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Polk State collegiate high schools exceed state graduation rate

Monday, January 23, 2023 — Polk State College's three collegiate high schools exceeded the state's average graduation rate for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, with Chain of Lakes Collegiate celebrating a 100% graduation rate compared to Florida's 87.3%. Lakeland Collegiate came in at 99.4% and Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate saw a 95.2% graduation rate for the last school year.

Polk State's charter high schools allow students to simultaneously complete requirements for their high school diplomas while earning college credits. In most cases, students graduate with both their high school diplomas and Associate in Arts degrees at no cost to them.

Of the 2022 graduating classes at Polk State's collegiate high schools, 58% of students achieved their associate degrees and approximately \$3.4 million was earned in scholarships. Graduates have gone on to continue their education at Polk State, State University System institutions, and Ivy League schools.

For the 2021-2022 Academic Year, Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School and Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School also received A grades. Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School achieved a Commendable school improvement rating, which it receives in place of a school grade due to differences in its mission and charter. Commendable is the highest rating. All three collegiate high schools also received the Governor's School Recognition Award.

Polk State's charter high schools also pride themselves on providing students with both collegiate opportunities and coveted high school experiences including sports, student clubs, activities, and proms.

The application for Polk State's three collegiate high schools is open for the 2023-2024 Academic Year through March 1. Interested students can access the application online at www.polk.edu/charter-high-schools.

The high schools are also hosting info sessions for students and parents:

- Thursday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. on the Winter Haven Campus in WST 126
- Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. on the Lakeland Campus in LTB 1100

About Polk State College

Located in Winter Haven, Florida, and established in 1964, Polk State College is a multi-campus institution serving more than 14,000 students with Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science degrees, as well as 9,000 individuals in a wide range of certificate and workforce training programs. The College also operates three charter high schools.

Polk State's advantages include small class sizes; hands-on learning; dedicated faculty; day and night classes; online options; affordable tuition; excellent financial aid; and a diverse community and vibrant student life, including fine arts opportunities, clubs, and intercollegiate athletics.



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