

Teen-led JaxTHRIVE Wins NAFSA Award

JaxTHRIVE, a teen-led nonprofit providing tutoring and other programming to refugee students, has brought home the NAFSA Region VII Sylvia Shortt Memorial Community Volunteer Award.

The organization's co-presidents, Bolles senior Sarah Park and Carter Magnano of Ponte Vedra High School, accepted the award on the organization's behalf on Nov. 11, sharing the honor with the strong JaxTHRIVE network of student volunteers. Since its inception in 2017, JaxTHRIVE has grown to more than 14 chapters and 350+ volunteers providing tutoring, mentorships, and other innovative programming.

More than 60 members participate in this year's Bolles JaxTHRIVE chapter with Amir Chalavi and Kate Youell at the helm. JaxTHRIVE's Northeast Florida leadership council also has a strong Bolles presence as well with Ava Cheng, Jaden Taher, Greer Davis, Olivia Owens and Ella Vance.

Bolles Head of Upper School Moya Marks nominated JaxTHRIVE for the award, which recognizes "important and significant contributions of unpaid volunteers, who support international initiatives both on campus and within the local communities" with its region.

NAFSA organizers noted the strong relationships fostered between tutors and refugee students as well as JaxTHRIVE initiatives like the Female Empowerment Program and JaxTHRIVE Journeys, which promote personal growth and cultural understanding.