

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions
January 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Baccalaureate Degree Proposal:
Bachelor of Applied Science in Fire Science

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For discussion.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

S. 1007.33, F.S.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Community College at Jacksonville, with extraordinary support from fire and city officials in Northeast Florida, has developed a seamless, workforce-driven applied baccalaureate degree in Fire Science, to meet the critical need for enhanced preparation of fire service professionals. Fire Science technologies have become so complex that a “two-year degree” is no longer sufficient preparation for leadership and advanced practice in this area of public service. The complexities of managing a large fire department require that future leaders have a formal education in advanced fire and emergency response management skills and practices demanded by a post-9/11 environment. The U.S. Fire Administration and National Fire Academy both recommend that anyone in a management position should be required to have a bachelor’s degree.

Supporting Documentation Included: Bachelor in Applied Science in Fire Science proposal

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Steven Wallace, President, Florida Community College at Jacksonville

Jim Simpson, Associate Vice President Workforce Development, FCCJ