



## THE FRIDAY REPORT

*Friday, September 26, 2014*

During the college football season much is made of the top 25 football polls each week. The Gator, Seminole and Bulls' fans sometimes live and die by these rankings.

It is only fitting that there is a Top 25 of Education Foundations as well. Every two years a national ranking of K-12 Education Foundations, like our own Hillsborough Education Foundation, is created. The study was opened up this year to include the 100 largest school district K-12 Foundations, up from the previous top 50. Dewey & Associates, located here in the Tampa Bay area, conducts the survey, and brings together a panel of experts to pour over the 990 reports filed with the IRS by 501(c)3 Foundations each year. There are eight performance categories which were measured as reported in the 990. These are revenues, revenues per student, assets, assets per student, grant and program expenses, grant and program expenses per student, investment income, and volunteers.

Let's have the drum roll please. This year, the Hillsborough Education Foundation was rated 6th in the top 100 Education Foundations in America. While this is a great honor, it is worth digging into the numbers to see what they might tell us about our own performance. You might remember that two years ago HEF was rated number four for the top 50 K-12 Education Foundations. This year, Omaha and Philadelphia slipped past us in the rankings. Congratulations to the Pinellas Education Foundation which retained its number one ranking in the nation.

Digging into the numbers of the eight criteria of evaluation, HEF was 14<sup>th</sup> in total revenue with \$5,077,692. Our revenue for the year just completed was \$6,509,227. The revenue numbers for all the evaluations were actually the 990 filings for the 2011-12 fiscal year. This is a good news/bad news issue. It is important to note that FY2011-12, the year the study was based on, was a year of transition in the top staff leadership of the Foundation. Also, after the heavy lifting of the Building Excellence Campaign, our Foundation's donors were catching their breath from a major donor effort. Despite the transition period, the good news is that we were still ranked number six.

Another thing to garner from the comparisons with other Foundations is that the sheer size of the Hillsborough County Public School system at number eight with 197,001 students, makes all of our student per capita numbers lower than the top five ranked Foundations. Philadelphia (#5) ranked 17th with 138,369 students, Denver (#4) ranked 42nd with 80,890, Omaha (#3) at 98th with only 47,940 students and Pinellas (#1) ranked 26<sup>th</sup> with only 103,153 students. Only Clark County, Nevada, with students drawn from Las Vegas and almost half the state (#3) had more students than Hillsborough at 308,237. It is good to remember that most states do not have large county-wide school districts like we do in Florida. HEF was in the top ten in net assets and volunteers, but only ranked 22 in grants and program expenses, which has been one of our main focuses over the past two year as we have grown this part of our Foundation's revenue.

All in all, we can be proud of the effort everyone has given over the past years in making the Hillsborough Education Foundation one of the highest ranking K-12 Education Foundations in America. We still have much to do as we redouble our efforts to connect community resources with the needs of our public school students and their teachers. Our mission, "Connecting Kids to Greatness," is a noble cause. Congratulations to everyone who made this possible in the past. Let's see if we can be number one next time the rankings come out!

All the best,

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