



# INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

## Office of the President

May 5, 2009

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 four naming opportunities for the educational facilities located within the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex, currently under construction at the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce:

### Vernon Smith Public Safety Education Building

In recognition of Vernon Smith's lead gift to enhance the construction of this educational facility, Indian River State College hopes to name the public safety education building the Vernon Smith Public Safety Education Building. This building will serve as the hub for the multi-facility public safety training complex. Mr. Smith is a native of Florida and longtime resident of Fort Pierce. He has a lifelong interest in public safety and has served as a reserve deputy with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office for more than 20 years. His wife Brenda has completed courses in IRSC's Interior Design program. The Smiths have supported many scholarships for IRSC students through the years, most recently providing assistance to students in the Law Enforcement Academy. Two years ago, the Smiths provided the lead gift for the construction of IRSC's Brenda and Vernon Smith Center for Medical Education, which houses the Florida State College of Medicine Fort Pierce Regional Campus. The Smiths are strong supporters of higher education and public safety.

### Frank and LeVan Fee Physical and High Liability Training Building

Fort Pierce residents Frank and LeVan Fee are native Floridians who provided the lead gift for the construction of the physical and high liability training building, which is the second

largest facility within the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex. An attorney, Mr. Fee is a partner in the local law firm of Fee, DeRoss, and Fee. Mrs. LeVan Fee graduated from IRSC in 1968. Their son completed a business law course at IRSC and their daughter-in-law graduated from IRSC in 1997. The Fees have a long-standing commitment to quality education. In 2002, they generously supported the Fee Dance Studio for students in IRSC Theater Dance program. They also supported the mock courtroom in the public safety education building in honor of Mrs. Fee's father, who served as a judge for more than 20 years. Mr. Fee has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Basil L. King Endowed Scholarship Program at IRSC for more than 25 years. This scholarship program has benefitted hundreds of IRSC students through the years.

#### Robert H. Burroughs Fire Station and Training Center

To help meet the needs of area fire safety students, local physicians Tim Ioannides, M.D. and Jonathan Sanders, M.D. have provided the lead gift to support the construction of the fire station and training center. These two local doctors are partners at Treasure Coast Dermatology and actively support many local areas of need. Many of the employees at their medical office attended IRSC, and the practice has numerous patients who are employed at IRSC. The two physicians were so impressed with the caliber of their employees' training that they asked to learn more about the College. After several visits, they decided to help prepare first responders in the fire science program through the sponsorship of the fire station and training center. They wish to name the facility in honor of Dr. Sanders' uncle, Robert H. Burroughs. Cerebral palsy since birth, Robert Burroughs has faced an uphill battle every day of his 60 years. Although confined to a wheelchair, this has not prevented him from being a contributing member of society. He worked at the Massachusetts General Hospital for 15 years, during which time he contributed to the medical students' education by enlightening their understanding of the physical and social limitations of the severely handicapped. For the past decade, he has served as a consultant for ADA accessibility requirements. Currently a resident of Atlanta, Mr. Burroughs is in very poor health and may not live to see the facility's dedication.

#### Alan and Katherine Bernstein Tactical Training Center

Alan and Katherine Bernstein are residents of Martin County, which is located within IRSC's service district. Retired from the security industry where he was employed by Wackenhut for more than 35 years, Alan Bernstein has a keen interest in public safety and education. Throughout his career, he hired many graduates of IRSC law enforcement academies. His wife Katherine is a registered dietician with Meals on Wheels and works with numerous graduates of IRSC Nursing and Dietetic Management and Supervision programs. The Bernsteins were very impressed with the quality of IRSC students and contacted the college when they learned about the effort to build the public safety complex. They provided the lead gift for the tactical training building to better prepare students to respond in life-threatening emergencies and conflicts.

IRSC's Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex will be a tremendous asset to the region. In addition to serving students, members of the community and current public

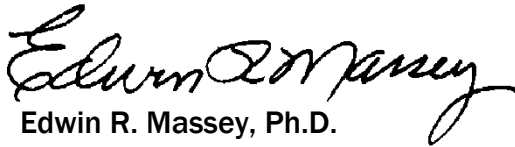
safety professionals will have access to increased professional development opportunities and resources through the public safety training complex.

The four naming opportunities at the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex align with both IRSC's statutory mission and the philanthropic focus of the generous donors.

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

We request a letter stating your approval of the naming of the four buildings at IRSC's Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex.

Sincerely,

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

Edwin R. Massey, Ph.D.  
President