

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Update**

February 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Florida College System – President Jim Murdaugh, on behalf of the Council of Presidents

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

N/A

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

President Murdaugh will provide a brief overview of the February 5, 2015, Florida College System (FCS) Council of Presidents meeting as well as the legislative priorities of the FCS as outlined in the brochure provided. Additionally, President Murdaugh will present an overview of an op-ed piece that ran in several newspapers. The op-ed, *Ensuring the Future of Jobs and Economy is Priority for the Florida College System in 2015*, outlines the successes of the FCS and the importance of the adaptability of the system as higher education and the economic landscape change.

Supporting Documentation Included: Florida College System Legislative Priorities 2015 Brochure; *Ensuring the Future of Jobs and Economy is Priority for the Florida College System in 2015*

Facilitator/Presenter: Jim Murdaugh, President, Tallahassee Community College



FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES | 2015

The Florida College System (FCS) serves as an affordable point of access to higher education with nearly one million students enrolled annually. Our college system supports the state's economy by providing education and training for Florida's critical workforce needs. An increased investment from the state is necessary to enable more students to excel in Florida's most in-demand occupations.

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM RECOMMENDED FUNDING: \$100 MILLION

- Capacity funding - **\$35** million
- Equity funding - **\$35** million
- Performance funding - **\$30** million

Increase state funding to expand academic and student support as well as expanded educational programs in critical workforce areas

By **expanding degree programs to meet workforce needs**, the FCS can provide the opportunity for more Floridians to gain skills that are critical to the region in which they live. The college system will work to respond efficiently to meet the demand of employers in 2015 by optimizing alignment of certificate and degree programs with regional workforce needs. These efforts will build a pipeline of talent helping Floridians gain employment while supporting the state's economy.

Academic support for student success academic and support services are valuable assets that guide students through their academic career. Services such as academic support, learning assistance, advising and mentoring improve a student's ability to ultimately secure job placement after graduation or transfer through our seamless 2+2 program to a college or university. Prioritizing funding for the FCS will facilitate the expansion of academic support services.

Increase state support to maintain affordability for students

A college's **capacity to serve** is based on two factors – tuition and state investment. Maintaining affordable tuition

is a priority for the colleges, the Legislature and Governor Scott. Without tuition increases, we must increase our capacity to serve by committing as a state to an investment in our future talent. Florida is recognized nationwide for its overall value in public higher education – affordable tuition being a large component. The FCS wants to ensure the cost of college is not a burden to the student, and therefore needs an appropriate investment from the state.

AFFORDABILITY + STATE INVESTMENT = CAPACITY TO SERVE

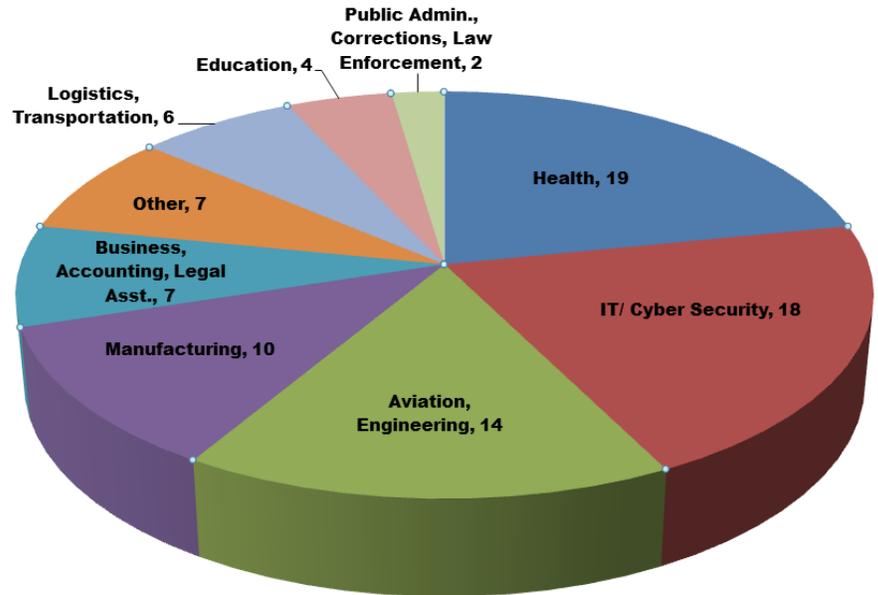
Support performance funding

The FCS supports the use of **performance funding** to encourage student success while continuing to support funding to build capacity and address equity issues among colleges. The FCS has always and will continue to be accountable for student performance. Critical academic and student support services drive student success. Services such as academic support, learning assistance, advising and mentoring improve a student's ability to ultimately secure upon graduation either job placement or transfer through our seamless 2+2 to a college or university.

Workforce Program Needs Summary

EXPANDING DEGREE PROGRAMS TO MEET WORKFORCE NEEDS.

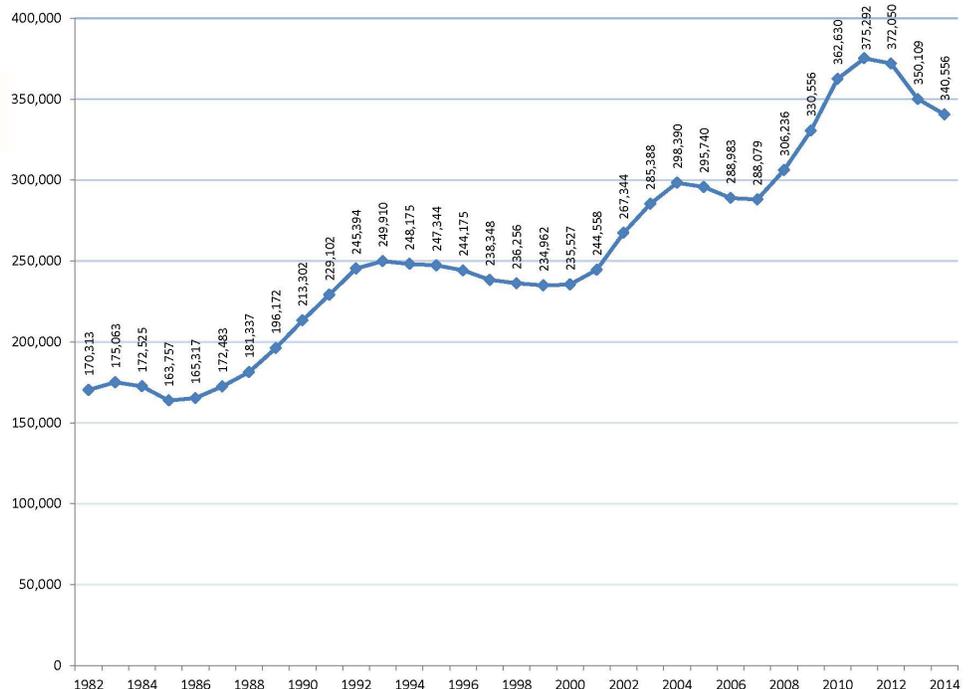
The diagram to the right represents the programs that have been requested by local business communities across the state to be started or expanded in each of the 28 colleges. By securing a renewed investment from the state, the FCS can respond efficiently to meet the demand of employers by optimizing alignment of certificate and degree programs with regional workforce needs.



ENROLLMENT GROWTH

The FCS experienced growth during the economic downturn, and as a result the system as a whole is experiencing a new normal — enrollment is plateauing at an unprecedented level. This record growth has limited our capacity to expand academic support and critical workforce programs, and has exacerbated the inequity of funding in some colleges in the system.

Florida College System Historical FTE Enrollment



Ensuring the Future of Jobs and Economy is Priority for the Florida College System in 2015

Florida businesses need an academically and technologically prepared workforce to succeed, which makes the strength of our higher education system a major factor in attracting new business to Florida. We are fortunate to have the Florida College System (FCS) as the primary access point to higher education in Florida. Serving nearly one million students annually, FCS is committed to providing access to high-quality, affordable academic and career education programs that maximize student learning and success. Our college system supports the state's economy by providing education and training for Florida's critical workforce needs.

It is true that 98 percent of FCS graduates stay in Florida, contributing their acquired skills and training to the state's economic development. With 28 public colleges throughout the state, the FCS has a \$27 billion economic impact.

It is more important than ever to prioritize the goals of the Florida College System for the upcoming year as the Florida economy continues to expand and the demand for skilled workforce grows exponentially.

The system has been highly successful as evidenced by the many national awards and recognitions received by our institutions from the American Association of Community Colleges and the Aspen Institute, to name a few. Nevertheless, we know that changing times and demographics demand that we enhance traditional, access-oriented education by focusing on ensuring our students are successful once they achieve their ultimate goal of completion and employment. The year ahead offers opportunities to continue improving our student-centered approach.

Higher education is evolving to have an increased focus on performance funding and the economic landscape in Florida is changing. The FCS has always and will continue to be accountable for student performance. It is imperative that the FCS responds rapidly and strategically to serve the state. We can do this in three effective ways:

Expand critical workforce areas: By expanding workforce training programs, the FCS can provide the opportunity for more Floridians to gain skills that are critical to the region in which they live. The college system will work to respond efficiently to meet the demand of employers in 2015 by optimizing alignment of certificate and degree programs with regional workforce needs. These efforts will build a pipeline of talent helping Floridians gain employment while supporting the state's economy.

Expand academic support: Services offered outside of the classroom are critical components that drive student success. Academic and support services are valuable assets that guide students through their academic careers. Services such as academic support, learning assistance, advising and mentoring improve a student's ability to ultimately secure upon graduation either job placement or transfer through our seamless 2+2 to a college or university. Expanding academic support services plays a crucial role in student success and will be a major focus in 2015.

Maintain affordability: A college's capacity to serve is based on two factors – tuition and state investment. Maintaining affordable tuition is a priority for the colleges, the Legislature and Governor

Scott. Without tuition increases, we must increase our capacity to serve by committing as a state to an investment in our future talent. Florida is recognized nationwide for its overall value in public higher education – affordable tuition being a large component. The FCS wants to ensure the cost of college is not a burden to the student, and therefore needs an appropriate investment from the state.

Following years of dramatic growth during the Recession, FCS student enrollment is plateauing at an unprecedented level. An increased investment from the state is essential to help us enable more students to excel in Florida's most in-demand occupations. As one of the most successful college systems in the nation, the FCS, with the vital support of the Legislature and Governor Scott, will continue to concentrate on delivering the talent Florida needs to become the number one job creator in the nation.

Dr. Jim Henningsen is the Chairman of the Florida College System's Council of Presidents and President of the College of Central Florida.