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**\$440,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS IN BELLE GLADE**  
*'Climate Change Initiative' brings hope to Glades Central seniors'*

**Belle Glade, Florida (May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019)** - 50 seniors from Glades Central High School received \$440,000 in Florida Prepaid scholarships as a result of their commitment to the Take Stock in Children Palm Beach & Johnson Scholars program. These graduating seniors joined the program back in 2015 and have maintained their participation in the program throughout high school. This opportunity was made possible because of the 'Glades Climate Change Initiative'.

Four years ago, Take Stock in Children Palm Beach & Johnson Scholars incorporated a 'school climate change' project at Glades Central High School with the purpose of increasing high school graduation rates. Recognizing how this community was underserved, the program initiated a partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, United Way of Palm Beach County and local funders such as Florida Crystals, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, and Extraordinary Charities to promote a culture of economic development. In 2015, the school climate change project adopted one-third of the freshman class at Glades Central High School, paired them with a volunteer mentor, and set them on a course to academic success. Because of this effort, 50 students from Glades Central High School will receive Florida Prepaid college scholarships and begin their journey toward college completion and economic prosperity. *"Our students in the Glades are so deserving of this opportunity. Belle Glade is an area that can often be overlooked because of the economic disparity, but it is so encouraging to know that we are giving the students an opportunity to further their education and improve their future lives and the lives of their family members,"* says Nancy Stellway, Take Stock in Children Executive Director. The 'Climate Change Initiative' nearly doubled graduation rates in the Glades area from 2015 to 2019.

*Take Stock in Children Palm Beach is a non-profit organization that provides a unique opportunity for deserving low-income youth, many from minority families, to escape the cycle of poverty through education. We offer our students caring volunteer mentors, college scholarships, post-secondary retention services and hope for a better life.*

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