



RON DESANTIS

GOVERNOR

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM MONTH

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is currently comprised of 28 public state colleges and community colleges and is celebrating six decades of innovation, achievements, and successes; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System provides access to high-quality, affordable academic and career education programs that maximize student learning and success, and develops a globally competitive workforce to respond rapidly to diverse state and community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is the primary access point to higher education for Floridians, including recent high school graduates and returning adult students; and

WHEREAS, Florida is ranked the #1 higher education system in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for the fifth consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is the state's workforce talent pipeline, and plays a key role in making Florida #1 in workforce education by 2030, with more than 88 percent of graduates contributing to local businesses and Florida's economy in the year following graduation; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis recently awarded millions of dollars from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to expand workforce training options at Florida College System institutions for students in transportation, technology, construction, and manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has announced \$89 million funding initiative for workforce education initiatives including pioneering programs at Florida College System institutions to offer charter opportunities in career and technical education to Florida's secondary students, bringing total workforce education investment to greater than \$3.5 billion since 2019; and

WHEREAS, Florida College System institutions assisted students in turning passion into training and goals into reality by enrolling 640,183 students in 2020-21, 61 percent of whom were female and 62 percent of whom were minorities, and conferring 119,375 degrees and certificates; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System welcomed and enrolled nearly 78,000 active-duty military personnel, veterans, members of the reserves, spouses, and dependents in 2020-21; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System's dual-enrollment programs saved over 78,500 secondary students and their families millions of dollars in postsecondary tuition, books, and debt in 2020-21, as these dual enrollment students earned college credit in high school; and

WHEREAS, a Florida College System institution has either won the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, earned recognition as a finalist, or recognition as a finalist with distinction every year since the contest's inception in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, 14 Florida College System institutions became eligible to compete for a \$1 million Aspen Institute national prize involving top U.S. community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is essential to the goal of becoming the #1 state in workforce education, and since 2019, more than 37,900 students have earned rapid workforce credentials and more than 17,400 allied health care programs have been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby extend greeting and best wishes to all observing April 2022 as *Florida College System Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-two.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written over a horizontal line.

Governor