

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program - St. Petersburg College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Human Services

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

St. Petersburg College (SPC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Human Services. Appropriate notification of intent was provided to the Board of Governors, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and the Commission for Independent Education, as required in section 1007.33, Florida Statutes.

The degree program will prepare students to become social and community service managers, substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors, community health workers, community and social service specialists, and health educators. Program graduates will be eligible to pursue graduate work in these and related disciplines.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 289 annual job openings in SPC's service area. Regarding the five-year average supply, there is only one institution – University of South Florida – within SPC's service district that offers the same degree program with a five-year average supply of 83 graduates. Even with these graduates, SPC's service area still has an unmet need of 206 job openings.

Letters of support were provided by the former and current presidents of the University of South Florida, the Pinellas County Health Department Director, WestCare, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and various family support service centers and behavioral health and wellness centers.

SPC received a letter of objection for the proposed degree program from Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBAU). SPC addressed the objection in the proposal citing that the proposed program is closely aligned to meet local employer demand. Additionally, SPC indicated the distance and cost of the same degree at PBAU is prohibitive for many of its students.

An extensive review of criteria was conducted for the proposal submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The final proposal is being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

Documentation Included: Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Human Services (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, Dr. Tonjua Williams, President, St. Petersburg College, and guests