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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **High School Branch Students Awarded Two-Year Scholarships from VyStar Credit Union and the Florida Prepaid College Foundation**

**JACKSONVILLE, FL**— VyStar Credit Union is excited to announce that a distinguished class of exceptional students from the VyStar Academy of Business High School Branch Program have been awarded a two-year Florida Prepaid College Plan scholarship thanks to our partnership with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation (FPCF). These scholarships represent more than just tuition assistance—they are an investment in the future of young leaders in the communities we serve.

FPCF matched VyStar's contribution toward these scholarships' dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact, covering up to 60 college credit hours at a Florida public college or equivalent funding at eligible institutions.

“These scholarships have the power to transform lives by providing students with the resources they need to pursue higher education,” said VyStar President/CEO Brian Wolfburg. “We are dedicated to making a tangible difference in our communities, and we believe in the potential of these young minds to shape a brighter future for all.”

### **A Story of Impact: Ivan McEskew’s Journey**

Ivan McEskew, a graduating senior from Orange Park High School, is one of this year’s VyStar scholarship recipients—and a standout example of leadership, ambition and resilience. When a family emergency forced Ivan to grow up faster than most of his peers, he didn’t let adversity define him. Instead, he saw it as an opportunity to grow.

“The VyStar Academy of Business showed me that everything in life is an opportunity—it’s what you make of it,” Ivan shared. “Receiving this scholarship allows me to continue fulfilling my desire for more in life. I want to do more, work for more, and achieve more so I can ultimately create change.”

A third-year student intern with VyStar’s High School Branch Program, Ivan also earned a first of its kind summer internship with VyStar’s IT Application Development team in 2024. A recipient of the Student Leader Award he has been widely praised by his mentors for his determination, character, and professionalism – consistently demonstrating strong leadership bringing optimism and problem-solving skills to every challenge.

This fall, Ivan will attend Jacksonville University, where he plans to major in Finance. He credits the Academy for giving him a rare, hands-on experience that helped shape his future. “The Academy is a unique opportunity that a lot of people overlook. I don’t know many companies that give high school students the chance to shadow back-office operations, learn retail, and understand how a business really works. It’s a path builder.”

Since its inception in 2006, the VyStar Academy of Business High School Branch Program has delivered financial education to more than 155,000 students and provided over 2,200 paid internship opportunities. Students from the eight participating school districts are eligible to apply for the scholarship, which honors not only academic excellence but also leadership, community involvement and personal growth.



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The 2025 VyStar Scholarship recipients were chosen based on GPA, written essay, work experience, extracurricular activities and community service. One recipient was selected from each school participating in the VyStar High School Branch Program.

### **Meet the VyStar High School Branch Scholarship Recipients**

1. Bartram Trail High School – Leila Colletti
2. Bradford High School – Kaylah Vargas
3. Bellevue High School – Kahleah Lancaster
4. Clay High School – Evelyn Gonzalez Lopez
5. Fernandina Beach High School – Samira Dean
6. First Coast High School – Mila Bostick
7. Fleming Island High School – Christian Cardona
8. Fletcher High School – Adia Thomas
9. Mandarin High School – Diva Mitchell
10. Matanzas High School – Reina Harper
11. Middleburg High School – Sophia Alvarado
12. Orange Park High School – Ivan W. McEskew
13. Pedro Menendez High School – Caleb Jarrard
14. West Nassau High School – Maddison Barnes
15. Wolfson High School – Luciano Mastrocinque
16. Yulee High School – Chole Roby

[Learn more](#) about the VyStar Academy of Business High School Branch Program.

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### **About VyStar Credit Union**

*VyStar Credit Union is the second-largest credit union headquartered in Florida, with 78 full-service branches across Florida and Georgia, 1 million members and assets of over \$14 billion. VyStar is the top mortgage lender in Northeast Florida and a major employer in the region with over 2,300 employees across the communities it serves. VyStar membership is open to everyone who lives or works in the 49 contiguous counties of Central to North Florida, 29 Georgia counties, and past and present military members and their families all over the world. VyStar members have access to 55,000 surcharge free ATMs worldwide. For more information, visit [vystarcu.org](http://vystarcu.org), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*

### **About the Florida Prepaid College Foundation**

*Since its founding in 1990, the Foundation has committed to giving aspiring students the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and our state by providing college scholarships funded through partnerships with individuals, businesses, educational foundations, and the Florida Legislature. The Foundation administers several innovative scholarship programs, including Project STARS and the new Challenge Match Scholarship Programs, designed to help students achieve their dream of earning a college education. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than 58,000 Florida Prepaid College Plan scholarships, and more than 36,000 Foundation scholarship recipients have gone to college using their benefits. The Foundation is the 501(c)(3) direct support organization for the Florida Prepaid College Board. To learn more about the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, visit [here](#).*

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