

Joining Forces

Collaboration of Earn to Learn Florida
& Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast



Summary

Effective October 18, 2023, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast (BGCS), a leading youth service organization in Pinellas County, has merged with Earn to Learn FL (ETLFL), an education program that combines personal finance training with scholarship opportunities. This allows BGCS to serve as a bridge from high school graduation to young adults up to 24 years of age.

With a focus on educational success and life skill development, the Earn to Learn FL model will remain intact and provide its core program components to Boys & Girls Clubs members.



"It has made it possible for me to go to school and continue to earn a college degree. Without this scholarship I would not have been able to attend college. It has helped me learn how to budget my money properly and be wise."

Jacob Rivera

"ETLFL has helped me with my college journey by explaining things I didn't understand and answering any questions I had."

Maricela Espinosa



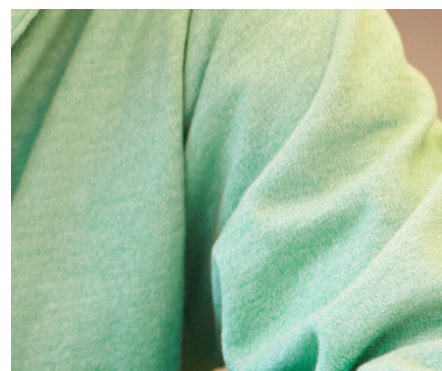
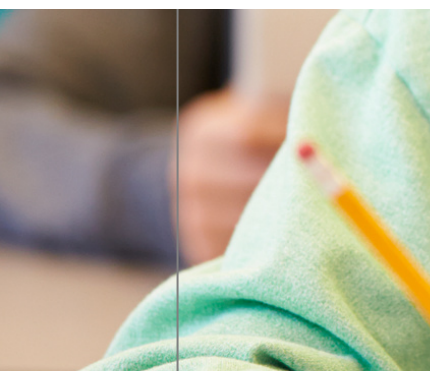
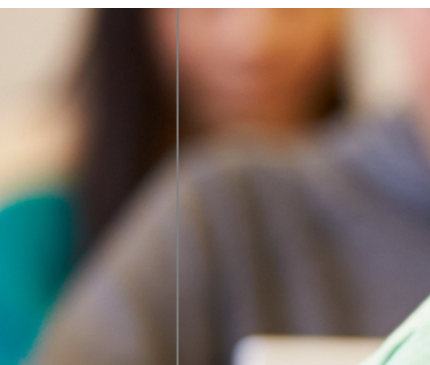
About Earn to Learn Florida

Earn to Learn FL empowers low- to moderate-income students to financially prepare for a successful college experience through matched savings financial assistance, near-peer success coaching, financial capability education, and mentorship.

Enrolled participants sign up to become both earners and learners; completing Personal Finance Training, opening a 529 Savings Account, becoming eligible to earn a 1-, 2-, or 4-year Florida Prepaid Tuition scholarship.

"ETLFL has changed my life. College expenses can be a burden. With the scholarship provided, I can focus on my studies without stressing about finances."

Herbney Niace



About Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast

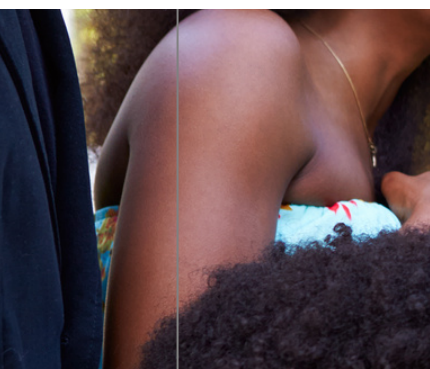
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast is a youth development organization that provides targeted services and resources to over 500 youth daily at 10 afterschool Club locations, additionally BGCS provide outreach programming to over 20,000 kids and teens in the areas of literacy, workforce readiness, drug prevention, and feeding at 20 community impact sites.

The organization's four pillars of success: 1. Health & Well Being, 2. Character & Leadership, 3. Academic Success, and 4. Life and Workforce Readiness serve as the foundation for daily programs.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast mission is to provide high quality out of school time Club experiences proven to ensure our young people, especially those who need us most, are on track to graduate from high school with a plan, demonstrate good character and citizenship, and live a healthy lifestyle.

"It has allowed me to attend the University of Florida to receive a degree in computer science, without it I wouldn't be able to attend this amazing college."

Fabian Estrada





Brenda Tate

*Founder
Earn to Learn FL*

Brenda Tate is a long-time community leader who has served in support of causes ranging from education and conservation to human trafficking and transportation. Brenda routinely works behind the scenes to create strategic alliances and strong partnerships by fostering effective collaboration to get the jobs done, including raising money, securing legislation, and negotiating deals to fulfill the missions of worthy causes. Besides founding Earn to Learn FL, she was the founder of the Southwest Florida Women's Foundation.

Notable Community Involvement Includes:

- **Student Advocate and Fund Raiser for the Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program**
- **Board Member of ECHO Global Farm**
- **Gulf Shore Life 2009 Philanthropist of the Year**
- **Member of WomenMovingMillions**
- **Georgia Department of Transportation's Enhancement Activity (TEA) Advisory Panel Chair**
- **Trust for Public Land Coordinator for community based land conservation initiatives in Georgia**
- **Georgia Rails Into Trails Society Founders**

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Freddy Williams

President & CEO Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast

Freddy Williams is a Boys & Girls Clubs alumnus and credits the Club for saving his life. He became President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast in 2016 and is deeply rooted in the Tampa Bay Region.

Mr. Williams serves as the National Chairman of the Board of Directors for Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Professional Association.

BGCS Highlights during his Tenure:

- **The organization's budget has grown from \$2.5M/year to \$10.1M/year.**
- **The organization increased the number of youth served from 4,100/year to 22,000/year including specialty programs. Traditional Club site programming serves approximately 500 youth daily.**
- **The Board of Directors of the Suncoast chapter was named the Highest Performing Board Team by Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 2022.**

Freddy also serves on the Board of Governors of the Pinellas Community Foundation, the Board of Directors of the Leadership Tampa Bay Foundation, the Board of Governors of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the CEO Council of Tampa Bay.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida with honors and his MBA with a specialization in Corporate Finance and Accounting from Florida International University. Additionally, he holds graduate certificates in Performance Measurement from Harvard University, Nonprofit Innovation from Arizona State University, and Fundraising Management from the University of Indiana.

Press Release

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE SUNCOAST JOINS FORCES WITH EARN TO LEARN FL

At-risk teens will be connected with job and life readiness skills while receiving scholarship opportunities.

(St. Petersburg, FL, October 18, 2023) – Earn to Learn FL (ETLFL), an education program that combines personal finance training, coaching, and mentorship with scholarships, and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast (BGCS), a leading youth service organization in Pinellas County, announced a collaborative agreement today. The similar missions and values, community investments, and targeted audiences served as the catalyst for the agreement.

The combined entities will operate under Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast to launch a program in early 2024 based on the ETLFL scholarship model. The partnership will equip BGCS to serve young adults ages 16-24 with the essential skills needed to prepare them for life after high school graduation.

"Recognizing that our work is not only a moral imperative, but an economic necessity, the strategic agreement will accelerate our ability to play a contributory role in developing a pipeline of talent for the Tampa Bay region and the State of Florida. We will now be able to serve as a bridge from high school graduation to young adulthood and provide additional support and interventions at a critical time for young people. I would like to thank Brenda Tate and the Board of ETLFL for their leadership, vision, and entrusting Boys & Girls Clubs," states Freddy Williams, BGCS CEO.

In response to the Tampa Bay Partnership's Regional Competitiveness Report, BGCS convened more than 40 key regional partners to address the Tampa Bay region's lagging talent indicators compared to peer markets. The collaborative agreement between BGCS and ETLFL is an example of two strong organizations joining forces to offer strategic solutions to some of the region's harshest challenges.

"The 2023 Report shows that there are 58,803 young adults in Tampa Bay that are neither employed nor enrolled in school," said Bemetra Simmons, President and CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership. "The Partnership is thrilled that the data helped inspire collaborative solutions, and we applaud this joint initiative that will support students during the critical juncture of high school into the workforce."

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Press Release continued...

Brenda Tate, Founder & CEO of ETLFL, will continue to provide leadership and guidance by serving on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast. The ETLFL scholarship model empowers income challenged students with opportunities to complete their education on time, career ready and on sound financial footing. Eligible scholarship participants sign up to become both earners and learners by:

1. Completing personal finance training
2. Opening a Florida 529 Savings Account
3. Remaining eligible to earn a 1-2- or 4-year Florida Prepaid Tuition scholarship.

“The ETLFL model is a proven formula for student success. I am thrilled for the opportunity to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast to take this model for student development and success to the next level for deserving teens in Florida and beyond. This would not be possible without the vision and leadership of both organizations,” states Brenda Tate.

Since 2017 Earn to Learn has accomplished outstanding results.

- \$1.9M in scholarships awarded
- 238 student scholars throughout FL
- 62,000 personal finance training lessons
- 42,000 hours of student coaching/mentoring

“ETLFL has allowed me to be more financially aware of the costs of attending university. It has allowed me to have better spending practices and has allowed me to focus more on my education without the fear of the financial burden that comes from tuition. I'm extremely thankful for all that it has provided me and can't thank the ETLFL team enough for everything that it has done.” Kevin Yang-Li, 2023 ETLFL Scholarship Recipient

"It is an honor to be a part of making such a significant impact in the lives of these students - assisting them in their higher education journey - and seeing them bloom under the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast and the Earn to Learn FL program models," states Cynthia O'Connell, Director, Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast acknowledges the support of the attorney Christie L. Sullivan and the law firm of McFarland, Gould, Lyons, Sullivan & Hogan, P.A. who helped facilitate the strategic agreement process by generously providing their legal services pro bono.

Want to know more? The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast is to provide high quality out of school time Club experiences proven to ensure our young people, especially those who need us most, are on track to graduate from high school with a plan, demonstrate good character and citizenship, and live a healthy lifestyle. For more information call (727) 524-2427 and visit online at www.bgcsun.org.



Thank You!

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast Media Contact

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