

**State Board of Education Meeting  
Florida College System Council of Presidents**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

*\*Submitted to President Georgia Lorenz by President Angela Garcia Falconetti, Chair of the Council of Presidents, for consideration in addressing the State Board of Education (SBE) on behalf of the Florida College System Council of Presidents.*

Caribe Royale Orlando  
8101 World Center Drive; Sierra Ballroom A & B  
Orlando, FL 32821

Good morning, State Board of Education members. It is an honor to address you today. As a Steering Team member of the Florida College System's Council of Presidents (COP), I express gratitude on behalf of COP for your continued support of our great 28 colleges.

I would like to take a moment to express gratitude to Commissioner Corcoran, Senior Chancellor Eric Hall, Florida College System Chancellor Kathy Hebda, and Career, Technical, and Adult Education Chancellor Henry Mack. On behalf of the Council of Presidents, *thank you* for your leadership, support, and advocacy of our 28 colleges.

**2022 Legislative Priorities**

The COP approved its 2022 legislative priorities during the September 22, 2021, Policy and Advocacy meeting. The 2022 legislative priorities promote academic excellence, careers attainment and job placement as outlined in HB 1507, support emerging technologies and maintain safe, up-to-date facilities; and are specifically aimed to accelerate Florida's colleges in meeting three focal points for 2022 as well as the Governor's goal of Florida becoming number 1 in workforce development by 2030:

**STRENGTHEN**

**the Florida College System Program Fund**

Florida's colleges continue to be the local engine of each county's current and emerging need for talent. By fueling the colleges during this pandemic recovery, the state will be in the best position to provide Florida's counties with quality workforce education programs, particularly in the critical professions of law enforcement, nursing, EMTs, and in-demand healthcare fields. Moreover, Florida colleges serve college-ready K-12 students, driving them towards meaningful workforce opportunities or meaningful degrees as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. As a result of the passing of innovation changes in HB 1507, workforce education costs have increased. **With Florida's investment of \$60M, Florida colleges commit to accelerating Florida to #1.**

## **RENEW the Florida College System Infrastructure**

In order to meet workforce education demands, upgrades to classrooms and lab space are required, particularly for in-demand programs in health sciences, cybersecurity and information technology, and law enforcement. **The Council of Presidents seeks a renewed investment in the maintenance and repair of FCS facilities in the amount of \$39.8M.** Florida College System institutions must ensure that students' learning environments are sufficient to meet both student and employer needs while also attracting quality faculty members. **in workforce development by 2030.**

### **Accelerate Florida: Fueling Florida's Future**

The COP approved the development of a 3-year plan to "*Accelerate Florida*" by "*Fueling Florida's Future*" during the September 22, 2021, Policy and Advocacy meeting. COP is committed to accelerating Florida through educational excellence, economic mobility, and workforce growth.

The Florida College System (FCS) is Florida's largest higher education, open-door gateway to Florida's prosperity and economic growth. Educating more than 700,000 students, our system strengthens the quality of life for the vast majority of many families by preparing them for high wage paying jobs that builds economic mobility and meeting the needs of our local workforce and beyond.

Our system is strong, responsive, and innovative. We have a long-standing reputation for implementing high impact practices and are often considered a trailblazer. We stand tall for Florida, our families and businesses where they work. We are committed to our goal of being the number one workforce state by 2030.

Florida's colleges will *Accelerate Florida* by focusing on:

**Build the Healthcare Workforce** by meeting the growing community demand for quality healthcare workers, specifically nurses.

**Advance Career Pathways and Job Placement** by increasing the number of rapid Credentials, and career dual enrollment offerings provided by Florida colleges.

**Strengthen AA Completions and Transfer** by increasing Associate of Arts completions and student transfers to conferring colleges and universities.

The COP will share progress on the development of *Accelerate Florida* during the next State Board of Education meeting.