

CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL (COHS) IN THE FLORIDA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Here's What Students & Librarians Are Saying:

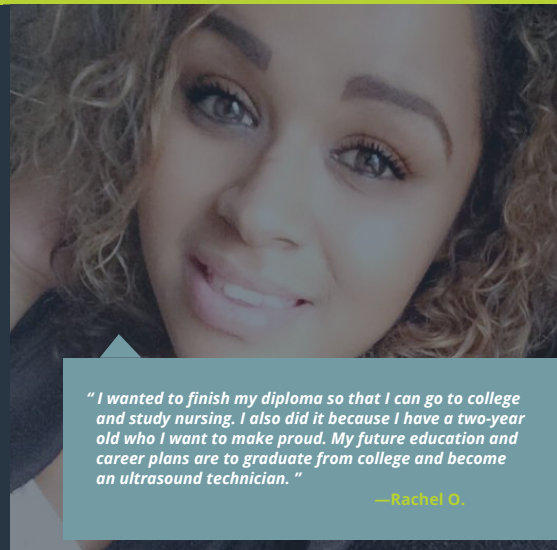


"I wanted to provide a better life for my kids and give them the stability they need. I learned so much. I've decided to become a Certified Protection Officer and obtain my training. In the future, I plan to earn an associate's degree in criminal justice and become a Correctional Officer."

—Shantasia E.

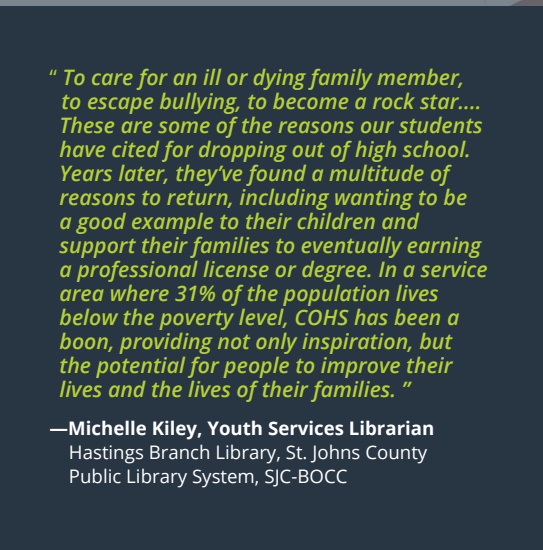
"COHS provides great benefits for students.... Students are able to go to college, get better jobs, earn higher wages, meet personal goals, and be good role models for their children and others. The community benefits from having residents with a higher level of education, a better prepared work force, and citizens earning more money that goes back into the local economy. Career Online High School is a winning proposition for everyone involved."

—Katrina P. Evans, Library Director
Columbia County Public Library



"I wanted to finish my diploma so that I can go to college and study nursing. I also did it because I have a two-year old who I want to make proud. My future education and career plans are to graduate from college and become an ultrasound technician."

—Rachel O.



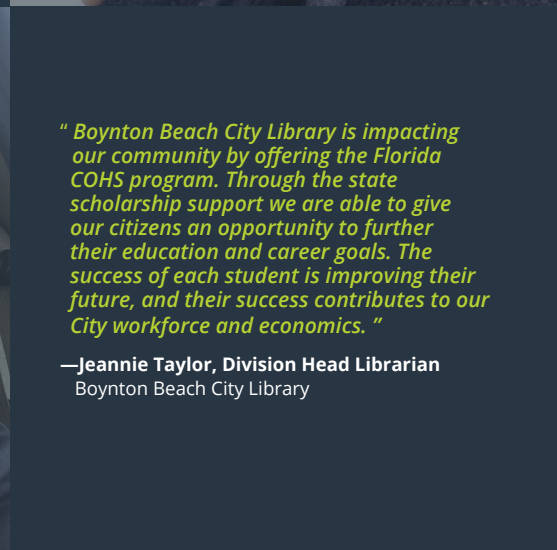
"To care for an ill or dying family member, to escape bullying, to become a rock star.... These are some of the reasons our students have cited for dropping out of high school. Years later, they've found a multitude of reasons to return, including wanting to be a good example to their children and support their families to eventually earning a professional license or degree. In a service area where 31% of the population lives below the poverty level, COHS has been a boon, providing not only inspiration, but the potential for people to improve their lives and the lives of their families."

—Michelle Kiley, Youth Services Librarian
Hastings Branch Library, St. Johns County Public Library System, SJC-BOCC



"I got my diploma because what I want to do requires one. I gained knowledge about food services. I am currently working at a grocery store and looking at places to go to school for culinary arts."

—Andrew F.



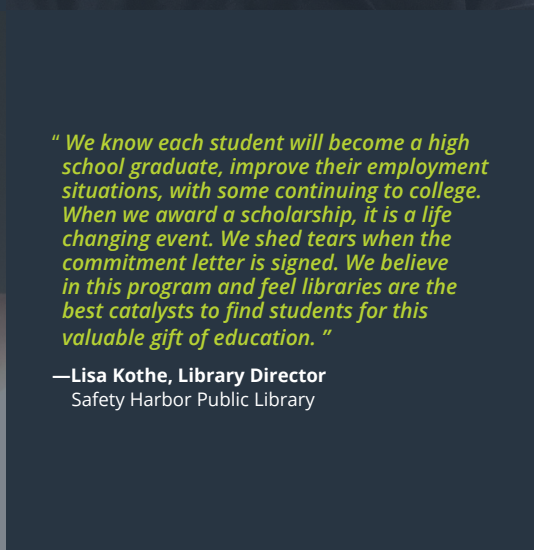
"Boynton Beach City Library is impacting our community by offering the Florida COHS program. Through the state scholarship support we are able to give our citizens an opportunity to further their education and career goals. The success of each student is improving their future, and their success contributes to our City workforce and economics."

—Jeannie Taylor, Division Head Librarian
Boynton Beach City Library



"I did not want to be another statistic of being a single mother without an education. I gained confidence and respect for myself. After graduation, I will enroll in Lake Tech and finally be able to pursue a career now that I have my high school diploma."

—Genesis O.



"We know each student will become a high school graduate, improve their employment situations, with some continuing to college. When we award a scholarship, it is a life changing event. We shed tears when the commitment letter is signed. We believe in this program and feel libraries are the best catalysts to find students for this valuable gift of education."

—Lisa Kothe, Library Director
Safety Harbor Public Library



"I always felt lost and incomplete without a high school diploma. I found myself again through this program; I gained self-confidence. I am now enrolling in college to study teaching, and one day will work at a school assisting special needs kids."

—Sang U.



CASE EXAMPLE: COHS IN NORTH MIAMI BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY



Improving their economic future and education level...

"The COHS program has proven itself to be priceless for the residents of the City of North Miami Beach. Many adults have aspirations of going to college; however, do not have a high school diploma which is a prerequisite for enrolling in college. With this flexible program, adults are able to obtain their high school diploma online, on their time, at their pace.

Our adult graduates from this program are armed with the appropriate tools for success to help them pursue higher education and conquer the workforce. They are role models for their children and the community. A high school diploma is not just a piece of paper; it is a representation of determination, pride, respect, and is a very rewarding accomplishment.

As a commissioner I support this program and the financial impact it can have in our community. Those that are desiring to improve their economic future and education level are now able to do that on their own time. This has a benefit on their lives as well as on the life of our overall community."

—Marlen Martell
North Miami Beach Commissioner

Increasing the earning potential of those seeking a hand-up—not a handout...

"As a single mother of two preteen girls, one with Type 1 Diabetes, the online COHS program allowed me to care for my daughter, while also improving myself....I gained self-confidence, knowledge, and the ability to now apply for better jobs. Next, I plan to enroll in college to pursue a nursing career to better care for my daughter and improve others' lives."

—Sylvia Brown
Graduate



An incredible impact on our community...

"Students are graduating with not only diplomas but career certificates, giving them a hand up over the competition. They are excited about enrolling in college, pursuing careers, and bringing others along in their journey."

More accessible than the GED...

"The convenience of the online platform is one reason COHS is a success. One graduate had dropped out of her GED program stating she had no transportation, is unemployed, and only evening classes were offered, which meant she'd have to pay for transportation.... COHS being a free program with free access to computers through the library means a lot to this student and many others."

—Candice Collins
Librarian/COHS Site Manager



Logistically, financially, and physically feasible...

"The program, which is also available as a paid class at the community college, was not really considered an option by our community. The college is over 30 minutes away by car and 2 hours away by public transit. The ability of adults to take this time from their families left the paid-for program not only financially inaccessible but physically unobtainable....The access to the free program, thanks to the scholarships provided through state funding, and the access and encouragement of the local librarians, made a difference...."

—Edenia M. Hernandez
Library Director

