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THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

**COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY,
RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT**

Akshay Desai, Chair
Bob Taylor, Vice-Chair



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February 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, State Board of Education
FROM: Akshay Desai, Chairman *Akshay Desai*
RE: **Edison College Baccalaureate Proposal and Council Recommendations**

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes, states that “a community college may develop a proposal to deliver specified baccalaureate degree programs in its district to meet local workforce needs” for approval by the State Board of Education. The statute further specifies that “the proposal must be submitted to the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement for review and comment.”

Edison College and Florida Gulf Coast University have been operating a partnership baccalaureate program in Public Services Management since 2002. In July 2004, a joint letter from FGCU President Merwin and Edison President Walker requested a modification in the agreement to transfer the degree program to Edison College for the delivery of a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Public Safety Management. The Council reviewed Edison’s proposal based on its established matrix of criteria that includes the following issues:

- Program need and demand for program graduates
- Impact of the new program
- Effective use of all education resources
- Program implementation
- Program accountability issues
- Cost effectiveness

Following the evaluation of the proposal at its February 16 meeting, the Council unanimously adopted the following recommendations for consideration by the State Board of Education:

Recommendations:

- 1. The State Board of Education should approve Edison College's request for degree-granting authority for the delivery of a Bachelor of Applied Science degree program in Public Safety Management.**
- 2. As state policies that enable community colleges to offer specified baccalaureate degrees continue to evolve, a statewide plan for the delivery of baccalaureate education, particularly applied bachelor degree programs, must be established.**

For your consideration, review materials are attached to this transmittal memorandum. If we can provide additional information or assistance in your deliberations, please let us know.

/jr

c: Commissioner John Winn
President Ken Walker, Edison College
President Bill Merwin, Florida Gulf Coast University

Attachments:

- A. Edison College Proposal
- B. CEPRI Analysis and Recommendations
- C. Proposal Evaluation by the Division of Colleges and Universities
- D. CEPRI Procedures Timeline and Proposal Evaluation Criteria
- E. Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes – Site Determined Baccalaureate Degree Access