

State College Pilot Project Update

September 22, 2008

Based on Legislative findings that it was in the "best interest of the state to provide the residents of the state affordable access to baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet regional and statewide employment needs;" Senate Bill 1716, passed by the 2008 Florida Legislature, created the State College Pilot Project. There are nine colleges named in pilot project:

- Chipola College
- Daytona Beach College
- Edison College
- Indian River College
- Miami Dade College
- Okaloosa Walton College
- Polk College
- Santa Fe College
- St. Petersburg College

The presidents of the nine pilot state colleges held an organizational meeting on **June 12, 2008** at Okaloosa Walton College where they began developing guiding principles and setting the scope of their work. They asked the business officers from each college to work over the summer to develop funding models to bring back to the presidents for consideration.

The presidents met a second time on **September 3, 2008**; at St. Petersburg College. At that time they revised and adopted the guiding principles in concept by a unanimous vote. They considered the definition of a Florida state college, as well as issues of program approval, transition criteria, governance, statewide coordination which are presented in this report. They heard a report from the group of business officers who worked over the summer on funding models and decided which models to put forth in this report.

The presidents met via conference call on **September 19, 2008** to discuss the first rough draft of the report. At that time they discussed edits to the report draft, adopted the report in concept, and directed the consultant to prepare a final draft based on the meeting discussion which could be adopted at a meeting set for **October 16, 2008** (via conference call).

The state pilot group will meet jointly with the Commissioner's Task Force on **October 2, 2008**.

Guiding Principles for the State College Pilot Project

1. State colleges are part of the Florida College System composed of 28 two-year and four-year public institutions. Based on their mission, level of accreditation and appropriate authorization, the colleges within this system offer Bachelor's degrees, Associate degrees, career and technical

certificates, developmental/remedial studies, and/or adult education.

Statutes and rules which apply to Florida community colleges are assumed to apply to the Florida College System, including state colleges, unless such statutes and rules are specifically revised through the legislative process.

2. State colleges will continue the traditional community college mission for lower division, as specified in Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, created by Senate Bill 1716.

State colleges are locally based and governed by a district board of trustees appointed by the Governor. State colleges will continue to serve lower division students within their district boundaries. Therefore the district board of trustees should remain as presently constituted in Florida law.

State colleges offer open admissions access to lower division students and provide quality and affordable access to undergraduate academic and technical degrees and certificates.

State colleges are responsive to local educational needs and challenges and maintain strong connections with K-12 education in order to provide dual enrollment for high school students and reduce the need for remediation beyond high school graduation.

State colleges focus on student success through student development and academic support services such as advising, counseling, financial aid, learning centers, and tutoring.

State colleges promote local, regional and statewide economic development.

State colleges ensure seamless transition to a baccalaureate degree through 2+2 articulation and partnerships with other Florida College System colleges, state universities, ICUF institutions, and others.

State colleges continue to participate in the systems that enable seamless transition and statewide articulation including the common course numbering system, common prerequisites, common 36 hour general education requirements, common academic calendars, transfer guarantee, and all other conventions included in the Statewide Articulation Manual.

State colleges are committed to aligning tuition and other student fees with Florida's Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid awards.

3. In addition to fulfilling the lower-division Florida College System mission, state colleges will:

Provide the highest quality baccalaureate degrees responsive to local, regional, and statewide educational and workforce needs, while maintaining the flexibility to respond quickly to emerging trends.

Meet all of the requirements to attain and maintain SACS Level II accreditation.

Be authorized for baccalaureate program approval by the district board of trustees once initial approval to offer baccalaureate degrees has been granted by the State Board of Education and Level 2 accreditation has been received from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Place the highest priority on effective teaching and student learning and seek discipline specific accreditation where appropriate as determined by the district board of trustees, as a way to demonstrate a commitment to the highest quality instruction.

Bolster and support Florida's economic productivity and competitiveness by increasing access to affordable baccalaureate degrees, thus helping to supply the projected 2.15 million baccalaureate graduates needed to bring Florida to the level of the 10 most productive states by 2027.

Base new program offerings on unmet and emerging needs, workforce demand, market forces, and institutional capacity.

Structure programs and services to respond to the educational needs of all student populations including place-bound, non-traditional, and under-represented students.

Maintain a "one faculty" philosophy since courses taught at both the lower and upper-division ultimately apply toward a baccalaureate degree.

Promote the value of the associate degree by mandating that admission to upper-division programs require prior completion of an associate degree (or equivalent).