

Lifting Barriers for Riverview's IB E2 Scholars

Dr. Jim Minor shared an inspiring update on the IB E2 (Excellence & Equity) Initiative. E2 serves economically disadvantaged IB students – most on free and reduced lunch – who have chosen one of Riverview’s most demanding academic paths and are excelling. Through intensive case management, targeted academic counseling, and the “Last Mile Fund,” the program removes barriers that can block college entry for even the strongest students.

This year’s E2 cohort achieved remarkable results, with graduates earning full four-year university scholarships at competitive institutions. Dr. Minor also read letters from students describing – in their own words – what E2 has meant to their families, their confidence, and their futures. It was a powerful reminder that supporting these scholars truly changes lives forever.

See story starting Page 5

Enjoy the Presentation: 





**Ringling College
of Art + Design**





Dr. Davis Schneiderman
President of Ringling College

Dr. Davis Schneiderman becomes
President of Ringling College on
June 1, 2026, after 20 successful
years at Lake Forest College, aiming

**Tuesday Noon
June 16, 2026**

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 6855 4560

Putting Artists at the Center of the AI Revolution

When Dr. Davis Schneiderman visits our club on June 16, he will be less than one month into his role as Ringling College’s seventh president – and still very much in “listening mode.” He has described this first chapter as a time to learn the campus culture, hear directly from students and faculty, and understand Sarasota’s expectations for its flagship art and design college. His touchstone is simple: before charting new directions, make sure the people who create and support the work feel seen and heard.

Schneiderman’s own career blends creative practice and academic leadership, from teaching literature and creative writing to building programs that connect technology, ethics, and storytelling. He often returns to one core idea: artists and designers are not accessories to change; they are the people who help communities imagine what comes next. On June 16, he’ll share how he hopes to partner with organizations like Rotary, how he thinks about student letters and lived experience as “data,” and why he believes Sarasota’s creatives will play an outsized role in shaping the region’s future.

Dr. Schneiderman said in his first welcome remarks, “one of my wisest mentors once told me that all organizations have different chapters, and while those chapters may have different words, each is part of the same book.” We are looking forward to welcoming him and hearing about the next chapter.

Upcoming Meetings		
July 7	100 Central	Dr. Anshu Chandra, a Rotarian, helped establish an eye clinic in Haiti, and will join us via Zoom.
July 21	100 Central	Noelle Tenaglia, outgoing president of Riverview Interact Club
August 4	100 Central	Christy Vogel – From Silence to Sounding Joy: Hearing, Hope, and Service in Action.



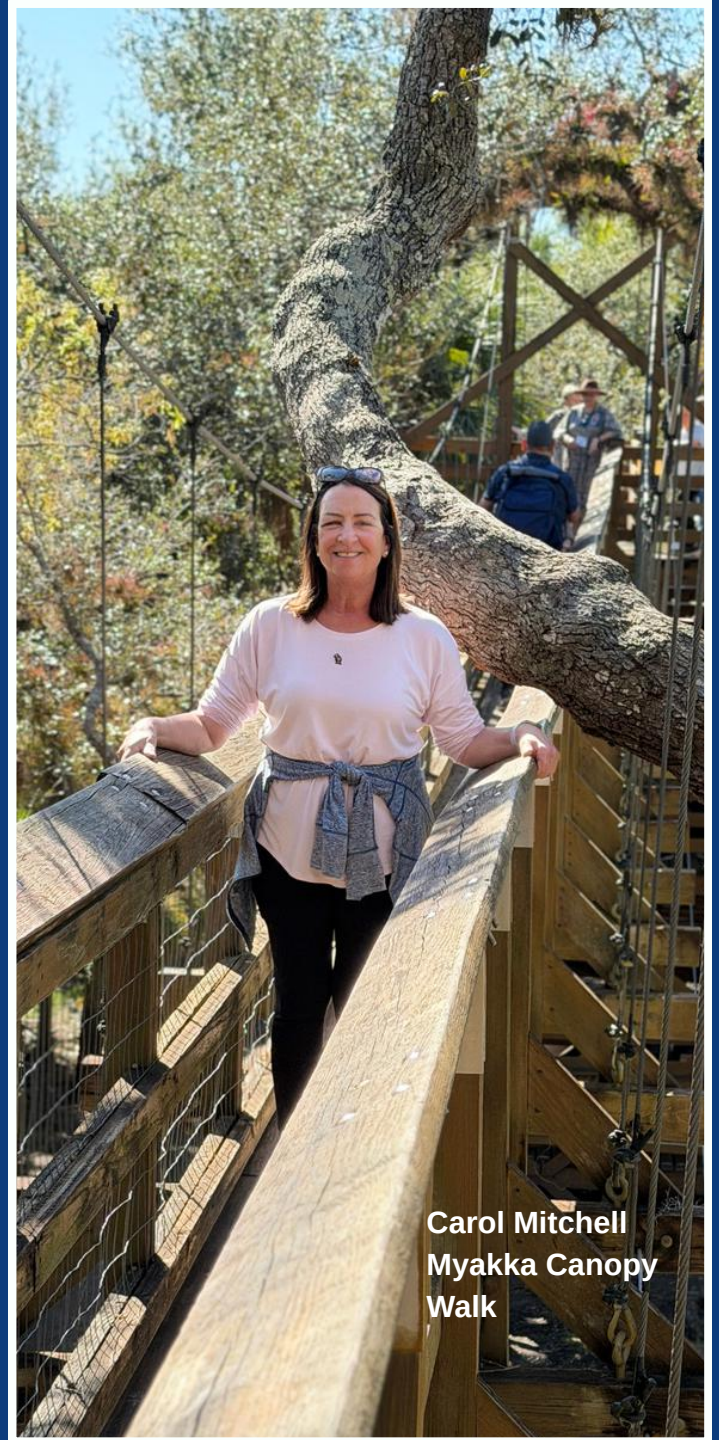
Spotlight: A Legacy of Vision

Our Club Foundation Helps Bring New Eyes to the Myakka Canopy Walk • Myakka River State Park

Just over twenty-five years ago, our club helped make history as a founding sponsor of the first public canopy walk in North America at Myakka River State Park, opening a literally elevated perspective on Florida's wild landscape. This spring, that legacy continues with exciting news from the TREE Foundation.

A \$5,000 Foundation Grant to the TREE Foundation — the nonprofit founded by canopy scientist Dr. Meg Lowman — will soon give visitors to the Myakka canopy walk a remarkable new way to take in the view, with our club (Club Sponsor Dr. Larry Wickless) helping make the grant possible. The funds, combined with a contribution from park manager Steve, will purchase and install a SeeCoast Mark I Telescope, a free-to-use, professional-grade 20x viewing scope positioned at the canopy walkway for all to enjoy.

What makes this telescope especially meaningful is its EnChroma lens package, which enables visitors who are color-blind to experience the canopy in full, vivid color. The unit will also feature height-adjustable risers for both children and adults, making this a genuinely inclusive enhancement to one of Florida's most breathtaking outdoor destinations.



Carol Mitchell
Myakka Canopy
Walk



CLUB SPONSOR: DR. LARRY WICKLESS

Rotary 
Club of Sarasota Bay

RESTORATION UNDERWAY — AND A VIEW LIKE NO OTHER

Tree Foundation • Myakka River State Park

The SeeCoast Mark I is no ordinary tourist scope. Built with 20x optics, 360-degree rotation, and a 121-foot field of view at 1,000 yards, it's the kind of viewer you'd find at a world-class overlook. Myakka's visitors will be able to pick out birds, wildlife, and canopy detail with remarkable clarity.

Vanessa Wassenar, Board President of the TREE Foundation, shared that the walkway itself is also undergoing a full restoration — pressure washing, sealing, and staining — all overseen by park manager Steve.

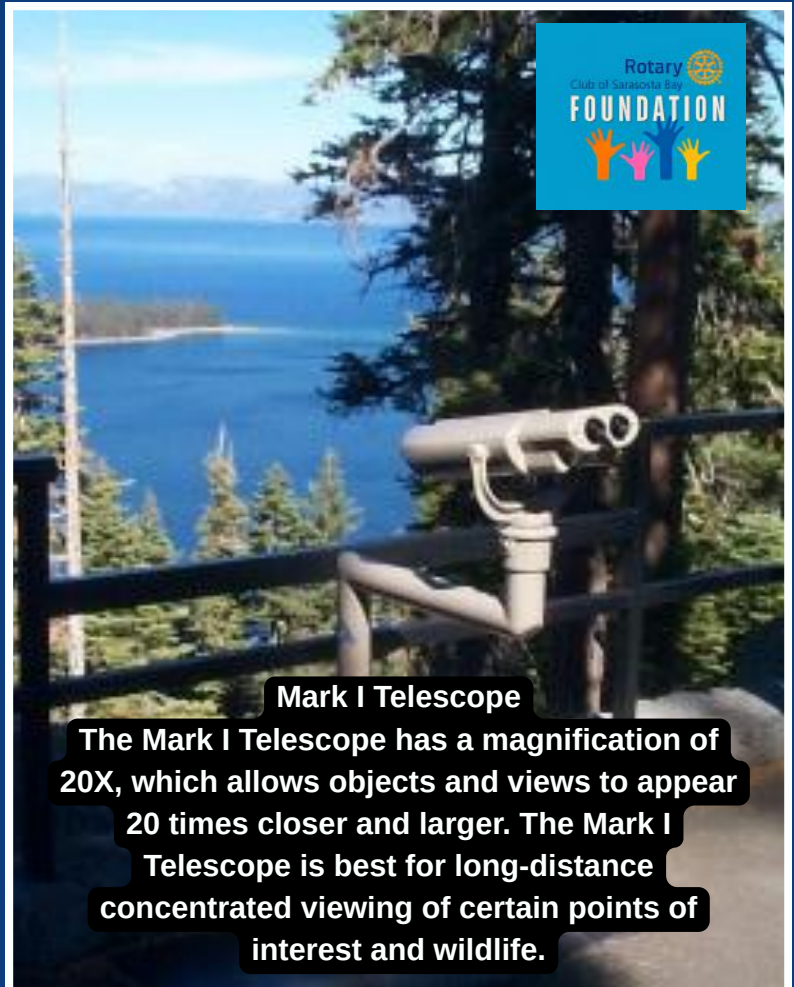
“This is such fabulous news. We are so grateful!” — Vanessa Wassenar, Board President, TREE Foundation

A 25-Year Legacy Worth Celebrating

A pioneering idea championed by Dr. Meg Lowman, whose work studying forest canopies has taken her from the Amazon to Southeast Asia. Our founding sponsorship helped turn that vision into a place generations of Floridians and visitors have climbed up into the treetops to experience something rare: the forest from above.

Plan a visit: Myakka River State Park Canopy Walk — and see the treetops, and soon the view beyond them, for yourself.

Learn more: www.treefoundation.org



CLUB SPONSOR: DR. LARRY WICKLESS



Rotary 
Club of Sarasota Bay



OLD Laptops?



DONATE
your
Laptop

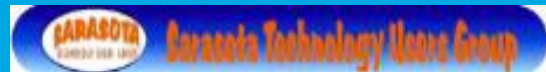


Laptop Donation Drive for Foster Kids



**Children's
Guardian Fund**

The Children's Guardian Fund (CGF) and Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) have teamed up to collect used computer laptops.



- STUG sanitizes the hard drive with a seven-step process that deletes your information.
- STUG refurbishes the laptop and installs Microsoft Office under free license from Microsoft Corp.
- Refurbished laptops are distributed to area students in foster or state care through the CGF and the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Drop off:

1750 17th Street, Building J-1,
Sarasota FL

Pickup:

Call MARK at 941.374.1107 or
e-mail msharff@gmail.com

Spotlight: Investing in Excellence

Riverview High School's IB E2 Initiative: Eight Years, 320 Graduates, \$39.6 Million

When Dr. Larry Wickless introduced Jim Minor to the club on June 2, he recalled the moment it all began. Around 2010, Wickless and Lou Solomon were interviewing more than 20 local organizations looking for a project with real impact. When they sat down with Minor, who was running the International Baccalaureate program at Riverview High School, they found their answer. The club made a \$10,000 founding investment. What followed is one of the most remarkable returns on investment in Rotary history.

What Is IB E2?

Jim Minor has led the IB program at Riverview for 28 years. The International Baccalaureate diploma — offered in 160 nations — is considered the most rigorous academic program in the world. IB graduates often enter the University of Florida with 45 transfer credits. But Minor kept watching talented minority, low-income, and first-generation students quietly drop out — not for lack of ability, but for lack of support. E2 (Excellence and Equity) was his answer.

The program has two core components. The first is a dedicated case manager — a current or retired educator who works personally with each student through high school, college applications, FAFSA, and into university. 'They are like social workers, psychologists, coaches, and encouragers,' Minor said.

The second is the Last Mile Fund — money for the micro-barriers that derail students at the finish line: a plane ticket to New York, winter clothing for a Florida kid suddenly at Tufts in February, a laptop, dorm supplies. Minor recalled a student who lost her University of Florida acceptance over a minor housing deposit she didn't have — and didn't tell anyone about. "That cannot happen on our watch," he said.



Dr. Jim Minor
IB E2 Director



Dr. Larry Wickless
Club Foundation
Sponsor



Club Sponsor: Dr. Larry Wickless

Club of Sarasota Bay

Rotary
District 6960



Spotlight: Investing in Equity

Class of 2026: The number speak for themselves
IB E2 Initiative • Riverview High School • District 6960

Fast Facts: Class of 2026



Students also received acceptances from nationally recognized universities and colleges including Bowdoin College, Wellesley College, Purdue University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Baylor University, and University of Tennessee Knoxville.



Most importantly, this group of students earned an estimated: **\$3,602,835 in Scholarships and Financial Aid**



This year's cohort of 30 E2 graduates earned admissions from UF, FSU, USE, Miami, Amherst, Tufts, Middlebury, Bryn Mawr, Emory, DePaul, Columbia, Bowdoin, Wellesley, Purdue, Penn State, Maryland, Pittsburgh, UI Urbana-Champaign, Baylor, and Tennessee-Knoxville. Total scholarships and financial aid: \$3,602,835.

Total scholarships generated since our club's founding \$10,000 investment: \$39,645,120

Since 2019, 320 E2 seniors have graduated from Riverview IB. The majority are low-income, minority, and first-generation college students. 100% have attended college. Not one has dropped out. Average scholarship per graduate across all eight cohorts: \$123,891.

"If you're a business person, the return on investment here has been overwhelming," Minor told the club.

Letters from the Class of 2026

Minor read letters aloud from this year's graduates. Christian, heading to Columbia for engineering: "I went from feeling unsure about my future to confidently preparing to attend college. As the first in my family to navigate this process, the guidance through E2 means everything." Kim, heading to Amherst — first in her family to attend college: "Your support is a constant reminder. I'm not doing this alone." Oriana, pursuing criminal justice with law school ahead: "Because of your donations, my family no longer has to worry about how we're going to pay our part. I can make my mom proud — making her sacrifices of moving to a new country worth it in every way."

"This club is the founding donor of this whole shebang. It was a \$10,000 initial investment — you believing in me and me believing that somehow this crazy scheme is going to work. And it has."

Dr. Jim Minor.



Club Sponsor: Dr. Larry Wickless

Club of Sarasota Bay

Rotary

District 6960





Riverview IB: E² Initiative

Fast Facts: Class of 2026

Riverview IB E2
Class of 2026
consisted of 30
students.

This year's 30-member cohort earned admissions offers and commitments from an impressive range of institutions across the country, including University of Florida, Florida State University, University of South Florida, University of Miami, Amherst College, Tufts University, Middlebury College, Bryn Mawr College, Emory University, DePaul University, and Columbia University..

Thank You

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Your support provides more than financial assistance—

*it provides hope, opportunity,
and a brighter future.* 

Because of you, our students can pursue their dreams, achieve their goals, and build a better tomorrow.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Our students. Our future. Thank you! 

*Your kindness
opens doors and
creates endless
possibilities* 



THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR STUDENTS
AND SUPPORTING THEIR JOURNEY. 