



the **immokalee** foundation

education. empowerment. hope.



Founded in 1991, The Immokalee Foundation is 100% focused on education and professional development for more than 1,400 Immokalee children each year from kindergarten to postsecondary education.

During the past 30 years, The Immokalee Foundation has improved the lives of more than 12,000 students. These young people come from homes where English may not be their first language, where finishing high school is considered a high achievement, and where a college degree and career are mere dreams. The Immokalee Foundation continually builds on decades of breaking down barriers, forging new pathways, and changing the lives of Immokalee's youth through effective educational initiatives.

Through The Immokalee Foundation's partnership with Take Stock in Children, we collectively break the cycle of poverty for at-risk, low-income, academically qualified students by providing postsecondary educational opportunities.

With the support of donors, mentors, volunteers and the community, The Immokalee Foundation provides students with the resources, training and confidence to follow pathways to success to meaningful careers and financial independence.

Career Exploration • Business Skills Development • Tutoring • Mentoring
Career Panels • Field Trips • Guest Lectures • Networking Events
Educational Summer Camps • Internships • College Tours • SAT/ACT Prep
Scholarships • Industry-Recognized Certifications • Real-World Experiences

Immokalee Readers

Preparation in Elementary School

Immokalee Readers is an after-school literacy program designed to help the lowest-performing young readers by supplementing their regular classroom instruction with one-on-one tutoring.

The tutors are paid high school students supervised by certified classroom teachers in all five Collier County Public Elementary Schools in Immokalee, as well as a local charter school and an after-school program offered by another nonprofit organization.



Tutor Emily H. assists an Immokalee Reader student.



High schoolers help the younger students by tutoring them in reading — and there are benefits on both sides of the desk! Because many Immokalee students use other languages at home, the supplemental training in English-language usage at a young age is especially important.

Career Pathways Empowering Students to Succeed

Career Pathways is a comprehensive educational approach that breaks new ground in preparing students for professional careers that lead to financial independence.

Desirable professional careers don't always require a college degree. The Immokalee Foundation spent nearly two years developing a new model that focuses on a broad spectrum of professional careers.

Through extensive research and analysis, we identified four pathways for our students that lead to well-paying jobs that are in high demand in Southwest Florida:

-  Business Management & Entrepreneurship
-  Education & Human Services
-  Engineering & Construction Management
-  Healthcare

Over 100

volunteers work in excess of

2,000 hours

each year!



"I was very impressed with the students' passion and drive. It was truly an honor to be involved with the Career Pathways program."



- Joe Abruzzese

Former president of advertising sales for Discovery Communications

Career Exploration in Middle School

Starting in middle school, students participate in an extensive educational process that explores a broad range of careers through a six-week rotation focused on each of the four pathways.

There are career panels, field trips, workshops, career interest and aptitude assessments, a four-week summer STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Academy in partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University, and for eighth-graders, the development of a career plan for high school with the assistance of career counselors.

Throughout each school year, parents learn about the professional pathways available — including information about the demand for specific jobs, the training required, and the average pay — to help forge the partnership between the family and the Foundation that will help their children excel.



100%

of our middle school students complete their Career Action Plan for high school and beyond

Career Immersion in High School

By high school, students have chosen their specific pathway and mentoring remains the core of the student experience. Academic programming includes financial literacy, postsecondary prep programs, career panels and field trips, ACT and SAT prep courses, networking events, and intensive career programming specialized for each of the four pathways.

Students participate in certification courses and paid internships that immerse them in the education and training needed for their pathway, with the goal that each student graduates with an industry-recognized certification.



100%

high school graduation rate



100%

have a postsecondary plan to pursue a professional career

Career Success Scholarships for Postsecondary Education

The Foundation continues to support our students well beyond high school graduation in the Career Pathways model. This support extends to all postsecondary programs, including scholarships for advanced certifications and college degrees.

Counseling and mentoring continue through their chosen postsecondary path to their first job — with face-to-face meetings if possible and video conferencing when students are away or when COVID restrictions are in place.



92%

complete postsecondary professional certification programs or college educations

"I want to have my own family one day — a family I can support financially as well as emotionally. One day, I want to be a role model for my kids and a source of pride for my parents."

--Daniel T.

"I have learned that it takes patience and a lot of self-discipline to overcome obstacles, but if I want to be where I want to be, then I have to learn to conquer my challenges. And I will!"

-- Fatima R.



THE HEST PROGRAM

The Heavy Equipment Service Technician (HEST) Program is an in-demand, highly specialized curriculum consisting of nine courses amounting to 1,800 hours over two years.

Shop, classroom, and software instruction are all part of the program — one supported by some of the heavy equipment industry's biggest names.

Best of all, our graduates are prepared to enter the HEST workforce without needing to go through a formal dealer apprentice program. Because of their training and experience, the HEST program graduates also receive seniority within the companies they join.



Immokalee Foundation student Julio E. supports his growing family with a high-wage job achieved after he graduated from the Foundation's Heavy Equipment Service Technician program.

CAREER PATHWAYS LEARNING LAB

The Immokalee Foundation is building a new 18-home subdivision in Immokalee that serves as a hands-on professional career experience for the Foundation's students.

The Career Pathways Learning Lab is a unique project that enables students involved in the Foundation's Business Management & Entrepreneurship and Engineering & Construction Management Pathways to work with industry professionals and learn about land development, home construction, marketing and sales.

Working with Immokalee Technical College (iTECH), BCB Homes, and Collier Enterprises, The Immokalee Foundation developed a high school curriculum to address the critical need for hands-on professional career experience.



PUBLIC SAFETY CAREER ACADEMY

The Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is partnering with The Immokalee Foundation on a program to train students as 911 dispatchers. The idea for the Academy was born out of a desire by the Sheriff's Office to develop ways to generate public interest in dispatching as a career, while also increasing opportunities for partnerships with the Immokalee community.

Training includes the operation of communication equipment; location mapping

skills; and laws, and policies and procedures for taking, screening and dispatching calls. Students are also trained in understanding the legalities of privacy laws and Florida public records law, how to testify in court cases involving 911 calls, and stress management.

Academy students complete the 232-hours of training required to take the exam to become state certified as a public safety telecommunicator in Florida.



Graciously funded by:



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