

Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience
9505 Ocean Shore Boulevard
St. Augustine, FL 32080-8610
904-461-4000

Dr. Kim Van Vliet, Ph.D.
St. John River State College

July 26th, 2024

Dear Dr. Vliet,

I am pleased to support you and your colleagues' efforts to implement a new Bachelor of Science degree to St. Johns River College. As the current Dean/Director of the Whitney Lab, a Research Institute of the University of Florida I am acutely aware of the need for additional rigorous scientific training in Northeast Florida. The state of Florida is actively building around the "I95 corridor" much the way they have successfully developed the "I75 corridor". St Johns River College, with campuses in Clay, Putnam and St. Johns County is uniquely positioned to impact future job creation in our area.

I have been a University Professor for almost 25 years. I took the Directorship here at Whitney in 2012 and since then we have been searching for intellectual partnerships in our vicinity. Whitney has a 50-year history of using marine organisms as models for biomedical sciences, and we have recently begun to utilize our 'sense of place' and expertise in cutting-edge science for environmental restoration, natural products discovery, and water quality improvements. These are issues relevant to the future interests of the state and require the investment of new generations of highly trained, motivated, and conscientious scientists and educators who will install stewardship for the generations to come. The skills required are numerous, and the new Bachelor of Science program you and your colleagues are proposing are a welcome addition to the building of this work force. And, you will not be alone! Whitney and the University of Florida will be happy to partner with your new program. I can easily envision your students working here at Whitney to learn cutting edge techniques, and our students/postdocs providing leadership and educational lectures desired for your growing programs. It will not be easy, but you do have resources in our local area that will help your new programs prosper. Education, healthcare, land use management etc., are just a handful of the job opportunities awaiting students enrolled in your programs.

In summary, my colleagues here at Whitney and I are thrilled that you want to expand your educational opportunities in our locale. If there is anything else we can do to help with your innovative and much needed educational expansion, please let us know. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues to make this new degree program a success. Best of luck!

Sincerely,



Mark Q. Martindale, PhD
Professor and Director
mqmartin@whitney.ufl.edu

Jo Handelsman <jo.handelsman@wisc.edu>

Mar 26,
2024,
5:53 PM

to Sarah, me

Hi Kim,

Thanks for writing and for using Tiny Earth! The degree sound very useful. There continues to be a shortage of people in the STEM workforce and consequently we continue to import trained scientists from other countries. Several years ago, one government agency estimated that we needed to graduate 500,000 more associates degrees in STEM in short order and another 500,000 bachelors degrees. I don't know where we are on meeting that need, but I doubt the market is saturated. I'm sorry I don't have current data on this, but the Department of Labor might have some posted numbers. I'm copying Sarah Miller, the Executive Director of Tiny Earth, who may have more information on the need for STEM BS graduates.

I'm happy to provide a letter, but I have no data from the State of Florida, so if you could provide some stats for the letter, that would help.

Best,

jo



ENCORE Research Group

ENCouraging COmmunity Research and Education

Erin Schellhorn
Vice President of Operations
ENCORE Research Group
4085 University Boulevard South, Suite 1
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

May 3, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

Dear President Pickens,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree at St. Johns River State College. As someone in the science field, I believe that this program will greatly benefit both students and the broader community.

There is a growing demand for skilled professionals who possess a strong foundation in the field of biological sciences. The curriculum of the proposed program appears to be comprehensive, covering essential topics such as biological chemistry, genetics, ecology, and physiology.

As an employer in Northeast Florida, I am looking for graduates with science degrees to join the clinical research industry. Their strong background in science provides an excellent platform for a career in this business. Clinical Research is an often overlooked sector of healthcare, but is hugely beneficial to our community; providing services and access to cutting edge therapies for patients.

I am confident that graduates from this program will be well-equipped to dive into research and make a difference in healthcare. They'll have the critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills needed to thrive.

As one of St. Johns River State College's employers, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the proposed new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Erin Schellhorn



Dr. Anna Lebesch
SVP Strategy and Talent
JAXUSA Partnership
3 Independent Drive, Jacksonville, FL. 32202
April 10, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

Dear President Pickens,

The proposed new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree at St. Johns River State College can benefit both students and the broader community.

When looking at JOBSEQ data for Biomedical Research in Northeast Florida region, which includes the counties SJR State supports, opportunities exist with an overall 1.3 percent forecasted annual growth in general medical and surgical hospitals, direct health and medical insurance carriers, specialty hospitals, merchant wholesalers, and research and development in biotechnology.

The curriculum of the proposed program covers biological chemistry, genetics, ecology, and physiology. Moreover, the inclusion of practical, hands-on experiences, such as laboratory work and field studies, will undoubtedly enhance students' understanding and preparedness for future careers in the biological sciences. This may lead to roles in customer service, health service management, and insurance claims and processing, all of which have a positive annual demand in this industry according to JOBSEQ.

Graduates from this program will be well-equipped for a variety of career paths, whether it is diving into research, working in the life sciences industry, or making a difference in healthcare. They will have the critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills needed to thrive.

JAXUSA Partnership, the region's economic and talent development organization, works closely with St. Johns River State College's faculty and students. I am happy to be reached to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Lebesch". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Dr. Anna Lebesch

Amanda Foss
President
GreenWater Laboratories
205 Zeager Drive, Suite 302
Palatka FL 32177

April 11, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

Dear President Pickens,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree at St. Johns River State College. As someone in the science field, I believe that this program will greatly benefit both students and the broader community. There is a great need for programs like this as we find it difficult to attract talent locally.

There is a growing demand for skilled professionals who possess a strong foundation in the field of biological sciences. The curriculum of the proposed program appears to be comprehensive, covering essential topics such as biological chemistry, genetics, ecology, and physiology. Moreover, the inclusion of practical, hands-on experiences, such as laboratory work and field studies, will undoubtedly enhance students' understanding and preparedness for future careers in the biological sciences.

Graduates of this program will be well-equipped for various career paths, including research, industry, or healthcare. They will possess critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills that are essential for success in their chosen fields.

As one of St. Johns River State College's employers, I am delighted to write this letter of support for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree. I am confident that this program will produce highly skilled graduates who will make significant contributions to their respective fields. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Amanda Foss
President



careersourcenefl.com

April 24, 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

On behalf of CareerSource Northeast Florida, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers, and many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ferguson, Jr.

Bruce Ferguson
President

Corporate Office
| 1845 Town Center Blvd., Suite 250
Fleming Island, FL 32003
p: 904-213-3800 | f: 904-516-9217





Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

April 24, 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

On behalf of Clay Electric Cooperative, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers, and many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

As a former educator who has transitioned into the private sector, I have seen both private and public institutions benefit from having a well-educated workforce. My bachelor's degree in education provided a good career for me and my family early on and has since enabled me to advance into a leadership role at Clay Electric. Had it not been for my degree and the knowledge, skills, and abilities a 4-year program afforded me, I would not be where I am today.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,

Derek Hembree
District Manager
Palatka District
300 N State Road 19
Palatka, FL 32177



CLAY FLORIDA

Economic Development Corporation

POSSIBILITY FLOWS | JUST SOUTH OF JACKSONVILLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman:

George Egan
Reinhold Corporation

Vice-Chairman:

Van Royal
EXIT Magnolia Pl. Realty

Treasurer/Secretary:

Frank Miller
Gunster Law

DIRECTORS

Ted McGowan
Reynolds Park/Clay Cty. Port

Jerry Agresti
Developers Realty Group

Morgan Wilbanks
Stellar

Rob Bradley
Bradley, Garrison & Komando P.A.

Russell Buck
TD Bank

Brian Knight
Pragmatic Works

Michael Rathjen
VyStar Credit Union

Kevin Rinks
Ascension St. Vincent's

Joe Mobley
The Fiorentino Group

Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College

Jeff Taylor
HCA Florida OP Hospital

PRESIDENT

Crawford Powell

April 24, 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Dear President Pickens:

Clay County Economic Development Corporation is pleased to support the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers, and many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public college offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

Clay EDC works to recruit high-wage employers. Programs such as those proposed make our community tremendously more valuable when recruiting quality employers seeking a trained and ready workforce.

If I can provide additional resources or data, please do not hesitate to reach out. It is an honor to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to expand the offerings with these new baccalaureate degree programs to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Respectfully,

Crawford Powell, President



April 24, 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

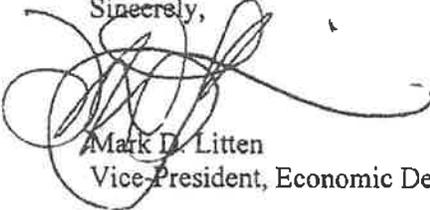
On behalf of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce & Putnam County Economic Development Council (*PCEDC*), it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers, and many employment opportunities that exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

Our primary mission is to leverage job creation in Putnam County for our citizens so that graduates can remain local and raise their families!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Litten
Vice-President, Economic Development





PUTNAM COUNTY

2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 200
Palatka, Florida 32177
(386) 329-0212

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Larry Harvey
County Commissioner, District 4

April 25, 2024

Baccalaureate Proposals
President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River
State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's
Dear President Pickens:

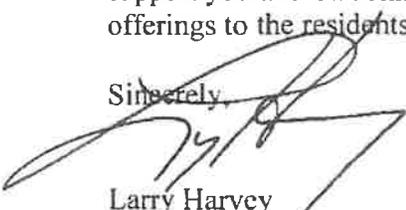
As the current chairman of the board of the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high-wage, high-demand careers, and many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high-quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce. This is an exciting time in the history of our local college. To be able to provide higher learning opportunities for citizens of this region so they can become the leaders of tomorrow that we need.

I could not be more happy than I am today in celebrating this great path forward.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,



Larry Harvey
Putnam County Commissioner
Larry.harvey@putnam-fl.gov
Cell: 386-916-8923
Office: 386-329-0205

Sheriff

H.D. "Gator" DeLoach
Putnam County Sheriff's Office



130 Orié Griffin Blvd.
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 329-0800
www.putnamsheriff.org

25 April 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

On behalf of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers, and many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

Our ability to meet societal demands on law enforcement agencies to become more professional requires that our members are well educated. The requirement not only includes criminal justice related disciplines, but it also includes areas such as human services and digital technology. The Sheriff's Office currently partners with SJRSC in a scholarship program for our members desiring to further their education. These additional BS degrees will benefit our agency and our community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wells".

Colonel Joseph Wells
Chief Deputy, Putnam County Sheriff's Office

West District Office
108 N. County Road 315
Interlachen, FL 32148
(386) 329-0848



A State Accredited Agency



F L O R I D A ' S
Putnam County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 6, 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

On behalf of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce I am pleased to submit this letter of support for for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The Bachelor of Science degrees in Exceptional Student Education, Biological Sciences, Social and Human Services, along with Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in Digital Art & Media and Performance Design & Production degrees all proposed by SJR State will prepare graduates for entry into high wage/high demand careers. Many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs.

Florida has a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce is engaged in community development, economic development, workforce development and many quality-of-life efforts. We work with many partners, like SJR State College, to make Putnam County a great place to live, work and play. The benefits gained to the community through the approval of this request from SJR State will address workforce and economic needs and have a widespread positive effect on the business community and the overall economic climate.

It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Dana Jones, President





**Board of County
Commissioners**

P.O. Box 1366
477 Houston Street
Green Cove Springs, FL
32043

Area Code: 904
Phone: 284-6352
269-6352
Fax: 278-4731

County Manager
Howard Wanamaker

Commissioners:
Mike Cella
District 1

Alexandra Compere
District 2

Jim Renninger
District 3

Betsy Condon
District 4

Kristen Burke, DC
District 5

Switchboard:

GCS (904) 284-6300
KH (352) 473-3711
KL (904) 533-2111
OP/MBG (904) 269-6300

www.claycountygov.com



May 14, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

RE: Letter of support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens,

On behalf of the Clay County Board of County Commissioners, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The degrees you are proposing, BS degrees in Exceptional Student Education, Biological Sciences, and Social and Human Services, as well as BAS degrees in Digital Art & Media and Performance Design & Production, will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers. Many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs. In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of Clay County to earn a high quality, low cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering such degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

State colleges that offer baccalaureate programs provide the most economical means of achieving a four-year degree. Local state colleges, like St. Johns River State College, offering programs that include the baccalaureate degrees listed above will enhance resident satisfaction and provide for increased economic development in Clay County.

It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Renninger".

Jim Renninger, Chairman
Clay County Board of County Commissioners



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Board of County Commissioners

May 17th, 2024

President Joe H. Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

On behalf of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

The BS in Exceptional Student Education, BS in Biological Sciences, BS in Social and Human Services, BAS in Digital Art & Media, and BAS in Performance Design & Production degrees proposed by SJR State will all prepare graduates for entry into high wage, high demand careers, and many employment opportunities exist within our local community for graduates of these programs.

In Florida, there is a well-documented critical teacher shortage, and graduates of programs in STEM, human services, digital media, and performance production are all in high demand as well. In addition to addressing employers' hiring challenges, the proposed programs will enable the residents of our community to earn a high quality, low-cost baccalaureate degree from the only public College offering baccalaureate degrees in our county, greatly increasing the likelihood that we retain these graduates in our local community and workforce.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,

Sarah Arnold, Chair
District 2



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043

P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:

Erin Skipper, District 1
Mary Bolla, District 2
Beth Clark, District 3
Michele Hanson, District 4
Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

May 22, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens,

On behalf of Clay County District Schools, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

Florida's statewide teacher shortage is well documented, and these proposed baccalaureate degrees align with the local needs of our School District. The Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education will be an initial teacher certification program in a critical needs area, and the baccalaureate degrees in Biological Sciences, Social & Human Services, Digital Art & Media, and Performance Design & Production will include 15 credits of education coursework that satisfy the education courses listed on the Statement of Eligibility for students interested in pursuing alternative teacher certification in Florida. In addition to exposing a new pipeline of students to careers as K-12 educators in their local community, these baccalaureate degree options will provide our high school graduates with additional opportunities to earn affordable Bachelor's degrees close to their homes.

Clay County District Schools values our partnership and the opportunities afforded by St. Johns River State College that support our educational needs by providing the necessary education for individuals to become highly qualified instructional candidates.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,

David S. Broskie
Superintendent of Schools



Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
(904) 547-7500
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

SCHOOL BOARD

May 23, 2024

Beverly Slough
District 1

Anthony E. Coleman Sr.
District 2

Jennifer Collins
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Baccalaureate Proposals

Dear President Pickens:

On behalf of St. Johns County School District, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the baccalaureate degrees being proposed by St. Johns River State College.

Florida's statewide teacher shortage is well documented, and these proposed baccalaureate degrees align with the local needs of our School District. The Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education will be an initial teacher certification program in a critical needs area, and the baccalaureate degrees in Biological Sciences, Social & Human Services, Digital Art & Media, and Performance Design & Production will include 15 credits of education coursework that satisfy the education courses listed on the Statement of Eligibility for students interested in pursuing alternative teacher certification in Florida. In addition to exposing a new pipeline of students to careers as K-12 educators in their local community, these baccalaureate degree options will provide our high school graduates with additional opportunities to earn affordable bachelor's degrees close to their homes.

Furthermore, the development of these five bachelor's degree programs will fulfill an unmet need in St. Johns, Clay, and Putnam counties, as there is currently no school offering these programs. Beyond producing teachers, these degrees would prepare local students for jobs in scientific labs and research, social work and counseling, animation, audio production, as well as video editing. All programs would allow graduates to transfer to postgraduate programs as well as K-12 education.

The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

President Joe Pickens
May 23, 2024
Page 2 of 2

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. It is a pleasure to support you and St. Johns River College as you work to bring these new baccalaureate degree offerings to the residents of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

Sincerely,



Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

/gcf

2024-25 Biological Sciences Advisory Board-Confirmed Members

1. Alligator Farm-Josie Taylor, Education Manager
2. County School Districts
 - Clay County School District-Treasure Pickett
Director of Secondary Education
 - Putnam County School District- Laura France
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
 - St. Johns County School District- Marna Fox
Secondary Science Program Specialist
3. GreenWater Labs- Amanda Foss, President
4. Keep Putnam Beautiful- Nicole Grace, Executive Director
5. Nova Southeastern University - Michael Doyle,
Senior Associate Director of Admissions
6. ENCORE Group- St. Johns Center for Clinical Research-Erin Schellhorn
VP of Executive Operations
7. St. Johns Riverkeeper- Jamie DeNisco, Education Director
8. St. Johns River Water Management District- Brad Purcell, Chief of Staff
9. UF Whitney Laboratory- Dr. Mark Martindale, Director
10. University of Florida-Dr. Mireille Aleman
Instructional Associate Professor of Medical Programs
11. University of St. Augustine-Dr. Beth Ennis
Senior Academic Program Director, FL DPT Programs
12. Water Works Environmental Education Center - Palmer Kinser, Director
13. CareerSource-Lorenz Cotton, Workforce Development Specialist

Jacksonville Campus
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



April 23, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for SJR State's Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

Dear President Pickens,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree at St. Johns River State College.

There is a growing demand for skilled professionals who possess a strong foundation in the field of biological sciences. The curriculum of the proposed program appears to be comprehensive, covering essential topics such as biological chemistry, genetics, ecology, and physiology. Moreover, the inclusion of practical, hands-on experiences, such as laboratory work and field studies, will undoubtedly enhance students' understanding and preparedness for future careers in the biological sciences.

I am confident that graduates from this program will be well-equipped for a variety of career paths, whether it's diving into research, working in industry, or making a difference in healthcare. They'll have the critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills needed to thrive.

As one of St. Johns River State College's education partners, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the proposed new Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Goehring".

Brooke Goehring
Campus Director
Nova Southeastern University, Jacksonville Campus
6675 Corporate Center Parkway, Ste 115
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Office: (904) 245-8910
Email: Br461@nova.edu



Your application for a Florida Profession Educator's Certificate has been received.

For issuance of a PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR'S CERTIFICATE valid for five years, covering Social Science (Grades 6-12), official documentation of the following requirements must be submitted to the Bureau of Educator Certification:

- a passing score on the Math subtest of the Florida General Knowledge Test earned no more than ten (10) years prior to the date of application.
- completion of a Florida approved Professional Education Competence Program administered and documented by your employer.

Completion of the following Professional Preparation Coursework Requirements:

- a minimum of 15.00 semester hours in education courses with credit in each of the professional education areas listed below. Please note that it may require more than the minimum semester hours to satisfy all requirements.
- classroom management with a focus on creating safe learning environments for students in which effective teaching and learning can take place by promoting a physically, emotionally, socially, and academically secure climate for students **EDG 4419**
- child and adolescent development including theories and principles of learning **DEP 2004**
- educational assessment practices that include analysis and application of data from statewide standardized assessments and other multiple sources to improve instruction and learning **EDF 4444**



- effective instructional techniques, strategies, and materials to meet the needs of diverse learners, including students with disabilities

EDG 4343

- instructional strategies for teaching students of limited English proficiency including instruction in the English language and development of the student's mastery of the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Teaching experience cannot be used to satisfy this requirement.)

TSL 3083

- applications of research-based instructional practices in reading

RED 4342

- Note: A passing grade of C or better must be earned for each course, and every course, except child and adolescent development, must be completed at an institution that awards bachelor's or higher degrees.

Additional Comments:

- Please be advised that this is a revision of your letter. Please disregard any previous letters in this subject.

- You have one year of teaching experience, which may be used in lieu of any course requirement in Professional Preparation listed above (3 semester hours of college credit). Please be advised this is the maximum amount of teaching experience allowed by Florida State Board of Education Rules in this area. All remaining course requirements must be satisfied with appropriate college credit.

This evaluation outlines one educator preparation route and pathway to certification. For other options, please select 'Alternative & Traditional Certification' from our home page (<http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification>).



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 30, 2024

President Joe Pickens
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Re: Letter of Support for Proposed Baccalaureate Degrees

Dear President Pickens,

In follow up to our phone conversation on April 5, 2024, on behalf of Flagler College, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for St. Johns River State College's four proposed Baccalaureate Degrees in Human Services, Biological Sciences, Theatre Technology, and Digital Media.

As we discussed, Flagler College and St. Johns River State College do not cater to the same pool of students, and SJR State's degree programs are not competition for Flagler College, nor are these degrees duplication of ours. In addition to addressing employers' unmet needs, the proposed degrees will bring much opportunity to residents of our community, particularly non-traditional students who will articulate into these baccalaureates from your Associate degree programs.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information. Best wishes as you pursue these new offerings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Delaney".

John Delaney, J.D.
Flagler College President