

# Nearly 2,000 Osceola Students have toured TECO and Valencia this year

The Celebration Foundation is proud to announce that we are close to our goal of sponsoring 2,000 campus tours of TECO and Valencia College for Osceola County students this year. Over 1,600 students from 24 schools have toured so far.

Campus Express reaches out to our underserved students in the county, many of them first generation Americans. We hope to break the cycle of poverty they live in, increase graduation rates and improve the college going rate in the county.

Dr. Kathleen Plinske (President of Valencia College Osceola) reviewed statistics from the 2014-2015 tours. There were a total of 358 high school seniors who attended tours and completed Valencia interest card, 122 students or 34% of the students then enrolled at Valencia. Pretty impressive considering most of these students had no post-secondary education plans.

Another interesting statistic according to the Florida Department of Education, Osceola County's graduation rates increased from 76.1% in 2010 to 80.6% in 2015. Many partners are working on improving the lives of Osceola students. The Celebration Foundation is pleased to be able to play a role in helping them see the benefit of education beyond high school.

