



SUNCOAST CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$45,000 TO HENDRY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LaBelle, FL — Hendry County School District announces a charitable gift of \$45,000.00 from the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation to celebrate academic achievement, support educator retention, and foster school culture districtwide. The grant will directly impact individual campuses while supporting districtwide appreciation initiatives. Under the plan, each school will receive \$1,000 to reward students who demonstrate high attendance and exceptional academic growth.

To strengthen educator retention, funds will help our district to create a network of support for our new teachers which will encourage them to stay in the Hendry County School District where they are a valued and supported team member. Additionally, the district will host coffee bars or ice cream trucks across all 11 schools and district offices to celebrate Hendry County's "B" district grade, alongside dedicated recognition events for school administrators at the start and close of the fiscal year.

The generosity and investment from Suncoast has enabled Hendry County Schools to build a positive culture on every level. Having the ability to show staff appreciation to every employee helps them feel they are engaged as a team. We are convinced this has contributed to the rise in academic performance as well as employee retention. Suncoast is a true partner that has made a sustainable impact on Hendry County Schools.

Suncoast Credit Union, Florida's largest credit union, founded the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation to promote the education, health and emotional well-being of children in the community. Each time a Suncoast member uses their debit or credit card, the credit union donates four cents to the Foundation to fund local initiatives. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has raised and donated more than \$63 million.

"Suncoast Credit Union was founded by educators more than 90 years ago," said Jeff Kumberger, executive director of Suncoast Credit Union Foundations. "Education remains close to our hearts, and we're proud to support the Hendry County School District. We know this donation will make a meaningful difference for students, teachers and schools throughout the community."

Hendry County School District is America's sweetest school district. From raising sugarcane, to citrus, to cattle, Hendry County is situated in the rural agricultural Heartland of Florida. We have over 7,000 students and close to 1,000 employees. From offering voluntary pre-kindergarten opportunities at each one of our six elementary schools to advanced adult education programs in welding and diesel mechanics, we offer a wide array of programs designed to inspire, engage, challenge our students to be the best version of themselves. Through a culture of excellence and equity, an engaging and supportive environment, meaningful relationships, strong communication and collaboration, Hendry County School District puts students on the path to a positive and fulfilling future.

About Suncoast Credit Union

Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in Florida, the seventh largest in the United States by membership and the 10th largest by assets, with \$21 billion. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast operates 81 full-service branches and serves more than 1.41 million members statewide. As a community credit union, anyone who lives, works or attends school in Suncoast's service area is eligible for membership. In 2021, Suncoast's field of membership was expanded to include public K-12 teachers, college educators and educational support staff across all of Florida's 67 counties. Suncoast is dedicated to supporting the communities it serves, guided by its "people helping people" philosophy. Since 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated more than \$63 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education and emotional well-being of children. For more information, visit [suncoast.com](https://www.suncoast.com) or follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#).