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DFC Memorandum Number 2022-13

Contact: Dr. Carrie Henderson

Email: Carrie.Henderson@fldoe.org

Phone: 850-245-9903

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Kathryn Hebda 

DATE: August 24, 2022

SUBJECT: State Board of Education Action Related to Institutional Accrediting Agencies

On August 17, 2022, the State Board of Education (SBOE) approved an action item related to Florida College System (FCS) institutional accreditation. During the 2022 legislative session, Senate Bill (SB) 7044 established September 1, 2022, as the date by which the SBOE must identify accrediting agencies or associations that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) and are best suited to serve as an accreditor for FCS institutions. To that end, the action item and supporting documentation the SBOE adopted pursuant to s. 1008.47(2)(a), F.S., are attached for your reference.

Once an FCS institution's reaffirmation or fifth-year review by its current accreditor is complete, the institution will be required to provide quarterly reports on its progress of seeking accreditation from an accreditor identified by SBOE. A copy of the template for quarterly reporting required under s. 1008.47(2)(b), F.S., is attached for your reference.

The Board of Governors (BOG) for the State University System (SUS) is expected to vote on recommendations for the universities on August 26, 2022.

Following the BOG vote, we will form a joint SUS and FCS workgroup for the first cohort of universities and colleges that will participate in this process. We will follow up with details about this workgroup at a later date.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

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I am available if you have any questions. For specific information regarding institutional accreditation, please contact me or Dr. Carrie Henderson at 850-245-9903 or via email at Carrie.Henderson@fldoe.org.

KH/hl

Attachment

CC: Henry Mack, Senior Chancellor, Department of Education
Marshall M. Criser III, Chancellor, State University System
Carrie Henderson, Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges
Chief Academic Officers, FCS