

The Jacksonville Commitment is a unique citywide partnership among Jacksonville's four postsecondary institutions (Edward Waters College, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida), the Duval County Public Schools, and the City of Jacksonville to:

Increase the percentage of students from low income families who are prepared for success in high school, graduate from a high school, and are then admitted to and successfully complete a postsecondary education program by creating a "college going" culture in Jacksonville and its public schools that helps participating middle and high school students and their families prepare for college eligibility, cover college costs, and continue to support students' success in their postsecondary education programs.

The Jacksonville Commitment recognizes that student success is a shared responsibility among students, their families, schools, and the community; and will require community-wide collaboration, commitment and constancy of effort. The Jacksonville Commitment partners will work with families and partner schools to provide needed early and ongoing support during the middle and high school year. Participating students will be expected to set high goals, take and succeed in a challenging college prep curriculum, respect themselves and others, and persist when faced with challenges along the way. The four Jacksonville Commitment postsecondary partners will meet the financial need of each eligible JC participating student through a combination of federal, state, university, and privately funded grants and scholarships and will continue to provide support to JC students as they progress through their programs.

Jacksonville Commitment College Advisors (JCCA) will be housed in each of the Phase I High Schools (Raines HS, Ribault HS, Lee HS, Englewood HS, and Terry Parker HS) to assist students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch and encourage them to participate in The Jacksonville Commitment Program at their respective high school. These JCCA's will work closely with liaisons from each of the four postsecondary partner schools and coordinators of other college access programs to ensure the success of these students and the engagement of their families.

Students who are not enrolled in a Phase I high school will be encouraged to participate in partnering college access programs (i.e. GEAR Up, CROP, First Baptist Church of Mandarin, Upward Bound, etc) and will be eligible for The Jacksonville Commitment Scholarship as well.

UNF has committed to providing full scholarships for Jacksonville Commitment Scholars that will include tuition, fees, books, housing, meal plan, and an allowance for transportation and miscellaneous expenses. These students will also have an assigned Academic Advisor and Financial Aid Coordinator to mentor, assist, and advise them throughout their years at UNF. The first 6 scholarships were awarded Summer 2008. All of our summer Scholars returned for Fall 2008 to form a class of 50 Jacksonville Commitment Scholars.