2020 FutureMakers Coalition Student Voice Report

TALENT HUB EXEMPLAR COMMUNITY

Our Goal
55%

45 SWFL high school students shared their perspectives and experiences via a virtual event with small breakout rooms. They offered insights into some of the barriers to success they face pertaining to education and career goals.
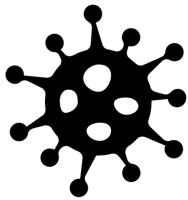
70%

Over 70% of students think that disparities in high school graduation rates are due to racism, homophobia, sexism, and other types of discrimination.

A common theme brought up by students in the event was their feelings of lack of support from school staff. Students want to see more accountability and guidance from teachers and staff.

38%

38% of students say that their high school success has been interrupted by mental health issues and lack of motivation in online school due to COVID-19.

Some of the students' biggest concerns facing COVID-19 and school include struggling with the workload and time management with online school and fear of bringing the virus home to family.
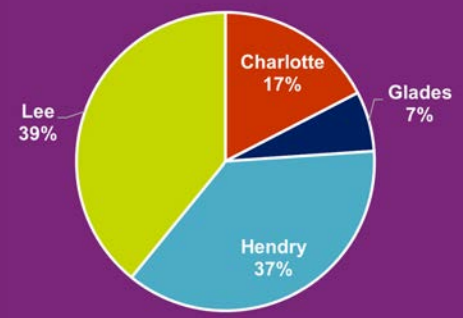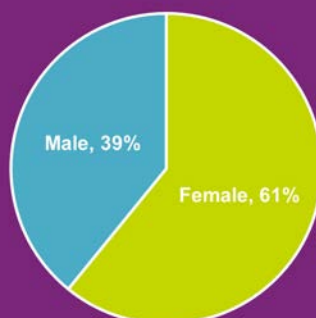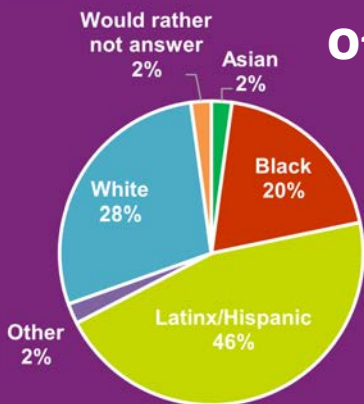
83%

When asked if they think COVID-19 would impact their life after high school, 83% of the students thought it would negatively affect at least some parts of their journey.

When asked about their perception of technical college, students said they are aware of the financial benefits, but they would like more information about the programs. They would also like high school courses with career guidance and "real world" prep.

Of the 45 student summit participants:

Would rather not answer 2%
Asian 2%
Black 20%
White 28%
Other 2%
Latinx/Hispanic 46%

Male, 39%
Female, 61%

Lee 39%
Charlotte 17%
Glades 7%
Hendry 37%

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Our Goal 55%

FutureMakers Coalition is dedicated to improving the education journey for students of all ages across our region. After analyzing data regarding student experience and success, we asked the 45 students for their opinions on how their learning environment can be best suited for them to thrive.

School & Community Encouragement

When we asked the students in our event what their schools and community could do to support their success, a majority of the students mentioned the need for resources that help prepare them for life after high school. They want mental health resources, career exploration programs, job and internship connections, and help with college and scholarship/financial aid applications.

Support & Guidance

A common theme throughout the event was the students' desire for support and accountability from school faculty. They want students and faculty to be held accountable for racism, sexism, and homophobia on campus. They also seek guidance and understanding from counselors and teachers in regards to coping with COVID-19, the new learning environment, and completing applications for post-secondary education and scholarships.

Increasing Post-Secondary Education Enrollment

From the students' perspective, enrollment in post-secondary education would increase if there was promise of a job once they completed their education and it was more easily accessible for students of all demographics (e.g. race, socioeconomic status). The students also want to avoid student debt and know more about the student experience aside from the course work. They also would be more comfortable attending college if they were better prepared for the experience while they are still in high school through application coaching and classes offering "real world" preparation and experience (e.g. taxes, budgeting, etc.).

Student Success & Engagement

Students were asked what was working well in their school or community that is positively contributing to their success and school involvement. They responded with supportive relationships with their peers and faculty, as well as events involving community-wide engagement. They also reported that college preparation in the form of job and internship opportunities and financial aid assistance is crucial for their success as students. Student government, sports programs, and clubs were also reported as factors positively contributing to student engagement.
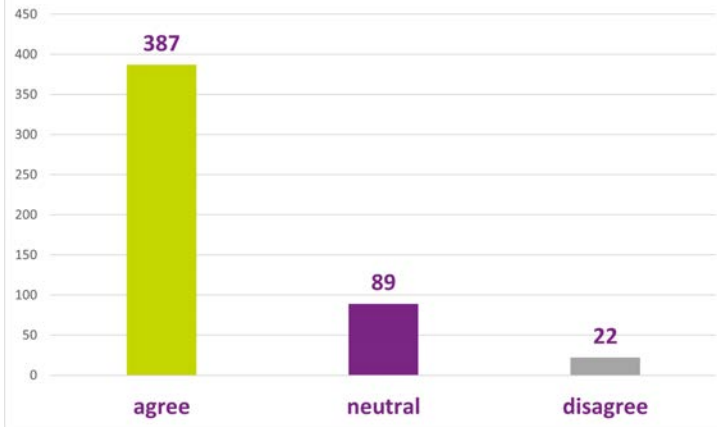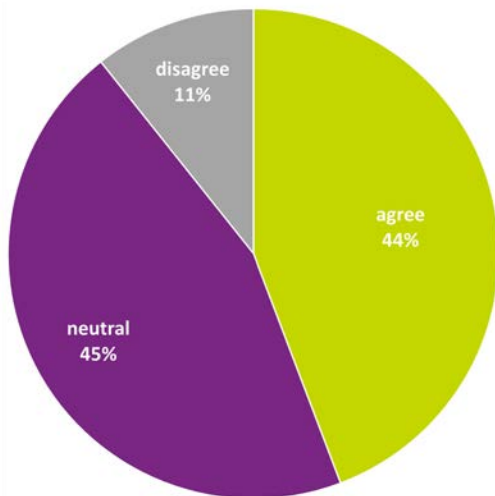
FutureMakers Coalition

500 students completed a survey assessing how they have been affected by COVID-19 and their immediate needs as they juggle school during a pandemic and determining the impact it has on their future.
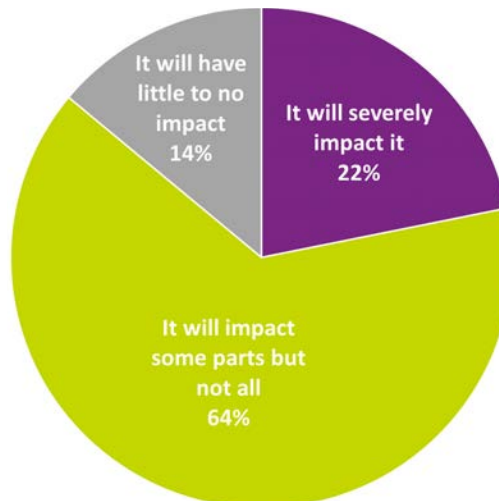
I am hopeful for my future.

HOPEFUL FUTURES

The students who participated in this survey were asked to respond to a statement saying "I am hopeful for my future". 387 students, or **78%** of the participants, agreed, meaning that they are hopeful for their futures, 89 students, or **18%**, said they are neutral, and 22 students, **4%** said they disagree, and they are not hopeful for their futures.
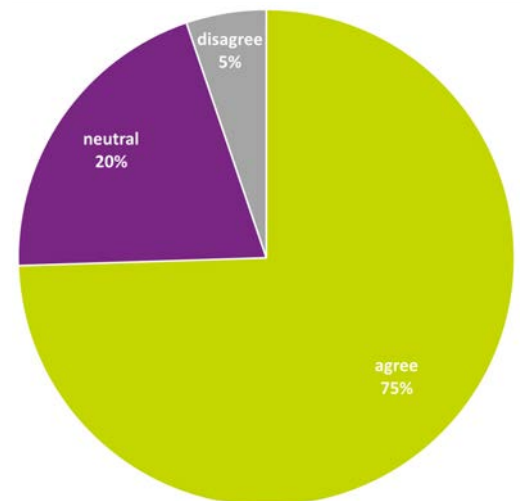

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the survey, the students told us how supportive they feel their community has been during the pandemic. **44%** of the students feel supported by their community, whereas **11%** do not . Almost half of the students, **45%,** feel neutral about the support they have seen from their communities.

POSTSECONDARY JOURNEY

When asked how much they believe the pandemic will negatively impact their postsecondary (school) journey, **64%** of the students said they believe it will impact some part of their journey and **22%** of the students said it will severely impact it, where as **14%** said it will have little to no impact on their journey.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Overall, students reported feeling more supported by their schools than their communities. **75%** of the students who participated in the survey feel that their schools have been supportive during the pandemic, whereas **5%** do not feel supported and **20%** feel neutral.
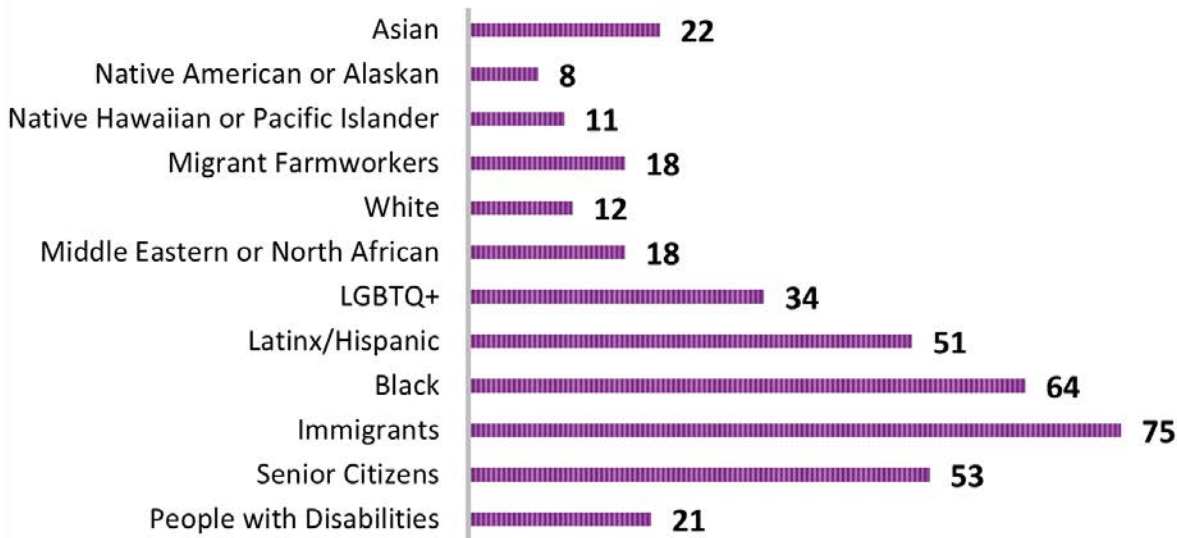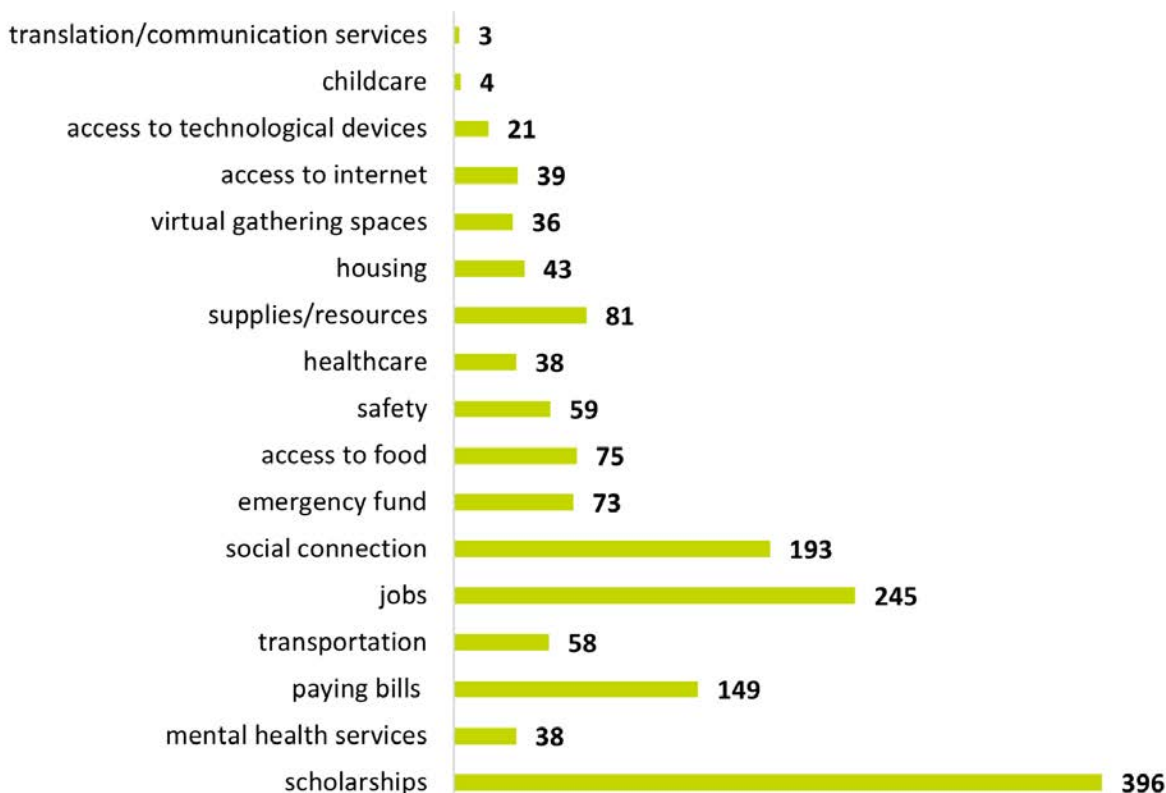
The students were asked the following questions and their responses are as shown.

Have you witnessed or experienced discrimination against any of the following groups because of the impacts of COVID-19?

Group	Count
Asian	22
Native American or Alaskan	8
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	11
Migrant Farmworkers	18
White	12
Middle Eastern or North African	18
LGBTQ+	34
Latinx/Hispanic	51
Black	64
Immigrants	75
Senior Citizens	53
People with Disabilities	21

Results showed that students witnessed or experienced the most discrimination towards Immigrants. The races against whom they have witnessed or experienced the most discrimination are Black and Latinx/Hispanic, and they also reported witnessing discrimination against Senior Citizens, people over the age of 65.

Given the effects of COVID-19, what are your immediate needs as you complete this survey?

Need	Count
translation/communication services	3
childcare	4
access to technological devices	21
access to internet	39
virtual gathering spaces	36
housing	43
supplies/resources	81
healthcare	38
safety	59
access to food	75
emergency fund	73
social connection	193
jobs	245
transportation	58
paying bills	149
mental health services	38
scholarships	396

Almost 400 students are in immediate need of scholarships, which is expected due to on-going trends, the current economic climate, and the expenses associated with higher education. The next most popular need was employment, followed by assistance paying bills. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in job loss for numerous families in SWFL, so it is not surprising that students and their families are in need of these resources. Other immediate needs selected by many students include social connection, supplies & resources, access to food and internet, and emergency funds.