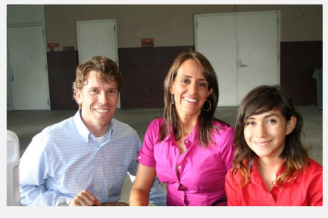




## THE FRIDAY REPORT

Friday, September 19, 2014



Inspirational is the only word to describe this week's Scholarship Signing Ceremony. All 83 of this year's new Take Stock in Children (TSIC) scholarship recipients were in attendance with their family members at the Middleton High School auditorium. With over 300 attendees in the audience, the student scholars were administered the TSIC Pledge by the Take Stock President Madeline Pumariega. It was a wonderful sight to see the entire stage filled with the new scholarship recipients who are in grades 7-10 in our Hillsborough public schools.



For many of the students it was an epic event because, for the majority no one in the family has ever attended college. The life-changing impact of the scholarship could be seen in the grateful attitude of the students and their families. TSIC alumni India White gave an inspirational message to the students on the impact the scholarship had on her life. She described going from a childhood of near homelessness to receiving the scholarship, doing well in her studies at Gaither High School, and to earning her Bachelor's degree in Math from the University of Florida. She now is a Math teacher at Chamberlain High School.

Each year HEF awards hundreds of scholarships to deserving at-risk students. Present on Wednesday night were important scholarship partners, Chris Taylor, President of the William A. Gregory, Jr. Foundation, Chas and Taryn Bruck from the Bruck Family Foundation, and Jamie Patterson, Manager of Community Relations from the Rays Baseball Foundation.

We also could not do this life-changing program without the dedicated work of the HEF TSIC team of William Dailey, Julia Carter, Gabriela Irizarry, Rachel Sutton and Program Director Fred Weber. We also owe thanks to Andy Harris and his mentor subcommittee for their tireless efforts to recruit mentors each year for the program.

Events such as the Scholarship Signing Ceremony make all of us proud to be involved in the life-transforming work of "Connecting Kids to Greatness."

All the Best,

*Phil*

[Click here to view the inspirational video of students taking the TSIC pledge.](#)

### ***Pledge:***

I am a proud member of the Take Stock in Children family. I have been entrusted with a college tuition scholarship to fulfill my dreams of going to college. I am committed to my education and pledge to fulfill my obligations by attending school every day, maintaining good grades and conducting myself in such a way that commands respect, honor, and self-love. I will start strong and finish strong in my pursuit of academic success. I will strive to achieve greatness knowing that my destiny is in my hands. I will remember that I have people in my life that care about me at home, school, and Take Stock in Children. ***I can, I will, I must go to college!***