

## Pack Education

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**Goal** Increase graduation rates at two- and four-year colleges in Alabama, leading to higher lifetime earnings for students and a strengthened state economy.

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**Partners** Mobile Talent Hub, Bishop State Community College, Coastal Community College, and University of South Alabama.

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**Project Summary** Pack Health sees a correlation between students with chronic health conditions and academic success. In partnership with Mobile Talent Hub, Bishop State Community College, Coastal Community College, and University of South Alabama, Alabama Power Foundation is considering a \$300,000 program-related investment to support a digital academic advising platform designed to educate “at-risk” students on healthy behaviors, coordinate student services, and provide support.

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**Community Impact** According to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the graduation rates for Bishop State Community College, Coastal Alabama Community College, and the University of South Alabama are 15%, 14%, and 40% respectively, compared to the national average of 39%. Community colleges are graduating less than 40% of students, yet they are serving a large share of low-income, minority, and first-generation students that have varying needs in order to achieve academic success. Increasing engagement would result in higher graduation rates, increased revenue for the colleges, and as much as a 37% increase in individual earning potential.

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**Backbone Organization** Pack Health is a Birmingham-based startup that supports patients with chronic illnesses, helping them change their behaviors through a structured, systematic and personalized approach, leading to more positive outcomes. It has served more than 14,000 patients since launching in 2013, and currently works with 11 national research and nonprofit partners, offering programming for 30 chronic conditions.

**Investment Structure****Type** Balloon Loan**Funding** \$300,000 (of \$783,000 total pilot cost)**Horizon** N/A**Interest** Annually**Return** 1%

**Additional Note:** Total project cost is estimated to be \$783,000. Much of this cost is due to the need for an entirely separate data management system to ensure data security for Pack's health and education programs. HIPPA-secure health data and FERPA-secure student data must be saved in entirely different secure systems. Additional funders include: Regions Foundation (\$300,000 committed); Ratliff Family Foundation (\$33,000 committed) and Alabama Community College System (\$150,000 currently being finalized).