



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE Office of the President

October 15, 2008

Commissioner Eric Smith
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Dear Commissioner Smith:

In accordance with 1011.32 (12) F.S., all facilities funded through the Community College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program and named in honor of a living person must receive approval from the Florida State Board of Education.

Therefore, Indian River State College hereby requests that the State Board of Education approve the following naming opportunity for the Conference and Education Center currently under construction at the IRSC Dixon Hendry Campus in Okeechobee.

In recognition of their lead gift to enhance the construction of this educational facility, Indian River State College plans to name the building for Frank "Sonny" and Betty C. Williamson. The Williamsons are natives of Florida and longtime residents of Okeechobee. Active in the citrus and cattle industries, they are the owners of Williamson Cattle Company and several additional agriculture operations. Mr. Williamson has served on numerous boards locally and also on many committees at the state level, including the South Florida Water Management District and the Kissimmee River Resource and Management Commission. In 2004, he was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Committed to higher education, Mr. Williamson is a member of the IRSC Foundation's Board of Directors and also serves on the Foundation Board at the University of Florida. Mrs. Williamson is a member of a pioneer family from Okeechobee and is the author of an historical book about the area. She is also an active member and serves as a peer leader for the IRSC Lifelong Learning Institute.

The IRSC Conference and Education building will offer many new opportunities to the residents of Okeechobee County. The facility will make it possible for residents to host regional meetings in Okeechobee for the first time, and provide local businesses increased professional development opportunities through a strategic planning center and classrooms. Students will benefit from the services and resources available at the new

Center. For the first time, they will have access to a Biology Lab and state-of-the-art Nursing Lab, expanding access to health science careers.

The Conference and Education Center in Okeechobee aligns with both IRSC's statutory mission and the philanthropic focus of the Williamsons.

Thank you for your assistance with this important project which provides educational opportunities to many deserving members of the Okeechobee community.

We request a letter stating your approval of the naming of Indian River State College's Williamson Conference and Education Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin R. Massey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E' and a long, sweeping tail.

Edwin R. Massey, Ph.D.
President