

Gov. Lawton Chiles 10:40 - 11:06

If we could have a program that says to every child, if you work hard, if you make those grades, if you are able to make it, there is help there. There will be business people in your community that will see that you get the help as well as the mentoring be able to help you go on. I tell ya the future of this state would be very assured as we go into the next century.

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Marjorie TurnBull

The idea for the challenge scholarship was prompted by a program that started in the early 1980's in Harlem. A philanthropist recognized the fact that if you challenged children, let them know they had the opportunity to go to college, they would succeed. And he promised a whole group of children there that if they finished High School he would pay for their education.

Bill Green

the Foundation started looking into the possibility of setting up these scholarships

Marjorie TurnBull

We took that idea and coupled it with the Florida Pre-pay scholarship program

Craig Fletcher CHALLENGE 7 39.05.15-50.34.15

The challenge scholarship is different in that the student knows in 7th, 8th or even in 6th grade, in middle school, that they have a scholarship, that their education is paid for .

Bill Green

we decided it was really middle school because that's where young people are formulating their goals for the future

Craig Fletcher CHALLENGE 9 9.00.30.00-?????

Middle school is important for two reasons. One, the child has not gone to high school, has not begun to take the wrong classes in preparation for college. Two, the child can know up front, I've got my college paid for and they can concentrate

T.K. Wetherell

We believe it is really unique and we believe it builds a partnership between the school, the college, the public school system and the family of the particular individual.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

The TCC foundation has put a very high priority on this program because we think it reflects the goals of the college.

Craig Fletcher

there are two main criteria in the selection of the children: one is that they are from a family that is middle to low income; and two, that they are children who have no one in the family, a parent or guardian, who has not received a bachelor's degree from college

Bill Green

Our challenge scholarship recipients are identified in middle school and in order to keep their scholarships they have to stay drug free and they have to keep their grades up and graduate pretty much on time and we think that's a great incentive for them.

Craig Fletcher

they're like any other kid, they are excited, they want to succeed in life, they want to be successful and its exciting to look at those kids and then for the challenge scholarship to say to a thirteen year old, "you have your first two years at Tallahassee Community College paid for,

T.K. Wetherell

A lot of these students really, college is a dream to them, it's not a reality. By awarding the scholarship, it opens up doors for them that psychologically they weren't prepared to even think existed.

Michael Hamilton CHALLENGE 7 1.37.10-5.05.08

it used to be that I didn't really like school. But now that I won a scholarship, I'm going to work hard to keep my scholarship, and make good grades

Tiffany Davis CHALLENGE 13 13.03.10.05-13.05.08.08

it's like a great opportunity for me to come here to TCC so I can go ahead and be what I want to be and which is a nurse, a pediatric nurse, I want to be a pediatric nurse.

Mystery Girl

Mainly, I believe it means, an opportunity. It opens up many doors. and it'll help me to, you know, concentrate on my academics more.

Craig Fletcher CHALLENGE 7 39.05.15-50.34.15

We have two families that after the kid had received the scholarship, the parents, one of the parents has already gone back to school and the other one is starting this summer, right now. So not only is the child got a scholarship, it has inspired in this case two mothers to go back and to work on their own education. Now, that's exciting.

Mrs. Jaymes CHALLENGE 7 7.00.00.00-7.03.57.27

Just because they receive those scholarships is an incentive for other students to do better in all of their classes. What I found in the two years I've been working in the program, these students that receive these scholarships have a very very good incentive for other students to do better, because basically all the students who received the scholarship increased their grades.

Jim Jackson CHALLENGE 8 30.11.28-33.56.02

All of a sudden things aren't just as simple as going home and playing intendo all afternoon. And thats fine, thats great, and its fun, but its neat to see the kids being concerned about their futures, being concerned about going to college someday, being succesful, and making a living somewhere along the way.

Queen E. Webster CHALLENGE 13 13.00.30.00-13.03.10.04

They have pretty much made up their minds that they want to go to college and they feel much more positive about going to college with knowing that they are going to get some financial help and one of the main things that I think has really improved is their attitudes. They're much more apt to want to go on and get everything done now on time. It really has an impact on them as far as their study habits are concerned.

Shirley Snow

I'm very proud of my daughter, she's an "A" student and I've seen a great difference in her. I've seen her motivation increase. I've seen her try harder to work on others, you know, her peers and to improve herself more and look forward to college. She speaks often of wanting to be a pediatrician or an attorney. And it makes me very proud.

Jessaica Paul's Grandparents

I would tell them Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. And I appreciate what they've done for the children that don't have the money to go to college with.

Marshall Cassidy CHALLENGE 7 33.56.10-39.05.14

I see it as one of the most valuable ways to invest in the education of students and also get some help from the State of Florida.

Gwendolyn Butler

Its a great blessing to my family and I that my two daughters received these scholarships.

Shirley Snow

Its meant a great deal to us, because now my daughter has a chance to go to college and take some of the stress off of the financial part of it

T.K. Wetherell

Well right now the amount of money that is available for us as a community college or the public schools is somewhat limited. Accordingly we have to go to the community for community help and community support.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

We have had businesses, individuals, service clubs come forward. I think they recognize that providing these children, with that opportunity is just an amazing value to their gift.

Bob Kellam CHALLENGE 7 7.42.08-10.14.10

When you're starting with students that are in the 6th and 7th and 8th grades and trying to enrich them and kind of prevent problems that may occur in their education later on. That's the right thing to do and that's the time you need to get started.

Bill Green CHALLENGE 13 13.13.54.28-13.16.50.28

the health of a community is directly proportional to the educational opportunities available to youth and we want the folks in Tallahassee to have full educational opportunities and then become productive members of the community, and have a good live.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

The foundation goals with regard to the scholarship program are in the neighborhood of 25-30 new scholarships a year. Rember the state matches these contributions on a 60-40 basis. It's a good investment as far as scholarships are concerned.



Bill Green CHALLENGE 13 13.13.54.28-13.16.50.28

I think its been our numberone innovative initiative in the past two years. Its really a high priority and we continue to emphasize it and we believe it will expand, we think our local citizens will sponsor more of these and become a bigger and bigger part of TCC.

T.K. Wetherell

It's a good use of personal dollars and it's a good use of state dollars. So the donor gets the benefit of the state match by making his or her contribution.

Bill Green CHALLENGE 13 13.13.54.28-13.16.50.28

These are tax deductible. So you really get some bang for your buck and its for a great cause.

Marshall Cassidy CHALLENGE 7 33.56.10-39.05.14

I can't see a better place to invest the dollars that are tax deductible, it keeps the children focused, it keeps the parents focused and it keeps a family in harmony whilethat child's going through its educational process.

T.K. Wetherell

Overall the whole thing goes to the education of a child, so it's a good deal for the state, a good deal for the donor and a good deal for the recipient.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

Another portion of the program is establishing a mentor with each of the children and someone who will work with them on a regular basis to answer their questions about college, to continue to encourage them.

Shirley Snow

the scholarship is more than the financial part of it. The mentor and the development throughout the whole school year is very meaningful to myself and to my daughter. It keeps them motivated. It keeps them interested. It keeps them doing their classwork.

Craig Fletcher CHALLENGE 9 9.00.30.00-?????

What we're looking for in a mentor is an individual, or a couple, that are willing to spend some time with the child, Being a mentor is not being a Santa Claus. It's not, they're "I've gotta buy a lot of gifts for these kids". Its exposing them to new opportunities that they haven't been exposed to.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

If an individual contributes then, if they are willing, we tie them together with the student and with the students family

Craig Fletcher CHALLENGE 7 39.05.15-50.34.15

I like to get out and I like to make special time and I spend a lot of my Saturdays doing things for and with the kids. And I try to invite my family.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

If a service club sponsors a scholarship then you have a whole group of potential mentors with in the club and we encourage that.

Craig Fletcher CHALLENGE 9 9.00.30.00-?????

Having a mentor is important because they've been called in some instances the glue. Not that the parent is excluded in any way but sometimes just a different angle and a different way. And these mentors can be very effective.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

The first thing any organization or individual should do to find out more about the challenge scholarship is to call the TCC Foundation. We would be happy to sit down with an individual and explain in detail about the challenge scholarship program. Anyone who contacts us, we will be there to discuss the opportunities for them.

MARJORIE TURNBULL

It's simply not enough to take a child that young, who's in middle school, still finding their way, still trying to make sure they succeed in high school and give them the scholarship and not keep up with them and let them know there is someone there to help them workout any problems they might have in school, personal problems, also expand their horizons by taking them places that perhapsthey wouldn't have had an opportunity to go. And so it is these kinds of things, it is these kinds of kinds of added experiences that I think will mean we are going to have a very high success rate for these children going on to college from high school.

T.K. Wetherell

We see this as an investment in Florida's future and really an investment in America's future.

David CHALLENGE 5 19:02:00-22:24:13

Thank you very much. You gave me a wonderful opportunity to go to college. Its not something that mostly just comes round every day.