

**Section 10: Project Narrative, Item 1**

(Name of Institution) University of Florida

| 1) Project Abstract  | Points Earned |
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| <p>University of Florida College Reach-Out Program (CROP) is responsible for identifying, recruiting, and retaining economically and educationally disadvantaged students, ages 11 – 19, in grades 6 through 12 from five targeted middle (Howard Bishop, and Lincoln), three targeted high schools (Eastside, Gainesville, and Lofton), and two schools serving middle and high school students (P. K. Yonge and Hawthorne) in Alachua County and assisting them in the admission to and successful completion of postsecondary education (PSE). Focusing on academic excellence and rigor, career exploration, retention, college access and economic mobility, CROP is critical for the rural, urban and suburban populations of Alachua County and increases the success of students as they move toward postsecondary opportunities. The program’s goals are to increase student interest in academic excellence and enhance academic skills while preparing them for entrance into a postsecondary institution. The program will educate students and parents on effective reading, writing and math skills, new and innovative studying methods and goal setting techniques, which will keep the student focused and motivated to achieve her or his educational goals. Parents, with their children, will attend workshops and visit college campuses so that they will be equipped with the information needed to motivate their child(ren) to succeed through middle and high school (and achieve a postsecondary education).</p> <p>This project includes both a strong academic component and strong partnerships designed to: (1) develop and enhance basic skills by providing supplemental instruction and academic and career counseling; (2) provide students with rigorous coursework preparation through enrollment in Level II and III classes and foreign language classes; (3) provide exposure through cultural activities and educational field trips; (4) prepare students for college entrance exams; (5) provide guidance and assistance with postsecondary enrollment, retention and the financial aid process; (6) provide students with information on civic responsibility and citizenship; (7) expose students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields; (8) assist students in testing out of college remediation classes; and (9) provide support and/or resources for students in their first-year at a postsecondary institution.</p> <p>CROP is proactive in ensuring that our learning goals are aligned with state performance measures. CROP expects to: (a) increase assessment scores to the state averages for 2013 as reported by the <i>Office of Assessment and School Performance</i>; (b) increase overall GPA of 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders to 3.0; (c) maintain promotion rates at 97% or above for 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> graders; (d) maintain a graduation rate at or above 95%; (e) increase the number of students enrolled in Honors/AP/Dual enrollment courses by 2.8%.</p> <p>These activities will collectively result in the long-term measurable outcome of increasing the number of CROP students who upon high school graduation are admitted to, and successfully complete postsecondary education. CROP is taking a proactive approach to ensure students are taking advantage of all services provided.</p> |               |