

Education in Florida on uptick

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As the end of the year approaches, I'd like to commend those who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of Florida's students. Upon being asked, many of us could quickly name a teacher who had a significant impact on our lives. I'd like to say thank you to all Florida teachers for the positive impact they make daily on our children and young adults.

As the president of **Broward College**, I see first-hand the central role they play in preparing students to be college-ready. Teachers are to be commended for the knowledge and experience they impart so that each student in their classroom can be inspired to do great things.

Florida still has work to do in the area of education; however, it is important to note that in the last decade or so, the state has risen from the bottom to the top of achievement rankings. Graduation rates have improved for all Florida students, with the graduation rate, as calculated for 2011 by the Florida Department of Education, being at an all-time high and the drop-out rate at an historic low.

From 1990-1998 Florida saw graduation rates decline by nearly 7 percent, and with the help of many, graduation rates increased by 20 percent. This is due in great part to the dedication of each teacher to student success.

I'd also like to commend students on the hard work they are doing to be successful in the classroom. Their success now will ultimately prepare them to be in college, which will help prepare them for the workforce or their next level of education.

Florida is on the right track, and I look forward to seeing the bright future in store for our students in the coming year and beyond.

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