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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Mike Sfiropoulos, Ph.D., Director of Academic Affairs 

DATE: November 04, 2021

SUBJECT: Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Standard Setting Subject Matter Experts

The Florida Department of Education (department) is seeking Florida College System (FCS) faculty to participate in a standard setting convening as Subject Matter Experts (SME) for the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER subject-area assessments to identify and recommend cut scores for placement into introductory college-level credit-bearing courses. The new standards will be recommended for adoption by the State Board of Education (SBE) to be incorporated into rule for FCS and statewide use.

The Office of Assessment will cover all travel and lodging expenses and provide a stipend of \$250 per day per SME. The meeting will be hosted at Valencia College's School of Public Safety (8600 Valencia College Lane). The standard setting will be conducted by three panels, working under the direction of trained facilitators, for the following assessments on the following dates:

- ACCUPLACER Mathematics (QAS) (Tuesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 9)
- ACCUPLACER Reading (Tuesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 9)
- ACCUPLACER Writing (Thursday, February 10 and Friday, February 11)

Note: We are particularly interested in SMEs with expertise in both reading and writing; the faculty members serving as SMEs on both the reading and writing panels will be required to attend the full four-day convening (February 8-11, 2022). SMEs that serve on only the mathematics and reading panels will be required to attend only the first two days (February 8-9, 2022).

The department is seeking nominations from all 28 colleges, with a goal of receiving between 20-22 nominations for each subject area for faculty with content expertise and teaching experience at the developmental education and/or college level. We strongly encourage nominations of SMEs with diverse backgrounds and who teach groups of diverse students.

Please provide the names, email addresses, phone numbers and skill areas of each nominee **by Friday, November 19**. Please only nominate faculty members who are available to participate in the in-person standard setting schedules outlined above.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

Background

On August 21, 2019, the SBE approved amendments to Rule 6A-10.0315, Florida Administrative Code. The rule was amended to include the addition of interim standard scores and effective dates for the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER assessment, which replaced the Classic ACCUPLACER.

The purpose of the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER placement test is to align to the same content domain continuum as the SAT Suite of Assessments, help institutions improve course placement accuracy, and reflect the changing landscape of higher education with mathematics sequences aligned to clear pathways by adding quantitative reasoning, algebra and statistics (QAS) to the placement assessment.

As such, the department invites you to nominate faculty members for consideration to serve as SMEs with content expertise and college teaching experience as outlined above.

Expectations for Faculty Participation

The major expectations for the participating faculty members include:

- completing an online ACCUPLACER computer adaptive test prior to standard setting at their institutions' testing center;
- full commitment to attending all the standard setting meetings and discussions for their subject area(s); and
- completion of all online forms as assigned.

Each SME will be required to bring a 2014 or newer Mac or PC laptop computer running Google Chrome (iPads and Chromebooks are not acceptable). In addition to meeting the minimum hardware requirements, SMEs should have intermediate knowledge of computers and technology such that they can toggle comfortably between multiple windows on their computers and take an active role in troubleshooting connectivity or access issues should such issues arise.

The roles and responsibilities of participants for each panel as well as a formal invitation with detailed information, including the Office of Assessment's coverage of costs, will be provided at a later date once the nominees are selected.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos at Mike.Sfiropoulos@fldoe.org or 850-245-9523 should you have any questions.

MS/yh

cc: Carrie Henderson, Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges
Phil Canto, Bureau Chief, Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement
Vince Verges, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement