

THE PROPEL PERSPECTIVE



MARCH 2025

EMPOWERING FUTURES

February Fun & Forward Motion!

We welcomed a new group of FAU medical students ready to mentor and make an impact, and we kicked off an exciting new partnership with Lynn University students eager to volunteer. From high-energy fitness and health activities to an all-out scavenger hunt adventure, our students stayed active in more ways than one!



We were proud to be represented at the OPAL Awards alongside our incredible Rotary mentors, celebrating leadership and service in our community. We also had an exciting showing at The Great Charity Challenge sponsored by Fidelity Investments, where Team PROPEL finished in an impressive 8th place! It was an incredible night of community spirit and support. We are grateful to be part of such a meaningful events.

Meanwhile, our seniors have been hard at work finalizing their George Snow and Viner Scholarship applications while making big decisions about their future paths.

As we cheer on these achievements, we're also gearing up for a major event—our final push for Pickleball "Paddles with a Purpose" on March 9th is in full swing!



Kinsley Florestal, Micaiah Joseph & Garcendy St. Fleur



LOOKING AHEAD...

ROOTS & WINGS

BWCF Event

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PROPELIAN SPOTLIGHT

 [propelyourfuture](https://www.instagram.com/propelyourfuture)

 [propelboca](https://www.facebook.com/propelboca)

And while we celebrate new beginnings, we're also sending off one of our own with pride—MJ is stepping into her final semester internship in Social Work at FAU.

February has been a month of growth, movement, and big wins, and we're just getting started!



www.propelyourfuture.org

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561-955-8553

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This month at PROPEL we had a bunch of different activities for our students. We've really focused on educating them in ways that will help push them forward for their future as young adults and students.

Our high schoolers underwent a deep dive in a discussion about the importance of Fitness and maintaining a Healthy Diet. The students learned a lot about how to take care of themselves physically so they can endure a healthy lifestyle as they grow older.

Our middle schoolers have been doing many educational Kahoot Quiz games about science, geography and history!

Kahoot has become a very exciting activity that they enjoy that educates them on new topics as well as quizzing them on facts that needed to be reiterated that they already learned in school. Not only have we been educating them as much as possible, but we've also been playing so many outside activities that keep the students engaged in team sports which highlight sportsmanship and keeping them active.

We've been seeing more laughs and bonding between all the students in all ages that warms all of hearts as coaches and directors. ~ Annmarie V.



*Annmarie & The Girls

A Day in the Life of a PROPELIAN...

FAU & LYNN University Partnerships

Propel has partnered with FAU's medical team for the past two years and this relationship has only begun to grow. The FAU students who have volunteered provide tutoring, SAT prep, and mentorship to our students. Last semester the FAU team gave multiple presentations on health and wellness as well as emergency care and first aid. This type of information and medical knowledge is crucial for not only our children but most adults as well. They have been a quintessential part of our tutoring process as we prepare our students for college and success in school.

Recently we have also partnered with a handful of Lynn University volunteers who have been offering mentorship and community building. They have been very active in our fitness days we have recently been conducting as well as providing our students with even more adults to confide in and receive advice and leadership from. This type of community partnership is what makes PROPEL so individual and so important to our students. We are so grateful to have such an incredible network of volunteers and community leaders to help this next generation. ~ Isabella



Isabella & Annmarie

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ALUMNI News:

We are thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our PROPEL alumni

GIBRIL KING: From PROPEL student to coach, mentor, and now future FIU Panther—Coach Gibril's journey has been nothing short of inspiring! Watching his growth as a leader, student, and role model in the community has been incredible, and we couldn't be prouder. His dedication to guiding and uplifting our students, all while balancing his own academic and personal growth, speaks volumes about the person he has become.

This fall, Gibril will take his next big step, attending Florida International University to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. But before that, he's already making waves—he was recently recognized by Palm Beach State College with the prestigious Student Leadership Award for his outstanding commitment to excellence and service.

We know he'll continue to make an impact wherever he goes, and we can't wait to see what's next for him. Once PROPEL Family, always PROPEL Family! ❤️🎓🚀



"I had the honor of participating in the celebration of life for Martin Luther King junior and honoring those who have exemplified exceptional service to the community within Palm Beach State College." ~ Gibril King

"A very special congratulations to an amazing friend and someone I look up to, Mr. Gabriel king. Who I nominated for the MLK junior student Leadership Award. He has shown so much talent, leadership, and passion with not only Palm Beach state but the community as a whole period I look forward to all the amazing things he will accomplish in this world so proud of you!" Ryan Streeghs, Student Trustee at PBSC.

Gibril was joined alongside Boca Raton deputy mayor Yvette Drucker, council member Fran Nachalas and numerous other elected officials in Palm Beach County.

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MICAIAH “MJ” JOSEPH: From PROPEL student to Middle School Lead Coach to Program Director, MJ’s journey at PROPEL has been one of dedication, passion, and leadership. She has poured her heart into our students, creating a space where they feel supported, challenged, and inspired. Now, as she enters her senior year at FAU for Social Work, MJ is taking another bold step forward—this semester, she’s a full-time Registered Behavior Technician while also beginning her internship to earn her degree. Her ability to balance it all with grace, determination, and an unwavering commitment to making a difference is exactly what being a PROPELIAN is all about! We are beyond proud of her and know that this is just the beginning of the impact she will have in the world. ❤️🌟



“My time at PROPEL has been nothing short of life-changing. This place shaped me, challenged me, and helped me grow in ways I never imagined. It’s where I found my purpose and met people who played pivotal roles in the person I am today. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I’d one day work at the very afterschool program I attended as a child. I never imagined calling strangers family, or that three years later, I’d be claiming nearly 50 kids as my own.

Working here has taught me so much about myself and the world around me. First, I’ve learned how much I love kids. My passion for them runs so deep that sometimes it overwhelms me. In a way, I feel like I’m living through them—watching them rewrite the childhood I once wished for myself. They’ve taught me that growing up doesn’t mean becoming something entirely new; it means embracing who we’ve always been. They remind me every day that it’s okay to break free of societal norms and simply be.

I’ve also learned that I don’t care much for adults—I often find them a bit boring, to be honest. But what I do love is building community. I’ve discovered a passion for advocating for the vulnerable and being a source of strength for those who feel they have none. I’m not afraid to stick my neck out for others, even when the world often chooses not to. It brings me peace knowing I’ve given my all to each child I’ve been blessed to work with.

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ALUMNI News: CONT'D

We are thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our PROPEL alumni

I've grown deeply attached—to this place, to the kids, and to the role I've earned here. I've learned to lead with pride, to see the best in people, and to approach life with optimism. PROPEL has taught me that life is always moving—chapters end, new ones begin, and growth is constant.

Being a PROPELIAN means being the best version of yourself. It means fighting for yourself while lifting others up. It's about planting seeds of kindness, character, and growth—for yourself and those around you. PROPEL stands for home, truth, love, laughter, discipline, grace, and above all, transformation.

I hope my time here has made a difference. I pray that I've left something meaningful for everyone I've encountered. I hope the kids know that every cheer, every lesson, and even every tough moment came from a place of love and a desire to make their time at PROPEL better—because they deserve nothing less. My only goal has always been to make them feel loved and cared for, even if it was just for those four hours, Monday through Thursday.

For all that PROPEL has given me, I am forever thankful. I pray that my efforts have left a lasting impact and that you all know I gave it everything I had.

Now, it's my turn to grow. As hard as it is to leave, I know that every lesson I've learned here and every connection I've made will carry me forward into the next chapter of my life. PROPEL will always be a part of me, and I will forever be grateful for the home it has given me.

Thank you, PROPEL, for helping me become the person I am today." ~ MJ



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Why Donate to PROPEL?

Because your support changes lives. When you give to PROPEL, you're not just making a donation—you're fueling dreams, creating opportunities, and building a future where every student has the chance to succeed.

♥ Your Gift Directly Impacts:

 **Education & Academic Success** – Providing tutoring, mentorship, and college prep for students who need guidance and support.

 **Workforce Readiness** – Equipping young adults with job training, internships, and career skills that prepare them for real-world success.

 **A Safe & Supportive Space** – Our PROPEL House is a home away from home, where students can learn, grow, and belong.

 **Healthy Living & Life Skills** – Teaching essential skills like financial literacy, cooking, and wellness, ensuring students thrive beyond the classroom.

 **Alumni Support** – Helping college students and young professionals continue to PROPEL forward into successful careers and meaningful lives.

Your Gift = A Brighter Future

Every dollar you give creates real opportunities for young people who are working hard to overcome challenges and achieve greatness.

💙 Be the spark. Be the change. PROPEL a future today!



DONATE NOW & MAKE AN IMPACT!!

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PROPEL's FEBRUARY COMMUNITY PARTNER



We are so happy to share a nonprofit organization that we support—**HabCenter Boca Raton**. HabCenter empowers adults with developmental differences and mental health challenges to lead lives with dignity, respect, and independence.

HabCenter is located on Boca Rio Road in Boca Raton, they offer vocational training, mental health counseling, programs in education, arts, and recreation, as well as job placement services.

They have a manufacturing center and a 5-acre plant nursery open to the public.

Reach out to HabCenter for volunteer opportunities or for your landscaping and manufacturing needs. They are proud to serve individuals with all abilities.

Follow them @HabCenterBoca on all social media platforms.

Visit habcenter.org or call, 561-483-4200 to learn more.

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PADDLES WITH A PURPOSE - Pickleball Tournament

Join Our Pickleball Tournament! 🏓

Ready to serve up some fun? Sign up now for our upcoming Pickleball Tournament! Here's everything you need to know:

Team Requirements:

- Each team must consist of two players. Please indicate the level of play for each player (beginner, intermediate, advanced) to ensure fair and competitive matches.

How to Register:

- Choose your teammate.
- Decide on your skill level.
- Sign up online at <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/pickleball-tournament-fundraiser>



Why It Matters:

100% of the proceeds from this event will support our Healthy Living Kitchen Initiative, a cornerstone of PROPEL's mission to empower youth through healthy choices, leadership, and community building.

Spots are limited—sign up today to make your mark on the court and in the lives of our students!



Questions? We're happy to help!

Contact us at 561-955-8553 or email kristin@propelyourfuture.org

Bring your paddle and your passion for making a difference! Together, we can rally for the future leaders of our community.

About PROPEL:

PROPEL (People Reaching Out to Provide Education and Leadership) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering middle and high school youth in South Palm Beach County. Through after-school programs, enrichment activities, job placement support, scholarships, and alumni support, PROPEL fosters academic success, leadership, and healthy living choices.

What Is the Healthy Living Kitchen Initiative?

Aligned with PROPEL's mission, the kitchen helps students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally while developing lifelong habits for well-being. This initiative promotes healthy eating, life skills, and relationship building for PROPEL's students and community by:

- Teaching Essential Life Skills: Hands-on cooking and meal preparation.
- Encouraging Healthy Choices: Understanding nutrition and balanced diets.
- Building Community: Creating meaningful connections around the table.

Your participation in this tournament directly supports these vital programs, transforming lives and shaping future leaders.

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PADDLES WITH A PURPOSE PICKLEBALL

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"I am honored to be the Tournament sponsor for PROPEL's 2025 Pickleball Tournament. As a proud alumnus, I fully support PROPEL's mission and have witnessed firsthand the profound impact this organization has on our community. It is a privilege to contribute to a cause that has had such a meaningful impact on my life." Willie Reynolds

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