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PRESS RELEASE
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Florida CAN's Associate Director Presents on Florida Student Loan Defaults to the Florida House of Representatives

Tampa, FL—Troy Miller, Associate Director for Research and Policy for the Florida College Access Network, presented before the Florida House of Representatives' Education Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday on student loan default rates in Florida. The presentation highlighted the impact student loan defaults have on students as well as state level trends on the topic.

Student debt and loan default have been a policy topic for states around the country due to the fact that so many college students rely on student loans to help finance their educations. According to a 2014 White House report, [2.3 million students in Florida owed \\$61.7 billion in federal student loan debt](#). While the majority of students who borrow are able to repay their loans, a growing number of students are in default.

According to data presented by Miller, Florida's current loan default rate is 14%, which is 13th highest in the nation. While this number has gone down slightly over recent years, the number of borrowers and defaulters are up in Florida.

“Over those [three past reporting periods] we had a 90,000 increase in borrowers, which is the second highest in the nation behind California, and an increase of 9,500 defaulters, which is the most in the nation,” Miller told members of the committee.

During the presentation, Miller also highlighted causes for why students default on their loans, which research shows is strongly connected to degree completion. “The number one factor that influences whether a student will default on their loan is if they complete their degree,” Miller stated.

To further investigate student loan default rates, Florida College Access Network is currently working on a policy brief on the topic to be released in early 2016.

[Click to view](#) the November 17 Florida House of Representatives' Education Appropriations Subcommittee Meeting, which includes Miller's presentation. To view slides from his presentation [click here](#).

About Florida College Access Network

The mission of the Florida College Access Network is to create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college & career preparation, access, and completion for all students. Our Big Goal is to increase the percentage of Florida residents who hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by the year 2025. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org.

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