

Annual Meet & Greet Returns & Re-energizes Schulze College Scholars

by Ana DiMercurio, Program Officer

Meeting face-to-face for the first time in over a year, Florida Schulze Scholars received some long overdue social interaction and valuable insights from a panel of HR professionals. With new scholars heading to college for the first time and returning students resuming in-person learning, we helped kickstart their return and focused the program on Soft Skills and Future Employment Tips. Since most of our students plan to work toward degrees that include health, engineering, accounting, communications, we selected leading employers in our area to guide the conversation.

The Annual Meet & Greet was held on June 2, 2021 and included recruiters from [Arthrex](#), [NCH Healthcare System](#) and [Collier County Public Schools](#). The group of presenters were dynamic and provided candid answers to each scholar's questions and showed a genuine interest in seeing them succeed beyond the classroom, even offering their business cards for future reference.

Panel advice was phenomenal and applauded by our scholars. Among the favorite takeaways came from Valerie Wenrich, Collier County Public Schools. "If you find what you love," she said, "you will never work." Although it's probably something we've all heard before, hearing it from someone who hires hundreds of people each year gave it more credibility for the students.

Connie Byrne, Director of Recruiting at Arthrex, described the job interview as a conversation and encouraged students to always ask questions during any job interview and to make sure to learn something about the company ahead of time. When asked what job seekers should NEVER say, panelists all agreed that applicants should avoid saying things like "they are looking to get their feet wet" or "they want to get their foot in the door."

Overall, it was a great event designed to support our 2021 Schulze College Scholars and welcome them as they begin their college journey.

Please join us in congratulating the new 2021 cohort of Florida Scholars:

Christopher Baier – Saint John Neumann

College: Ave Maria University

Intended Major: Undeclared/Business

John Beqiri – Barron Collier High School

College: University of Central Florida

Intended Major: Aerospace Engineering

Bianca Bernstein – Gulf Coast High School

College: University of Miami

Intended Major: Architecture

Nathaniel Caruso – Seacrest Country Day School

College: Butler University

Intended Major: Digital Media Communications

Nathaniel Czapnik – Gulf Coast High School
College: Florida State University
Intended Major: Exercise Physiology

Spencer Fasulo – Palmetto Ridge High School
College: University of Florida
Intended Major: Computer Science

Mackenzie Kusma – First Baptist Academy
College: University of South Florida
Intended Major: Health Science

Benjamin Peterson – Barron Collier High School
College: Stetson University
Intended Major: Biology

McKenna Pizzuti-Seward – Naples High School
College: West Virginia University
Intended Major: Exercise Physiology

Ava Porraro – Barron Collier High School
College: Florida State University
Intended Major: Biological Sciences

Luke Santamarina – Saint John Neumann
College: University of Florida
Intended Major: Biomedical Engineering

Anne Scheck – Donahue Academy
College: Saint Mary's College
Intended Major: Elementary Education

Isabella Stapp – Seacrest Country Day School
College: Nova Southeastern University
Intended Major: Marine Biology

Alec Valdes – Gulf Coast High School
College: University of Florida
Intended Major: Microbiology

Maribel Vargas – Immokalee High School
College: Florida Gulf Coast University
Intended Major: Elementary Education