

COP LBR Talking Points

Opening:

The Florida College system remains as the point of access for Floridians to pursue a high quality affordable education. The FCS institutions' budget consists of approximately 50% state appropriated funding and the other half student tuition and fees. Last year, the Legislature provided \$1.2B in funding to the 28 Colleges. Collectively, we have not increased tuition in the past 5 years in order to keep colleges affordable and accessible for all demographics across the state.

Therefore, we have established a few additional priorities in order to meet the workforce demands of industry for our state as well as maintain Florida's ranking of #1 in Higher Education according to US News & World Report.

Workforce Funding: \$125M

- Our Florida College System serves nearly 800,000 students—many of whom are economically disadvantaged, working adults and first-generation-in-college students—and plays an essential role in Florida's workforce training needs.
- The Florida Chamber Foundation estimates that Florida will add six million more residents and will need to create 2 million new jobs. The Florida College System is a critical asset to address these demands. Providing new talent will spur innovation to start and grow businesses.
- Together, aerospace and aviation, health care and life sciences, manufacturing, logistics and distribution, and financial and professional services represent 30 percent of Florida's jobs and over 40 percent of the gross state product. These are the very industry clusters from which Florida's colleges are working to build these programs.
- According to the Florida Chamber Foundation, there are strong middle-skill and entry-level opportunities within each of these clusters. The projected gaps between the anticipated number of workers available to fill positions and industry demand represent opportunities to further diversify the workforce and help more Floridians prepare for and enter high-demand occupations with strong career pathways.

Student Success: \$87M

- Half of all juniors and seniors in the State University System come from the Florida College System. Academic advisors, academic tutors, career coaches and other student success support personnel are critical in order to keep students on track.

- Adding academic advisors will help to decrease the student to advisor ratio, as many of the larger colleges have ratios of 800:1. By focusing on increasing academic advising, Colleges would move closer to the National Academic Advising Association recommended ratio of 450:1.
- Advising and emerging technologies are necessary in order to track students' progress toward completion. Recruiting the best instructors, providing student support services, expanding targeted "2+2" articulated pathways, and enhancing workforce programs will assist colleges by increasing retention and decreasing the time to completion.
- Academic advisors aid students with recommendations of courses based on each student's guided pathway. This provides students with the opportunity to complete on time, which prevents students from taking unnecessary courses and exceeding the 60 credit hours needed to earn an AA degree.
- With impact strategies and early alert systems, data shows that students are less likely to withdraw and more likely to complete on time.

Industry Certifications: \$20.2M

- In 2007, the Legislature created the Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE), which provides a partnership between the business and education communities in order to train and teach students key skills and competencies that lead to accredited and recognized industry certifications.
- Credentialing students with degrees and credentials make them more marketable in their career.
- The Legislature currently allocates \$10M per year for industry certifications funding. To meet industry needs, an extra \$10.2M would be necessary to increase from the current number of 14,000 to 19,000 and would fully fund the program at \$1,000 per certification.

Performance Funding: \$60M

- Maintained the same funding as appropriated by the Legislature for FY 2018-19.
- The measures provides incentives for student retention, completion (150% and 200%), entry level wages, and job placement.

Note: Additional Talking Points on Funding

- The Florida College System provides nearly \$100M in tuition and fee waivers to support foster youth, homeless students, and the military veterans and families. The colleges absorb the loss in revenue and which has an impact on college operational resources since approximately 50% of most college budgets come from tuition and fee revenues.