



Chalkboard

An insider's look from a reporter's notebook

SWFL winners announced from financial aid challenge

Five high school seniors — one from each of the Southwest Florida counties — have been named winners of the "FAFSA first!" contest.

The challenge, launched by the Future-Makers Coalition, was meant to expose more students and parents to the college funding available through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The contest asked students to post on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #IFiledFAFSAFirst.

The randomly selected winners were given \$500 to use toward college or career school expenses. They are:

» **Anthony Vigliotti:** Charlotte County — Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School

» **Jason Mirabal:** Collier County — Gulf Coast High School

» **Blanca Aranda:** Glades County — Moore Haven Middle High School

» **Thalia Esquivel:** Hendry County — LaBelle High School

» **Maria Estrada:** Lee County — Dunbar High School

As of March 31, 33.34 percent of Southwest Florida seniors have completed an application for financial aid. The federal deadline is June 30.

— *Compiled by Pamela McCabe, K12 education reporter for The News-Press.*



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

The five Southwest Florida high school graduates to win the "FAFSA First!" challenge have been announced.