - Susie closed the meeting by sharing that the Selby Foundation will be looking into a special celebration opportunity for RSPN members to reflect on the scholarship season. Please stay tuned for more information.
7. **Closing** – Kiarra thanked everyone for attending and encouraged them to reach out to her directly to offer input on how to make the Network as impactful as possible. The next quarterly meeting date will be communicated via email.