

CELEBRATION

*Foundation*

## Foundation impacting Osceola County students

The Celebration Foundation is impacting the college going rate in Osceola County. Through their Campus Express program, 1,980 seniors, juniors, seventh graders and fifth graders toured TECO (Technical Education Center Osceola) and Valencia College.

Osceola County has had the lowest college going rate in Central Florida, but that number is slowly improving through a number of programs in the county. The Foundation is proud to be the creator and sponsor of one of those programs.

The Foundation believes that students have to see a college campus to imagine it in their future, having launched Campus Express in 2012 and having partnered with the Osceola School District and Valencia College to deliver a quality program to expose students to the benefits of higher learning. It's making a difference. You can see it when the

students start walking through the campus halls, they begin to imagine themselves taking classes, they enjoy meeting other students and they begin to talk about what they want in their futures.

Two years ago, The Foundation launched Navigators and have enjoyed spending time with fifth graders working on career exploration. It was fun to create vision boards, have them think about mentors and discuss career options based on a brief personality assessment. Our fifth graders in Celebration were pretty savvy and many already had future careers mapped out.

The Celebration Foundation, which offers a number of diverse programs and initiatives, helps to identify problems/opportunities and then find solutions. Helping students to imagine their future careers is an exciting opportunity which impacts many lives in Osceola County.

