

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
August 23, 2023

**SUBJECT:** New Bachelor Degree Program – Valencia College Proposal for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Valencia College (VC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration. 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 graduates for administrative and leadership-level opportunities in the public safety sectors of law enforcement, correction, fire services, and other related protection, safety, and security organizations. Graduates of this program will be able to apply a broad set of knowledge and skills to a wide variety of public safety tasks.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 1,134 annual job openings in VC's service area. Currently, the University of Central Florida is the only public institution that offers a similar degree program within VC's service area. Non-public institutions, including Herzing University and the University of Phoenix, are the only institutions that offer a similar degree. However, the average 5-year supply has been less than 10 graduates.

Letters of support were provided from the University of Central Florida and the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium including representation from College of Central Florida, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Lake-Sumter State College, and Seminole State College. Industry partners also provided letters of support, including but not limited to the Orlando, Belle Isle, Kissimmee, Edgewood, and Apopka Police Departments, the Orlando, Kissimmee, and Apopka Fire Departments, and the Osceola County and Orange County Corrections Departments. There were no letters of objection or alternative proposals for the proposed degree program.

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.

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**Documentation Included:** Valencia College Proposal for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Administration (under separate cover)

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Kathryn S. Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System; Kathleen Plinske, President, Valencia College; and guests