

**ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES  
Florida College System Council of Presidents  
Policy and Advocacy/Business Meeting**

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Governors Club (Tallahassee) and Hybrid Meeting (Zoom)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81771617924?pwd=SlQ0REZHMEg1ZHFaQkpOWFRRbnBIUT09>

**Meeting ID: 817 7161 7924 -- Passcode: 466851**

**COP Business Meeting**

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER - Welcome and Remarks – President Ed Meadows
- 2.0 Quorum Check – Mr. Tony Carvajal
- 3.0 Council of Presidents’ Minutes – President Ed Meadows
  - 3.1 Council of Presidents Business Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2023
- 4.0 Policy and Advocacy Committee – President Jeff Allbritten
  - 4.1 Legislative Agenda Priorities
  - 4.2 Legislative Updates – Mr. Seth McKeel
- 5.0 Report of the Chair – President Ed Meadows
  - 5.1 James L Wattenbarger Award Chair, President Joe Pickens
- 6.0 Report of the Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges – Chancellor Kathy Hebda
- 7.0 Report of the Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education – Chancellor Kevin O’Farrell
- 8.0 Other COP Committee and Work Group Reports
  - 8.1 Florida College System Risk Management Consortium – President Tonjua Williams and President Jim Henningsen
  - 8.2 Articulation Coordinating Committee – President Paul Broadie
  - 8.3 Media and Public Relations Committee – President Devin Stephenson and President Angela Garcia Falconetti, with Moore Agency
- 9.0 COP Support Council Reports  
President Kathleen Plinske
  - 9.1 Council of Instructional Affairs – Mr. Rich Senker
  - 9.2 Council of Student Affairs – Dr. Erik D’Aquino
  - 9.3 Council for Workforce Education – Dr. Jodi Long

- President Heather Bigard
  - 9.4 Council of Business Affairs – Mr. Chuck Prince
  - 9.5 Florida Council for Resource Development – Ms. Jamie Bateman
- 10.0 Florida College System Activities Association – President John Avendano and Ms. Kelly Warren
  - 10.1 FCSAA Report
  - 10.2 Introduction of State Student Government President, Gilberto Mattei-Fernandez, PHSC
- 11.0 Association of Florida Colleges Report
  - 11.1 AFC Updates - Mr. Gregory Williams
  - 11.2 CEO Report - Mr. Tony Carvajal
- 12.0 Announcements, Celebrations, and Other Business
- 13.0 Adjourn

**ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES**  
**Florida College System Council of Presidents**  
**Policy and Advocacy/Business Meeting – Via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2023**

**Call To Order**

Dr. Meadows called the Council of Presidents meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. EDT.

**Roll Call and Quorum Check**

Mr. Tony Carvajal, AFC CEO, took the roll of the presidents in attendance to ensure a quorum was met.

President Sarah Clemmons

President Tom LoBasso

*President Jim Richey, proxy Dr. Fletcher*

President Jeff Allbritten

President John Avendano

President Ken Atwater

President Tim Moore

President Heather Bigard

President Madeline Pumariega

President John Grosskopf

President Devin Stephenson

President Ava Parker

President Timothy Beard

President Ed Meadows

President Angela M. Garcia Falconetti

President Paul Broadie

President Georgia Lorenz

President Fred Hawkins, Jr.

President Joe Pickens

President Tonjua Williams

President Jim Murdaugh

President Kathleen Plinske

**Council of Presidents Minutes**

Dr. Meadows called for a motion to approve the Council of Presidents' August 11, 2023, Business Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** *Upon motions by Dr. Paul Broadie and a second by Dr. Tim Beard the August 11, 2023, Council of Presidents' Business Meeting Minutes were unanimously adopted.*

**Policy and Advocacy Committee**

The Policy and Advocacy meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. Dr. Allbritten shared that he would be bringing forth the legislative ask for the COP which was full support of the state health insurance, the 100 million request from the Commissioner for program funds, and the non-program funding similar to last year which includes fixed capital outlay, performance base incentives, open door and nursing program funding. Dr. Meadows asked Mr. McKeel if he had legislation reports to share. Mr. McKeel stated that he was excited about the direction the COP is moving towards and he is looking forward to working with

Ms. Karen Moore of the Moore Agency to create an ad to communicate with legislators. They are working on a schedule for Committee Week in Tallahassee. He shared that Representative Perez was elected as Speaker Designate, and he is a supporter of the Florida College System. He reported that the agency's Legislative Budget Request was officially submitted to the Governor's office. He shared that the Governor's office will make their budget recommendations in late November, or early December. Dr. Meadows shared there will be a committee led by Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Falconetti, and Ms. Moore to develop the marketing piece or the COP Legislative priorities. He stated that he and President Pumariega will join the committee to finalize the marketing components which includes what Dr. Allbritten reported to the COP as the three priorities.

The Policy and Advocacy Committee meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

### **Council of Presidents Business Meeting**

Dr. Meadows called the Council of Presidents Business meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

### **Report of the Chair**

Dr. Meadows reported that on November 16 – 17, there will be one additional event to take place before the Council of Presidents meetings there will be a select group of Presidents and their Trustees who will be walking the halls speaking with key legislative leaders on the house and senate sides regarding the COP legislative priorities.

Dr. Meadows stated that several Presidents have volunteered to work on the COP workgroups. He asked if any of the Presidents had questions on their agreement to serve on the workgroups. There were no questions. Dr. Meadows asked Dr. Bigard if there were any updates with COBA collecting insurance data. Dr. Bigard shared that they received notice that the study was going to begin. Mr. Chuck Prince, COBA Chair, is working with leadership to complete the study as soon as possible.

Dr. Meadows asked President Pickens if he had an update on the James L. Wattenbarger Award. President Pickens reported that they have five nominations and he and Mr. Carvajal would work on compiling the nominations into a document whereby Presidents could vote on the nominees. He stated he would be emailing an update on the award. Mr. Carvajal added that on October 25 the Presidents would be receiving the link to vote on the nominees. He shared that the link would be open until Friday of that week. He reported the presentation of the winner would be Thursday, November 2 at the Association of Florida Colleges Annual Conference and Meeting Gala.

Dr. Beard commented that over the last few years, the COP had preferred to bypass advocating any major policies. He asked if this would be the same strategy this year, and how do we as a council go about reviewing any policies that could dramatically impact the FCS. President Pumariega added that since the Chancellors were present, has there been any movement on the rulemaking for K-12 and offering AS degrees? She stated that since that was not part of the strategy last year, she feels there is an opportunity for rulemaking

now to influence this. Chancellor O'Farrell stated that they will be noticing rule development in November and that will start the process. He further stated that the rule would be similar to what was outlined in SB240.

Dr. Meadows shared there were 34 faculty attending the FCS Master Teacher Seminar over the summer. He thanked Miami Dade for sending multiple faculty members.

### **Report of the Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges**

Chancellor Hebda invited Senior Chancellor Kim Richey for comments. Senior Chancellor welcomed the COP to Tallahassee, she thanked the COP for allowing her to be in attendance and she stated that she is looking forward to continuing to partner with the COP.

Chancellor Hebda stated the LBR has been filed and it's available online, she will include the link in the talking points. She shared that Associate Vice Chancellor Lisa Cook is the point person in the division for the collection of data on the insurance report, anyone with questions can contact Ms. Cook.

She shared they are doing the first-ever cyber competition for the college system. They started a cyber collaborative a couple of years ago allowing each institution to have a representative to meet about cyber security programs, issues, and building certifications around cyber security programs. She thanked President Williams for hosting the division of St. Petersburg College where they held a workshop to prepare for certifications. Part of the workshop was for preparing for the student competition. She stated that Alex Jordan is the point person.

Chancellor Hebda reported the Student Success Center issued an opportunity for individuals, colleges, along with their district partners to apply to the Florida Pathways Institute to learn more about student access to dual enrollment; they had 13 institutions, and 22 district partners that have signed up. She stated information on the workshops will be available soon with the first meeting in November. She reported that the Math Pathways math course shell development is underway. She shared that the next SBOE meeting is in October, there are no rules scheduled for the October meeting, but there are several rules they are preparing for the January meeting. The rules will be provided in the talking points from her office.

She shared that Open Door is moving to a scholarship program instead of a grant program. They have emailed reminders to submit invoices for the current grant program, after which it will still be Open Door, it will be scholarship reimbursement instead of a grant.

### **Report of the Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education**

Chancellor O'Farrell shared updates relevant to the grant programs, Pipeline has been a great performance incentive program for nursing education, and institutions should have received the first quarterly disbursement on August 31, the next disbursement is October 15. He shared that they are in the final stages of finalizing the funding list for those institutions that participate in the Adult Education IELCE. He reported that he and

Chancellor Richey attended the Career Source BOD meeting and two important items from the meeting include the approval of the 2023 MCL. The only addition was one industry certification that is fundable only at the secondary level in IA data science.

Chancellor O'Farrell shared apprenticeship growth; a 14% increase in the number of apprentices and pre-apprentices that are engaging in programs across the state, that is almost 20,000 individuals involved. There was an 11% growth from last year in the number of registered apprentices and pre-apprentices programs. There is a 21% increase in the number of apprenticeable occupations. There are currently 120 apprenticeable occupations in the State of Florida. He shared that from 2019 there has been a 45% increase in the number of registered apprentices across the state, a 33% increase in the number of programs that have been registered, and a 100% increase in the total number of pre-apprenticeships programs. Over the last four years, there has been a 110% increase in apprenticeable occupations.

Vice Chancellor for Workforce Innovation, Keith Richard presented to the COP on EMOP – Education Meets Opportunity Platform System. EMOP is a data-driven tool that analyzes education data, Career and Tech (CTE) data, and workforce data. (see attached PowerPoint)

### **COP Committee and Workgroup Reports**

#### **Florida College System Risk Management Consortium – Dr. Tonjua Williams**

Shared that Mr. Fagler provided reports and data regarding risk management by email. He requested all the Presidents read the email and respond with any questions. She stated they do not have any other reports to provide today.

#### **Articulation Coordinating Committee – Dr. Paul Broadie**

Dr. Broadie shared earlier with Dr. Meadows they had no new information to report.

#### **Media and Public Relations Committee – Dr. Devin Stephensen and Dr. Angela Garcia-Falconetti**

Dr. Stephensen states that he and Dr. Falconetti were happy to present the report today after working with Ms. Moore and the Moore Agency Team. He shared that the Moore Agency team circulated an article reflecting that on September 8 the joint Legislative Budget Commission met where they received an update on state revenues. He stated that the general revenue surplus is going to be more than seven billion dollars during the next fiscal year. They are also expecting an approximate 2.7 billion dollar decline during the next fiscal year. They are continuing to monitor the state revenue announcements. As more information becomes available, they will share that information with the COP. He shared the Moore Agency has been developing a series of leave-behind materials to be utilized by Presidents, lobbyists, trustees, and community leaders. He shared that in support of insurance priorities, the Moore Team has tentatively scheduled a press event at the Capitol the week of the November COP meeting, he stated that details will be shared as they are finalized. He stated the committee is monitoring the traditional and social media for college

success. If any institution would like to have its communication outreach amplified forward that information to Ms. Kendra Parson with the Moore Agency.

Ms. Moore stated in front of each President was the one-pager similar to last year, which was received very positively by the legislators. She stated the one-pager would be hand-delivered by her staff members of the House and Senate during committee meetings. She also discussed the two-pager which focuses on why the FCS is the solution for workforce talent needs. The document provides information and data points on the investment in the FCS. She stated the materials presented are what she and her team would like to disseminate the materials.

Ms. Moore shared they are seeking to secure a place to hold the media event on November 16. She will keep the Presidents informed on any developments. She shared there will be a section in the next issue of Florida Trend. The section is sixty pages, and twenty-two of the twenty-eight colleges took out additional ad space in the issues. The Moore Agency will be delivering a copy to every member of the House and Senate a copy.

President Pumariega asked where the data came from on the one-pager. Ms. Moore stated the data came from the DOE; the ROI data is from Florida Tax Watch.

**Action:** *Dr. Meadows called for a vote to adopt the two pieces of materials presented by The Moore Agency for promoting the COP and the FCS. The vote was unanimous, motion was carried.*

### **COP Support Council Reports**

Dr. Kathleen Plinske, Liaison for the Council of Instructional Affairs, Council of Student Affairs, and Council for Workforce Education asked each chair to share their reports.

#### **Council of Instructional Affairs - Mr. Rich Senker**

Mr. Senker shared that the joint council chairs recognize that faculty and staff need to be engaged in professional development related to the impact of artificial intelligence in higher education, they have dedicated a significant amount of time during the October joint council meeting to learn more about the effects of AI on students, faculty, and staff. They will have in-depth discussions and presentations for the attendees to better understand the effects of AI.

#### **Council of Student Affairs – Dr. Erik D’Aquino**

Dr. D’Aquino reported that the CSA is eagerly anticipating the upcoming October meeting, where they will delve into vital discussions regarding the academic year and strategies to enhance student engagement across our campuses.

He shared that the CSA has forged a significant partnership with the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA). The primary goal of this collaboration is to increase access to talent and event programming to enrich the educational experiences for students. APCA is dedicated to promoting campus engagement by offering high-

quality educational experiences, affordable entertainment options, and opportunities for community service initiatives.

This partnership extends a no-cost membership opportunity to all FCS institutions. This membership provides Student Life programs access to an extensive network of both entertainment and educational activities that can be booked and reserved for FCS respective campuses. An email containing details on membership registration was sent to CSA members.

He shared that CSA is in the process of organizing a presentation by a representative from APCA for the October CSA meeting. This session will provide our professionals with valuable insights into the benefits and workings of this partnership.

#### **Council For Workforce Education – Dr. Jodi Long**

Dr. Long shared that following the last COP meeting, CWE Steering Committee members met with FDOE representatives to gain clarity on a variety of workforce education initiatives, including the reboot of the Open Door Now scholarship opportunities for students. She thanked the COP for working on behalf of students to make this funding source accessible to a broader group of students. She reported the CWE has been in Communication with Mr. Carvajal regarding working with CareerSource to streamline the process involved with having programs placed on or remain on the Master Credential List. She reminded the group that the MCL feeds the CAPE certification list. CWE is working with local career centers in response to SB 240 – supporting the identification of programs and partnerships that make sense for individual centers and FCS institutions as CWE supports local communities. She shared that they are in discussion as a council on best practices in WBL in a continued effort to scale what is working well in similarly positioned institutions. CWE is also discussing new programs that faculty can work together on across colleges to submit one proposal to the state for review. CWE is excited to partner with members of the CIA and CSA to explore best practices as AI is integrated into higher ed – from the classroom to the operations side.

In addition to the October joint council meeting, our next quarterly chat with the Chancellor meeting is scheduled with Chancellor O'Farrell for November 14.

Dr. Heather Bigard, Liaison for the Council of Business Affairs, and Florida Council for Resource Development asked both chairs to share their reports.

#### **Council of Business Affairs – Mr. Chuck Prince**

Dr. Bigard reported on behalf of Mr. Chuck Prince. She shared that the new chair for COBA Mr. Prince will be working with the Consortium and individual institutions to ensure that all of the actuals are compiled with the total expenses that are being incurred for health insurance to review alongside the DMS report.

#### **Florida Council for Resource Development – Ms. Jamie Bateman**

Ms. Bateman reported that the FCRD is currently working on a fall conference topic. This will be a virtual conference call to include both Grants and Foundations offices. For the



Spring Conference Miami Dade College will be the host. She shared that FCRD has a small amount of money available from previous sponsorships, and the board has decided to provide funds to FCRD members who want to attend the Spring Conference. Members can decide if they would like to use the funds to assist with conference fees or their hotel costs. On behalf of the FCRD, she thanked the Council of Presidents for their encouragement of their Grants or Foundation reps to attend their monthly calls. She shared that the FCRD is working with the AFC to bridge a gap between the two organizations and provide additional learning and networking opportunities to everyone by including break-out sessions at upcoming AFC conferences, as well as Council meetings.

### **Association of Florida Colleges Report – Mr. Tony Carvajal and President Gregory Williams**

President Gregory Williams thanked the Presidents for all the support that has been given to the AFC. He thanked President Clemmons; Chipola College, President Avendano; Florida State College at Jacksonville, President Henningsen; College of Central Florida, President Falconetti; Polk State College, and President Ava Parker; Palm Beach State College for hosting the AFC Region conferences on their campuses. He also thanked President Jim Murdaugh for hosting the Campus Safety Symposium on the Public Safety Campus at Tallahassee Community College. He also thanked Mr. Carvajal for his leadership in the three months of being the AFC Executive Director/CEO. He reminded the Presidents of the upcoming AFC Annual Conference and Meeting in November at the Bonnet Creek Hotel. He stated the AFC would need help from the Presidents to send attendees to the conference to achieve the attendance goal. He also shared the nomination requirements for the LeRoy Collins Awards and encouraged the President to make nominations. Dr. Meadows thanked President Williams for his servant leadership in the AFC.

Mr. Carvajal thanked the Presidents for taking his calls and opening their doors to meet with him and providing good information to move forward. He shared four challenges lie ahead; 1. The focus of fidelity, why we do what we do, and we will be sharpening that. 2. Coordination failures, he stated the councils have recognized that we will be better when we do things together. 3. Failure with internal and external audiences. He stated there are many opportunities with other business, community, and educational partners and we will fix those challenges as well. 4. Avoiding difficult conversations. He stated it is his goal to create spaces to have difficult conversations. He also shared the request to increase professional development opportunities is coming. He shared that communication has already begun for a joint council meeting during the AFC Annual Conference starting next year. He also shared the three immediate asks that he is focusing on; The first is the grant that was received to dive deeper into dual enrollment, and the grant will partner alongside the Pathways Institute. This grant will allow FCS Presidents to work together and build stronger goals on the student's behalf, evaluate the ROI and the impacts, and the possibilities for better planning on the formula being used to fund colleges. The second ask is centered around the Trustee Council. He stated there will be a Trustee Conference on

January 22. He shared he is working to coordinate the Trustee leadership. The last ask is whatever you can do to support the AFC membership efforts and the Annual Conference and Meeting attendance would be appreciated. He reminded the Presidents that November 2 is a critical date during the conference because not only will there be a discussion on dual enrollment, and updates from the Chancellors, but we will recognize the James L. Wattenbarger awardee. Dr. Meadows thanked Mr. Carvajal for his leadership and commended him for the direction in which he is moving the AFC. He also asked Mr. Carvajal to have a conversation with him regarding the Trustee Committee and its leadership.

**Announcements and Other Business** – Dr. Meadows said that on September 13, Pensacola celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with multiple celebrations across all campuses for faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Tim Beard shared that during the history of Pasco Hernando State College, they selected Dr. Jesse Pisors as its 5th President. President Tonjua Williams shared that on September 12 St. Petersburg College celebrated its 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Chancellor Hebda announced that the Florida College System Foundation will award over a million dollars in scholarships. She also shared that US News and World Report listed their new rankings, and two Florida College Systems institutions that were ranked near the top. One in the category of top public schools for 2024, Broward College at number 14, and North Florida College at number two. For the best regional colleges in the South, North Florida College at number 13, and Broward College at number 47. Four of the colleges in the FCS ranked in the top 100 for best online bachelor programs; Daytona State College, number 35, Chipola College, number 65, Pensacola State College, number 74, and St. Petersburg College, number 95.

Dr. Meadows shared that President Grosskopf was in attendance at the Council of Presidents Professional Development meeting, and during the meeting, he shared his deep appreciation to all the institutions who provided assistance and aid to him and his institutions after Hurricane Idalia. He asked Chancellor Hebda to confirm if President Grosskopf still needed any assistance. She said she had spoken with President Grosskopf who shared they are still in need of personal hygiene items.

Dr. Bigard shared that Lake Sumter opened another instructional site and it's an opportunity to see more students pursue their educational dreams.

Dr. Meadows congratulated President Ava Parker on being the chair of the AACC. President Parker thanked him and stated this year they would be focused on controlling their own narrative and sharing the good things that are happening.

The Council of Presidents', September 22, 2023, meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

**Articulation Coordinating Committee**  
**October 13, 2023**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**

---

**Members Participating:** William Hudson, Chair, Florida A&M University  
Paul Broadie, Santa Fe College  
Kathleen Ciez-Volz, Florida State College at Jacksonville  
Sylvia Jackson, Gadsden County Public Schools  
Kathy Majzner, Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Brian Mann, Hillsborough Community College  
Wayne Riggs, Flagler College Tallahassee  
Gavin Riley-Morales, College of Central Florida  
Helen Wild, St. Lucie County Schools

**Introduction**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Hudson called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m., EDT, and welcomed members to the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) zoom call. He noted that members would review four approval items on the agenda.

**Action Items**

**1. Approval of June 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Chair Hudson asked members if there were any changes to the meeting minutes being proposed; there were none. Chair Hudson then asked members if anyone would make a motion to approve the minutes.

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Brian Mann and was seconded by Dr. Paul Broadie; the meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

**2. Postsecondary Credit or Clock Hour Nursing Education Pathways for Military Combat Medics**

Chair Hudson recognized Ms. Alexandria Armstrong, Director of Career Education and Articulation, who provided a brief overview of the proposed process to allow eligible current and former military combat medics to earn postsecondary credit or clock hours for accredited nursing education programs. The policy would allow for the uniform award of credit, or clock hours, between Florida's public postsecondary institutions for college-level training and education acquired while serving as a combat medic.

Chair Hudson then asked members if anyone would make a motion to approve the ACC Policy regarding the Evaluation and Awarding of Postsecondary Credit for the Pathway for Military Combat Medics: Process Overview.

*A motion to approve was made by Dr. Paul Broadie and was seconded by Dr. Helen Wild; the process was approved by unanimous vote.*

### **3. General Education Core Courses Faculty Discipline Committee**

Chair Hudson then recognized Mr. Shannon Mercer who provided a brief overview of revisions proposed by faculty discipline committee related to general education core course options available to students enrolled in Florida College System and State University System institutions.

Chair Hudson asked members if they had any feedback on the recommended course descriptions that the faculty had prepared for the proposed general education core courses.

There was a brief discussion regarding AMHX010, which faculty recommended be added to the general education core course list and list of courses that include postsecondary civic literacy competencies required in state law. Chancellor Hebda assured members that the Office of K-20 Articulation would work with the Department and Board of Governors to seek changes in rule and regulation to include AMHX010, once the general education core course list has been amended. Members had no additional feedback on the course descriptions.

Chair Hudson then asked members if anyone would make a motion to approve the changes to the General Education Core Course List.

*A motion to approve was made by Dr. Kathleen Ciez-Volz and was seconded by Dr. Sylvia Jackson; the list was approved by unanimous vote.*

### **4. 2024 ACC Meeting Schedule**

Chair Hudson noted that the final action item was a proposed meeting schedule for the 2024 calendar year.

Chair Hudson then asked members if anyone would make a motion to approve next year's meeting schedule.

*A motion to approve was made by Dr. Brian Mann and was seconded by Dr. Helen Wild; the schedule was approved by unanimous vote.*

### **Adjournment**

Chair Hudson adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Kathleen Plinske,  
COP Council's Presidential Liaison

FROM: Dr. Erik D'Aquino  
Chair, Council of Student Affairs

DATE: October 20, 2023

RE: CSA Council Report

---

I am delighted to share a comprehensive summary of the successful October Joint Councils meeting we recently convened. Although we await a thorough debriefing among council chairs, we have distilled potential recommendations that we intend to present to Mr. Carvajal and the AFC.

We extend our gratitude to Chancellors Hebda and O'Farrell and their teams from the Florida College System Administration and the Department of Education for their informative updates. The meeting's focal point was Artificial Intelligence and how it is transforming higher education, delving into its implications within the classroom and beyond its traditional boundaries.

In response to this transformative theme, we propose the establishment of a statewide FCS workgroup. The intent behind this collaborative initiative is to harness the substantial resources within the Florida College System and collectively explore effective ways to integrate AI into our educational framework. By collaborating, we can develop strategies, share knowledge, and bolster one another in embracing this technological revolution.

Furthermore, we emphasize the urgency of addressing the residency statute. The Council for Student Affairs has diligently examined the existing statute and identified opportunities for beneficial amendments. These proposed changes are aimed at removing barriers that hinder student enrollment, thereby enhancing access to higher education. We look forward to presenting these recommendations to the Council of Presidents, seeking their valuable insights and support to advance this critical priority.

Lastly, we discussed the pressing need for CSA professional development opportunities. We recognize that fostering continuous growth and skill development is essential for ensuring our educational system remains dynamic and responsive to evolving needs.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the betterment of our educational system.

The Council on Workforce Education (CWE) met with its membership at the Joint Council meetings that were held from October 11-13, 2023, in Orlando.

The CWE has many new members that joined, which necessitated the need to provide a brief overview of the purpose and mission of the CWE. This update was provided by long time CWE member and past Co-Chair, Dr. Nasser Hedeyat.

Further, the CWE membership discussed the need to collaborate with each other while proposing new programs requests that are similar in content. Dr. Brian Mann led this discussion and provided some of the challenges and opportunities that arise from such collaborations.

Bruce Harrington from FLDOE provided the update on Perkins V and the EET grant.

In addition, the CWE membership discussed the need for the following Ad-Hoc groups that will report to the Councils regularly:

- Legislative Ad-Hoc group'
- Funding Opportunities/ Collaboration Ad- Hoc group
- Employer Engagement, Work sharing, Entrepreneurship.

## Broward College *Grant achievements*

*U.S. Department of Labor (\$3,000,000):* The **Nursing Expansion** funded Broward College for its “Answer the Call for Health Professionals (HealthPro)” project, a regional career-building initiative dedicated to expanding and diversifying South Florida’s nursing workforce pipeline. Partners include more than 35 community-based organizations (including 9 municipalities), Broward County’s workforce development board, the Indian Nurses Association of South Florida, and the Florida Student Nurses Association Employer partners (Memorial Healthcare System, Broward Health, Cleveland Clinic, Holy Cross Hospital, and HCA Healthcare). Using proven sector-based strategies, HealthPro will increase education and training access for underrepresented and non-traditional adult learners in areas marked by intergenerational poverty and economic immobility. In turn, it will close employment gaps resulting from post-pandemic labor market pressures and declining nursing education completion rates.

*U.S. Department of Labor (\$1,499,999):* In partnership with the Florida Department of Corrections, Broward College was awarded a Pathway Home 4 grant to implement a transformational justice project, entitled Corrections to College (C2C). The C2C project will provide reentry services to 150 participants throughout the project period beginning while the participant is still incarcerated and continuing post-release and follow-up. The project is designed to eliminate the time gap between release from prison and enrollment into a workforce development reentry program by building skills and competencies leading to industry-recognized certification that builds towards a technical certificate or degree and skill-based employment to improve transitioning and reduce recidivism.

## *Foundation achievements*

### **Batchelor Foundation commits \$246,205 for Broward College aviation program and two new student food pantries called the Seahawk Marketplace**



David Wagner, Market President of South Region of Florida Blue (left); Esmeralda Sweeney, Associate Vice President of Student Services; Donald Astrab, Vice Provost, Academic Operations, Analytics, and Communication; President Gregory Adam Haile, J.D.; Robert Hill, Jr., Vice President of Community Impact at the American Heart Association; and Calib Miller, Director of Partner Services of Feeding South Florida

A portion of the investment (\$205,000) was contributed to classroom renovations and upgrades needed to accommodate the four newly acquired, state-of-the-art Redbird flight simulators. The simulators were acquired in 2022, following Broward College’s receipt of funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This new addition to the college’s aviation program will help build awareness and enthusiasm among the prospective local high school graduates and current Broward College students, which will lay the foundation for expanded enrollment and sustainability.

The remaining investment was directed to the design and construction costs needed to build out the Seahawk Marketplace food pantries at both the north and south campuses. The Seahawk Marketplace offers students and their families free food and personal hygiene items. This year’s Seahawk Marketplace appeal took place from June 21 through 22. Over 70 Broward College faculty and staff, alumni, friends, and students contributed more than \$14,000 in support towards Seahawk Marketplace, making a difference by alleviating food insecurities.

## Broward College (continued)

### Golf Classic raises 100k for Empowerment Fund

Broward College celebrated its 35th Golf Classic at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club and raised more than \$100,000 to support the Broward College Empowerment Fund. The Empowerment Fund provides the greatest flexibility for facilitating programming and scholarship support to benefit students enabling the College to respond to emerging critical needs to support student success.



Daniel Rioseco (left), Jorge Miralles, Nancy R. Botero, Ruch LePak, and Travis Cawthorne

## College of Central Florida

### *Foundation and Grant achievements*

*Community Foundation of Sarasota* (\$90,000): In May the CF Foundation received \$90,000 from the Community of Sarasota's Edward K Roberts Fund. This is the Foundation's 4th year receiving this scholarship and, to date, we have received \$290,000 from the Edward K Roberts fund.

*Clay Electric* (\$10,000): In May the CF Foundation received \$10,000 from Clay Electric's Operation Round up program. This is the 5th year that the CF Foundation has received funds from this program and the funds received benefit the CF student emergency assistance program.

*Night at the Farm Gala* (\$101,646): The CF Foundation held their annual Night at the Farm gala March 4, 2023 at the CF Vintage Farm Campus. This year's event raised over \$100,000 in support of student scholarships.



From left, Dr. Jim Henningsen; Michelle Stone, CF Foundation Board vice chair and Marion County commissioner; Chris Knife; Florida House Speaker Pro Tempore Chuck Clemons Sr.; and CF District Board of Trustees members Charlie Stone and Bobby Durrance

## Daytona State College

### *Foundation and Grant achievements*

*Florida Small Business Administration* (\$195,180): The University of Central Florida contracts with Daytona State College to operate a regional Small Business Development Center to promote growth, expansion, and innovation to existing and aspiring small businesses via free consulting, entrepreneurial training, and providing access to resources, among other services.

*Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program* (\$4,994): Students in the DSC Environmental Science Technology program and two area high schools will be engaged in water sampling and seagrass restoration at Lighthouse Point Park in Ponce Inlet, part of the Indian River Lagoon system. Funds will be used to purchase sampling kits, field-work materials, and supplies for use in hands-on environmental monitoring and restoration activities to promote water conservation and stewardship.

*National Junior Collegiate Athletics Association Foundation* (\$10,000): Daytona State College will add Women's Flag Football to its intercollegiate athletics program in response to growing interest and demand in K-12 programs across the state. Grant funds will purchase uniforms, equipment, and other start-up costs for the program.



## **College of the Florida Keys receives Scholarship Endowments**

The College of the Florida Keys received **\$16,000** for the Endowment of the **Edward C. Hummell Scholarship**.

The CFK also re-established the **Julie Eckard RN Scholarship** for students pursuing associate or bachelor's degrees in nursing. Dr. Kevin Mallinson, CFK's 2023 Distinguished Alumnus, and his husband Robert Hansen donated **\$20,000** to the CFK Foundation to endow the scholarship, which was initially established in 1991 following the death of the well-known HIV/AIDS nurse and Dr. Mallinson's classmate in the nursing class of 1987.



L to R: CFK President Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, Robert Hansen, CFK 2023 Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Kevin Mallinson, CFK Vice President of Advancement Lana Gaspari.

The scholarship will support student nurses passionate about advocating for patients challenged by adversity, stigma, and/or discrimination, much like AIDS patients in the 80s & 90s. By endowing the scholarship, the donation will be invested, and its earnings will provide scholarship awards to students in perpetuity, forever memorializing Eckard and supporting nursing education.

Eckard was working toward an Associate in Science in Nursing at CFK when she was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS at 23 years old. She overcame significant physical and social barriers to complete her degree and become a registered nurse. Over the following three years, before she succumbed to AIDS, Julie cared for many people living with HIV in Key West during the height of the AIDS epidemic and became an advocate for the rights of those facing stigma and discrimination.

This scholarship honors Julie's love of the nursing profession and serves to remind us of her unwavering strength, tenacity, and sense of humor," said Dr. Mallinson, who recently organized a reunion of the College's 1987 nursing class at the Key West Campus.

"Inspired by his fallen classmate, Dr. Mallinson dedicated much of his career to HIV/AIDS healthcare. After graduating from CFK, he worked as an ICU nurse caring for many HIV/AIDS patients while continuing to pursue higher education. Over the course of 36 years, he served on national committees and advisory boards, conducted research, published numerous articles, and shared his scholarly work on five continents. He was a consultant for a U.S. Surgeon General and several Ministers of Health in Africa. He also served on the National Board of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and as the President of the HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board. Dr. Mallinson recently retired as an Associate Professor and Director of the Ph.D. in Nursing program at George Mason University. CFK honored him with the Distinguished Alumni award at the Spring Commencement ceremony in May.



Julie Eckard poses on her graduation day in 1987 after earning an Associate in Science in Nursing from CFK.

**College of  
the  
Florida  
Keys  
(continued)**

## *Grant achievements*

*Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities* (\$1,114,074): Funding to continue supporting the implementation of Project ACCESS. The three-year award focuses on the expansion of Project ACCESS in the Upper Keys, providing support to improve gainful employment for participants, and expanding related professional development opportunities for College employees.

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development* (\$2,000,000): Community Project Funding to support the College's Big Pine Key Prison to Workforce Training Center, with an initial focus on preparing the site for a multipurpose vehicle operations training track.

*Monroe County Tourist Development Council* (\$252,500): Funding is part of the Council's FY 2024 Capital Project Funding Opportunity. Funding supports facilities that promote tourism in Monroe County, and will be used to support resurfacing the pool at CFK's Aquatic Center.

**Florida  
State  
College at  
Jacksonville**

## *Grant achievements*

*National Science Foundation* (\$616,435): Strengthening Building & Construction Technician Training with Alternative Energy Sources to Advance Sustainability project, funded under NSF's Advanced Technological Education program, will integrate instruction on alternative energy and sustainable building technologies in the Architecture Design & Construction Technology and the Building & Construction Technology degree programs. FSCJ is lead institution in a partnership that includes Eastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign.

*Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services* (\$5,635): Supports the CROP Summer Food Program, which provides meals for students in the College Reach-Out Program during the summer.

**Hillsborough  
Community  
College**

## *Foundation achievements*

### **Hillsborough Community College Welcomes L. Garret Weddle as New HCC Foundation Executive Director**



Hillsborough Community College (HCC) is pleased to announce the hiring of L. Garret Weddle as the new executive director of the HCC Foundation. Weddle previously worked for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), serving as the executive director of development for university advancement. Weddle holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering and operations research from Virginia Tech. For the past 12 years, he has actively raised millions of dollars for higher education at UNCG and Virginia Tech and served in leadership positions at both institutions. His wife, Meg, manages the family clothing business in Radford, VA they started 37 years ago, and Garrett spent 16 years listing, selling, and investing in real estate.

"I am pleased to join HCC's leadership team and continue to build on the strength of the Foundation's philanthropic programming," said Weddle. "A sincere thank to you the selection committee, led by Dr. Larissa Baia for their time and thoughtful consideration."

## Hillsborough Community College (continued)

### TECO partners with HCC to develop a Line Worker program

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) and Tampa Electric (TECO) have collaborated to create and fund the new Electrical Line Worker Training Program through the HCC Foundation and HCC Institute for Corporate and Continuing Education. Program training will be held on the HCC Brandon Campus. TECO has pledged \$312,000 annually for scholarships and relevant program equipment to run this new training program thanks to the company's Workforce Development Fund. The program will span a four-month period and is scheduled to be offered three times per year. This new training program will start in Fall 2023. A ribbon cutting will take place at the Brandon Campus on the west side of the Administration building to launch the program on July 26 at 10 a.m.

## Indian River State College

### *Grant achievements*

*US Department of State* (\$250,000): Tactical Lifesaver Courses - Indian River State College will conduct the Tactical Life Saver courses to a delegation of Police Officers representing the country of Mexico.

*Children's Services Council Okeechobee* (\$40,000): Funds to support the Expanding Horizons Summer Youth program and the Health Leadership Summer Youth Program. These programs provide needed career exploration events to Okeechobee County youth.

*St. Lucie County Health Department* (\$34,500): Funds to support the Healthy Sprouts Program, an innovative information literacy program to address the health needs of St. Lucie County residents.

## Lake-Sumter State College

### *Foundation achievements*

#### Historic Inauguration Ceremony for Lake-Sumter State College's First Female President, Dr. Heather Bigard

On Tuesday, May 2, Lake-Sumter State College held a historic inauguration ceremony for Dr. Heather Bigard, the College's 7th president and the first female to hold the role. The ceremony took place at the Everett A. Kelly Convocation Center in Leesburg and included inspiring performances by LSSC students, welcome remarks from trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders, and a keynote address from President Bigard.

"President Bigard, we have no doubt that you possess the vision, dedication, and expertise required to take our institution to new heights as we shape our future," said Bret Jones, Chair of the District Board of Trustees.



<https://www.lssc.edu/2023/05/historic-inauguration-ceremony-for-president-heather-bigard/>



From Laker to Oriole: The Impact of Lake-Sumter State College  
on Alumni Success for Koby Perez

Former Lakehawk (Laker, at the time actually) Koby Perez, who was a member of the first LSSC baseball team in 1999, is now a Senior Director of International Scouting for the Baltimore Orioles. When Koby looks back on his time at Lake-Sumter, he remembers the welcoming atmosphere, the quality education he received, and the amazing support from the athletic department, academic advisors, and faculty members.

Koby feels his experiences at LSSC prepared him for his current role with the Baltimore Orioles, where he oversees all of their international operations. This role requires a keen eye for talent, strong leadership skills, and an ability to build relationships with people from diverse backgrounds.

More: <https://www.lssc.edu/2023/03/koby-perez-alumni-spotlight/>



LSSC honors nursing graduates at Nurse Pinning Ceremony  
with guest speaker, Dr. Jose Castillo III



At a heartwarming and joyful event, faculty, staff, and families celebrated the hard work and dedication of LSSC’s newest nursing graduates. Dr. Jose Castillo III, the Chair of the Florida Board of Nursing, gave an inspiring keynote address to the graduates, urging them to embody compassion, empathy, and exceptional skills in their future roles as healthcare professionals. Drawing from his extensive experience as a nurse, Dr. Castillo shared three valuable lessons with the graduates.

Notably, the LSSC’s first-time pass rate for the NCLEX-RN stands at an impressive 97.6%, significantly exceeding the state and national averages.

<https://www.lssc.edu/2023/05/nurse-pinning-ceremony-spring-2023/>

Grant achievements

*Duke Energy Foundation* (\$20,000): Funds will support AS Engineering Technology/Relay Tech program.

*Ryan/Shaw/Shuck Trusts* (\$50,000): Funds will support student scholarships

*United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties* (\$2,500): Grant supporting the implementation of the RISE Summer Math Academy.

*U.S. Department of Education, Developing Hispanic-Serving Institution (Title V) (2,698,977):* Miami Dade College will implement the Models of Instruction for Latinx Literacy Advancement & Success (MILLAS). This project was designed to increase students' academic success and progression in gateway literacy and other Gordon Rule writing courses. The project will offer gateway writing courses; implement faculty, staff, and student professional development; provide undergraduate research stipends; create a Literacy Wellness Spa; install SMART kiosks, and provide intrusive and comprehensive advisement to increase the achievement of student progression and completion benchmarks.

*Miami-Dade County, Community Development Block Grant Program (\$1,592,900):* Miami Dade College will work with Miami-Dade County to provide property management training to public housing residents. The Property Management Certificate program is designed to build students' understanding of property management including principles of professional property management, presentation skills, marketing and leasing, sales and customer service, negotiations and conflict management, management and finance, and human resources. The program concludes with the Community Association Manager (CAM) License Exam preparation and exam. Upon completion of the course, participants can obtain licensing and employment in the field of property management.

*Goldman Sachs Foundation, 10,000 Small Business Program (\$1,165,100):* Miami Dade College will deliver business education and support services for participating small business owners, including one-on-one business advice, legal and financial clinics, and networking opportunities. Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is an investment to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunities by providing greater access to education, capital, and business support services.



PBSC's President's Report, Spring/Summer 2023, features the College's partnership with TMRW Sports and the launch of TGL, its innovative professional golf league. In cooperation with the PGA TOUR, TMRW Sports has selected PBSC's Palm Beach Gardens campus for its purpose built venue. Other features of the President's Report include a chronicle of PBSC's 90 year history, XR technologies and the Oristano Center for Innovation in Health Sciences, also located at Palm Beach Gardens.

Also, Palm Beach State celebrates its 90th anniversary on Saturday, November 11, with a gala event, recognizing the College's tremendous history, role and impact on Palm Beach County and saluting our local and national heroes to commemorate Veterans Day.

*Grant achievements*

*University of South Florida 502 Project for Cybersecurity (\$30,000):* The 502 Project is an NCAE-C funded, persistent online cybersecurity community platform aimed at providing high school students and other cybersecurity workforce aspirants with access to cybersecurity professional mentors, ongoing virtual cybersecurity education events, and hands-on cybersecurity challenges. PBSC received \$30,000 to serve 150 high school students with cybersecurity training utilizing the 502 online platform.

*TradeUP! Scholarships for Students in the Caribbean (\$25,000):* The TradeUP! Fund has established a unique scholarship program for students residing in the Caribbean. Scholarship recipients are chosen by the Ministry of Education in the respective islands. Local businesses and civic organizations are encouraged to mentor students, donate ancillary expenses as needed and offer internships and full time employment upon graduation. Palm Beach State provides online programs for these students, allowing them to pursue degrees and credentials from their home countries – truly an extraordinary opportunity for young people seeking higher education.

*La Posada / Kisco Scholarship and Internship Collaborative at PBSC (\$60,000):* A partnership with La Posada (a Kisco living community) addresses workforce needs and the cost of tertiary education. La Posada is now compensating one (1) dining room server \$30,000 per year (with an equal match by the Foundation for PBSC) as the College offers La Posada three (3) interested Food & Hospitality Program students the opportunity to learn and work in the PBSC / La Posada Apprenticeship & Mentorship Collaborative. Additional workforce opportunities and possibilities include students interested and enrolled in Healthcare and Trades programs as well.

*Foundation achievements*

On May 20th, the PHSC Foundation hosted its inaugural cornhole tournament at BackDraughts Wood Fired Pizza in downtown New Port Richey. It was an exciting day filled with music, raffles, food and fun!

The PHSC Foundation Annual Golf Tournament will take place on Friday, October 20, at Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club in Dade City. For more information contact Lisa Yeager, Foundation Advancement Coordinator, at [yeagerl@phsc.edu](mailto:yeagerl@phsc.edu).



*Huhtanen Revocable Trust (\$10,000):* Sylvia Huhtanen and her daughter, Shirley, recently visited the Foundation office and provided a generous gift to the Next Step Scholarship! Sylvia and her late husband, Charles, established the endowment in 2015 to assist financially needy students who are graduates of a Pasco or Hernando County high school, are enrolled in an Associate in Science degree program, and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA.



**Pasco-  
Hernando  
State  
College  
(continued)**

*Pasco Fire Rescue (\$112,000):* On March 31, PHSC East Campus Provost, Dr. Feltwell met with **Pasco Fire Rescue** representatives to accept a gracious donation of 75 air packs, 75 face pieces, and 106 bottles valued at \$112,000. These donated items will make a tremendous impact on our PHSC Fire Academy.



*HCA Florida Oak Hill Hospital (\$5,000):* HCA Florida Oak Hill Hospital recently presented the PHSC Foundation with a gift of \$5,000 designated to the Oak Hill Hospital Medical Student Annual Scholarship. This generous donation will provide approximately seven scholarships during the 2023-2024 academic year to students enrolled in a health program.

**Pensacola  
State  
College**

*Foundation achievements*

Between March 1, 2023, and May 31, 2023, 378 donors made 1,206 gifts to the College through the PSC Foundation. The top ten donors gave \$178,974.39 with the majority given in support of scholarships. During this period, we also had our annual big break golf tournament, hosted our annual AAMES/Wiggins scholarship event, and dedicated three new endowed scholarships. We also hosted an employee giving event, Sip Savor and Support. The total raised to support the College during these three months was \$327,702.

**The 2023 Big Break Golf Tournament raises \$68,785 (\$20,272 in-kind)**

The 2023 Big Break Golf Tournament sold out weeks in advance with 144 golfers and just over \$48,000 was raised in support of our Fund for Excellence. This fund supports everything we do at PSC for our students and faculty.

With the event held on May 4th, teams enjoyed the *May the Fourth Be With You* theme and dressed to impress.



Best Dressed Team (4 grown men) went to the Hurd Real Estate Company.

**Two new endowed scholarships, the Dr. Dona Kaye Cotton Memorial Endowed Scholarship, and the Bonnie R. George Endowed Scholarship were dedicated after support from individual donors - (\$21,235)**

On Thursday, March 2, and Friday, April 7th, friends and family members attended a celebration of the late Dr. Dona Kaye Cotton and Bonnie R. George. Dr. Cotton, a past PSC employee, and beacon of influence for her peers and students, inspired the establishment of a scholarship endowment in her name. “She was our big sister, she loved us and knew how to take care of us,” her sister, Pam Killebrew mentioned, recalling the loving and nurturing nature of Dona. “Her loss was so unexpected.” Dr. Cotton was a first-generation college student, a “product of community colleges,” said Dr. Brenda Kelly, her coworker and friend.



Friends and family of Dr. Dona Cotton

“She had a long and distinguished thirty-two-year career at the College, starting as a faculty member in 1974 teaching home economics. She carried her love for teaching in every position that she had at the College.” She was a wonderful mentor and advocate for her peers, putting one hundred percent of her effort and attention into her work at PSC. “She loved her job, she really knew how to take care of things,” her brother, Tommy Pierce commented. “She loved and treated everyone like her neighbors.” The spirit of Dr. Dona Kaye Cotton lives on in the memory of those who had the great honor of knowing her, and thanks to the Dr. Dona Kaye Cotton Memorial Endowed Scholarship, her spirit will continue to support PSC for generations to come.

Like Dr. Cotton’s scholarship, the Bonnie R. George Endowed Scholarship was established to honor a woman beloved by family and friends. This scholarship will help nursing students as they pursue a degree.

The hope is graduates could help overcome current nursing shortages while meeting current and future healthcare needs and challenges — locally and nationwide. The \$22,500 scholarship was endowed through a family donation, that was matched by a \$10,000 gift from Kathy Horton Brown and Ted Brown as part of the PSC Foundation’s Change Makers Program.

The Change Makers Program was launched in 2020 to develop and enhance scholarships. Where Dr. Cotton was a first-generation student, Bonnie George has chosen to focus her scholarship’s support on first-generation college students who show financial need. A Pensacola Junior College (now Pensacola State College) alumna, George attended the College in the late 1960s and took business classes to earn a Professional Secretary certification. She began her career at the University of Florida, later moving on to the U.S. District Court - Northern Florida District,

U.S. Probation Office, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also worked as a United Way 211 Case Management Specialist for two years.



Judge and Traci Pitre, Bonnie and Hal George



# Pensacola State College (continued)

Bonnie and her husband, Hal, have supported the College since 1995. Hal George serves on the PSC Foundation Board of Governors, and the WSRE-TV Foundation Board and is the current chairman of the PSC Athletics Boosters. “It is no surprise that Bonnie’s family chose to establish an endowed scholarship in her honor at PSC,” said Julie Sheppard, a PSC Board Trustee. “This scholarship, which bears Bonnie’s name, focuses on supporting first-generation nursing students right here in our area. We are truly proud of our nursing programs at the College, and we are excited for what is to come.”

Bonnie George’s daughter, Traci Pitre, son-in-law Circuit Judge Stephen Pitre, and other friends and colleagues attended the press conference.

## Sip Savor and Support Employee Giving Event

The employee Sip, Savor & Support Event was a success with over \$5,900.00 in donations raised to support Pensacola State College Affinity Groups, Departmental Programs, Scholarships, and the Fund for Excellence! 12 employees signed up for payroll deduction, 4 employees increased their payroll deduction giving and 3 employees gave a one-time gift at the event. It was great to mix and mingle with co-workers, enjoy the sounds from our very own PSC Jazz Ensemble and experience PSC Culinary student’s cuisine. Along with great door prizes, representatives from PSC Affinity Groups, AFC, and the PSC Foundation were on hand to share more about their 2023-24 schedule and how our donations support PSC students. Donors also heard of unique benefits they had access to as affinity group members.



Sip, Savor, and Support Attendees



Culinary Treats at Sip, Savor, and Support

## Grant achievements

*Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (\$2,499,541):* PSC ReBuilds, in response to the continuing impact of Hurricane Sally on our most at-risk citizens will contribute to the Construction Trades workforce ensuring employer needs are met while providing support for low-moderate-income individuals enrolled in Construction Trades programs. Partners include George Stone Technical College, Habitat for Humanity, and CareerSource Escarosa.

*Florida Theatrical Association (\$7,000):* Scholarships for performing arts students.

*ACE (Arts, Culture & Entertainment) Pensacola (\$28,900):* Supports two events during the annual Pensacola Foo Foo Festival – an exhibition of art exploring the themes of “repair and the joining of the unlikely” by New Orleans artist Scott Andresen and two concerts by Adonis Rose and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

## *Foundation achievements*

---

### **William N. Ryan Memorial Golf Classic**

The Polk State College Foundation hosted the 31st annual William N. Ryan Memorial Golf Classic in support of the Polk State Baseball program. The annual golf tournament provides funding to support the baseball team's operations and student athlete needs. This year 100 golfers participated in the annual events at Lone Palm Golf Club in Lakeland, Florida. The golf tournament had a 40% increase in participation from the previous year.

### **Fancelli Family Future Leaders Scholarship Presentations**

In 2001 the Fancelli Family Future Leaders Scholarship was established by Julie Fancelli on behalf of her family. Each year Polk State College Foundation has the honor of presenting at least one fifth grade student at every public school in Polk County with a 4-year scholarship to Polk State College. This year we awarded scholarships to 89 deserving students. Recipients are selected by the teachers and staff at each school based on their ability to achieve and financial need. The Foundation Board of Directors, the Polk State College Alumni Association, and faculty and staff from the college present the scholarships throughout the community.

## *Grant achievements*

---

*CareerSource Florida* (\$170,625): **Quick Response Training Grant** to Publix Super Markets to train 67 employees in various content areas.

*Excelencia in Education (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Intermediaries for Scale Investment)* (\$30,000): **Community Colleges Transforming by Engaging Latino Students** (technical assistance). Polk State College will join a cohort of community colleges working with Excelencia in Education, the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE), and Seal of Excelencia certified coach institutions to identify priorities and strategies that accelerate Latino student success and develop and implement data-informed action plans to intentionally serve Latino students while serving all.

*Florida Blue Foundation* (\$5,000): **Food Coverage for Student Athletes Campaign**. Access to healthy meals is a critical element of student success in the classroom and on the field. Grant funds will be used to increase the monthly food allowance for low-income students attending Polk State College on athletic scholarships.

## *Grant achievements*

---

*City of Clearwater* (\$150,000): Through American Rescue Plan funding, the City of Clearwater supported grants to mitigate COVID-19 learning loss. SPC's GAIN project will address COVID learning loss through (1) summer bridge programming; (2) student readiness for successful transitions from high school to postsecondary education; and (3) STEM enrichment programs held at the Clearwater campus.

*Duke Energy Foundation* (\$50,000): The Duke Workforce Development grant supports workforce development programs that address the most demanding skills gaps in communities that they serve. Duke Energy will fund continued support of SPC's line worker program.

**The 23rd Annual Donors and Scholars Luncheon was held on March 28 at the Hilton St. Petersburg at Carillon Park**

The luncheon gives an opportunity for those who give to the SPC Foundation to sit down for lunch with SPC students who have benefited from their generous donations to scholarships and programs. Donors and scholars joined the Foundation for music, food and some moving talks from SPC scholars and supporters. Mistress of Ceremonies, Veronica Cintron announced, “This year, the Foundation will award scholarships to more than 3,000 students, representing more than \$2.6 million in awards” and “College programs also benefited from your generosity, with over \$2 million in private support.



**SPC supports summer College for Kids and Summer of Success Programs**

The SPC Foundation supports programs offered by St. Petersburg College this summer for students of all ages – from kindergarteners to high school seniors. Additionally, the Foundation offers scholarships for students to attend these summer programs such as SPC’s College for Kids and the Summer of Success program. College for Kids offers a variety of fun, safe, and enriching opportunities over seven weeks for area students from kindergarten through eighth grade. College for Kids also offers themed weekly experiences, including visual arts, robotics, entrepreneurship and much more. The Summer of Success program is a six-week “introduction to college” for graduating seniors from Pinellas County high schools who are either the first in their family to attend college, are disabled or low income, or plan to enroll at SPC in the fall. With their Summer of Success scholarship, participants will be able earn college credits, become familiar with their SPC campus and the resources available to them, meet new friends and enroll in Fall Term classes.





## **Drs. Vinod and Tarlika Thakkar Inducted into the SFSC Foundation Legacy Society**

During the SFSC Foundation Legacy Showcase and Fundraiser on Saturday, May 6, Drs. Vinod and Tarlika Thakkar were inducted into the 2023 Legacy Society for their service to the Foundation, the College, and the community. Jamie Bateman, SFSC vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs, made the presentation.

“Drs. Vinod and Tarlika Thakkar have been friends of our community for many years,” Bateman said. “Their support and dedication to help advance students through scholarship opportunities and in the medical field have been tremendous.



Over the past couple of decades, the Thakkars have donated to SFSC in a way that would help nursing students achieve their goal of obtaining a nursing degree and entering into the health care field. It is a privilege to recognize them with the SFSC Foundation Legacy Award. They are the epitome of what a donor looks like. It's an honor to call them friends.” This is the fifth year that such an honor has been bestowed. Ben Hill Griffin III was posthumously inducted into the Legacy Society in 2022, Bill and Lisa Jarrett in 2021, Joan Hartt in 2020, and Joe Jr. and Gloria Davis in 2019.

Dr. Vinod C. Thakkar has served on the SFSC Foundation board of directors since 2021. He is a gastroenterologist in Highlands County, and Dr. Tarlika V. Thakkar is an anesthesiologist in Highlands County.

“I first met the Thakkars when I became part of our YMCA in the early 90s,” said John Shoop, mayor of Sebring and Highlands County YMCA board of director’s treasurer. “They donated many funds, from a building campaign to scholarships for our kids. They continue to help us on an annual basis through our Strong Kids campaign, helping kids and families who can’t afford to come to the YMCA to be part of the programs and part of our community. If it wasn’t for the Thakkars, our YMCA wouldn’t be where it is today. It is such a force in our community.”

Mike Swaine, a Highlands County attorney, discussed the Thakkars’ support of education. “By providing funds for the SFSC Foundation to carry on certain projects creates a better educational atmosphere, a better foundation for it, and it supplements what the state government can and will do. The Highlands County Bar Association provides a scholarship fund through the SFSC Foundation for young people who might not otherwise be able to attend SFSC or another college. That is something the Thakkars believe in doing. In talking to Vinod, he sees education as a way or people to rise above whatever level they started out at. The Thakkars have seen the benefit of education and they encourage others to get an education. They have been beyond charitable, more than anybody I know and they’re very proud of the College.”

“When I think of the Thakkars, when one hears that name, the immediate thought is their commitment to family, community, health care, and education,” said Dr. Michele Heston, SFSC vice president for academic affairs and student services and a registered nurse since 1982. “They’ve supported educational excellence at all levels, from their work in the local health care facilities, to the elementary schools, to the College. Their passion and focus is a healthy and thriving community. Their mission is truly lived.”

Dr. Heston continued: “They have an unwavering commitment to excellence in all aspects of life, whether it be through the Thakkar Award, recognizing educational excellence and leadership at the middle schools, by providing monetary recognition for nursing students for clinical and academic excellence, or hosting events at their home featuring healthy fare, their commitment to education, health, and to the community is unparalleled.”

## **Major Gift Comes to SFSC Athletics and Benefits Students**

Because of a generous donor, South Florida State College's (SFSC) current softball facilities will don a new name and receive much anticipated upgrades, while students will benefit from a scholarship geared to fast-pitch softball players.

On Monday, April 24, a check in the amount of \$365,234 was presented to Jamie Bateman, SFSC vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs; Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president; and Rick Hitt, SFSC athletic director and head baseball coach. The gift was made available through the estate of Larry Ross Johnson, and the SFSC softball facilities will be named in his honor.

With the funds from the Johnson gift, the College will create a professionally designed, state-of-the-art softball facility. Plans include a new scoreboard, landscaping, updated seating, extension of dugouts and bench seating, a television for video analysis, and more.



"We are extremely grateful and honored to receive these funds in the name of the late Larry Johnson," said Hitt. "Larry was an enthusiastic softball player, pitcher, and fan. He provided guidance and knowledge to players over the years in an effort to help them improve, as a coach as well.

"These funds will go to support major additions to the SFSC softball facility for future players, coaches, and fans of Panther Softball to enjoy. We, again, are truly blessed to receive this wonderful gift and thank all of those who assisted in helping this happen."

In addition to the softball facility upgrades, the Ross, Lorene, and Larry Johnson Endowed Scholarship was

established through the SFSC Foundation "as a lasting tribute to the ladies of the past, present, and future Sebring High School fast-pitch softball teams." Scholarships will be awarded from the endowment as soon as fall 2023. Applicants must be an A.A. or A.S degree-seeking student enrolled or to be enrolled at least half-time at SFSC, a young woman who attended and played fast-pitch softball for a high school within SFSC's service district of Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee counties, and carry a B or better GPA on all high school or college work. Preference for the scholarship will be given to applicants with demonstrated financial need. The recipient of the scholarship may be asked to address members of the Sebring Girls Fast-pitch Softball Team about their College program.

Johnson, who had been a fast-pitch softball coach in Highlands County for many years, died in October 2021. In the early 2000s, he was the assistant girls softball coach at Sebring High School. With the team's head coach Lee Tolar, Johnson began a summer travel team of high school softball players from across the county. Johnson was a member of the California Toe Jam Band and performed Elvis Presley impersonations. According to his ex-wife Connie Foster, "He started up the Highlands County Tennis Association and ran the Florida Cracker Trail Ride for two years."

"Larry helped anyone who wanted to learn how to fast-pitch," Tolar said. "He was a consummate softball coach. This gift to SFSC is just a testament to how much he loved the players and the sport of fast-pitch softball."

SFSC's softball program began in 2004 with the hiring of Head Softball Coach Falla and the construction of the SFSC Panther softball facility on the College's Highlands Campus in Avon Park. The Lady Panthers softball team played in competition for the first time in 2005. In the last 18 years, the softball field has been home to summer and fall softball youth camps and clinics, as well as being available for occasional intramural activities and special events.

## *Grant achievements*

### **SFSC and Two Other Florida State Colleges Garner \$4.7 Million Grant to Train Healthcare Professionals**

SFSC is part of a consortium of three Florida state colleges that will receive \$4.7 million toward a four-year initiative called “Increasing Access: The Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals.”

SFSC, the College of Central Florida in Ocala, and Lake-Sumter State College in Leesburg are partnering to address Florida’s need for a highly qualified healthcare workforce and to close equity gaps in college entrance and degree or certificate attainment among underserved and underrepresented populations. The College of Central Florida will serve as fiscal agent and lead for the grant, which was awarded from the U.S. Department of Labor. In February, the Department awarded \$50 million in grants, specifically, to help 15

community and state colleges in 14 states expand access to education and training for good-paying jobs and equitably meet employers’ and workers’ skill development needs.



The consortium identified equity gaps in health program enrollment, retention, and degree or certificate attainment rates for underserved and underrepresented students, specifically among Black, Hispanic, and low-income students. Providing increased access to or upgrading skills in healthcare fields can, in turn, increase earnings and social mobility for individuals as well as address the community need for a well-trained healthcare workforce.

“Each college in our consortium has proposed increasing program enrollments and strategies to meet the needs for a well-trained healthcare workforce of our communities,” said Dr. Kathleen Cappo, SFSC dean of Health Sciences and SFSC lead on the grant. “We plan to fill the equity gaps of underrepresented students in our districts by strengthening the academic wholistic support to meet the high demands across healthcare disciplines. These strategies include recruitment to health sciences programs, student tutoring, success coaches, partnership with industry, and an accelerated certificate program. This project will leverage SFSC’s Panther PATHways and structure guidance and proactive support to improve attainment rates for Health Sciences.”

SFSC’s Panther PATHways provide students with clear academic program maps, help students choose and enter pathways, provide support services to help students stay on track, ensure that students are learning, and provide students with career development support.

Funding will focus on tutoring services to assist students in Health Science programs as well as students in prerequisite courses. The holistic support services will identify academic concerns and guide students through personal challenges that may impede their ability to complete their education. Further, SFSC will reach out to high school students in its district to start them on an academic path to healthcare degrees and certificates. Through the Dual Enrollment program, students can prepare for college degrees in healthcare programs by taking prerequisite courses.

The healthcare programs at SFSC covered are: Practical Nursing (PN) Career Certificate, Generic Nursing (RN) Associate in Science, Transition Nursing (LPN to RN) Associate in Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN), Dental Hygiene Associate in Science, Dental Assistant Career Certificate, Radiography Associate in Science, Emergency Medical Services Associate in Science, Paramedic College Credit Certificate, and Emergency Medical Technician.

*Duke Energy Foundation (\$50,000):* **Duke Energy Foundation Vibrant Economies: Accelerated Skills Training, Electric Powerline Technician Program (FY23)**

Building on the success of the prior year, Valencia sought \$50,000 in scholarship support specifically for students in the AST Electrical Powerline Technician program. The Electrical Powerline Technician program has seen solid growth, increasing from eight students in 18/19 to 40 in 21/22. All funds will be used for scholarships, with an anticipated 12+ students served in this funding cycle.

*Helios Education Foundation (\$1,300,000):* **Helios Education Foundation: Helios Transfer Student Success Program (FY23).** Valencia College and the University of Central Florida (UCF) jointly propose a transfer partnership program that will provide support for students before and after their transfer from Valencia to UCF. Using data from the Central Florida Educational Ecosystem Database (CFEED) and based on a Fall 2022 pilot which focused on students transferring to UCF's College of Business, Valencia and UCF have identified multiple interventions to increase the success of transfer students between these institutions. This request for funding seeks to expand the pilot and serve transfer students within all programs.

This project is designed to support students transferring to UCF in academic year 2023/2024 through incentives and other support activities. This project is in alignment with the transfer goal within Valencia's 2030 Strategic Impact Plan. Based on CFEED data and outcomes from the pilot with the College of Business, we believe students will experience greater academic success during the critical first semester at UCF. The first semester outcome will increase individual persistence towards a 4-year degree and improve overall graduation rates.





# Florida College System Activities Association Report to the Council of Presidents

October 20, 2023

---

## ***Information Item: Student Government Division***

***Guest: Gilberto Mattei Fernandez, FCSSGA State President, Pasco-Hernando State College***

***SGA Presidents' Assembly:*** The Florida College System Student Government Association hosted their first state-wide meeting of the year, a Presidents' Assembly, on September 15 via Zoom. One hundred and ten students and advisors attended the meeting. The students voted on the planks for their 2023-2024 legislative platform, which are as follows:

- College affordability and funding for the Florida College System
- Privacy, Safety and Security
- Increase Florida College System Learning Opportunities and Quality of Life
- Social Issues

At this point, the state executive board is beginning to research filed bills that fall under these planks to form their platform. The group will vote on any filed legislation that has arisen during committee weeks at their November 7-8 Advocacy Conference in Tallahassee.

***SGA Region Retreats:*** Three out of four regions have held or have upcoming leadership retreats. Locations and attendance below:

- Region 1: Scheduled for October 13 at Northwest Florida State College. Cancelled due to lack of registration (only FSCJ and NWFSC registered).
- Region 2: Held October 6 at Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus; 119 in attendance
- Region 3: Held October 13 at Seminole State College, Sanford/Lake Mary Campus; 55 in attendance
- Region 4: Scheduled for October 20 at Miami Dade College, Homestead Campus; 46 registered at the time of this writing. Registration is still open at time of this writing.

## ***Information Item: Upcoming Fall Programs***

- Oct. 23 – Fall FCSAA Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual, 2pm-5pm
- Oct. 24 – FCSAA State/NJCAA Region 8 Cross Country Meet, Tallahassee
- Oct. 27 and 29 – NJCAA Region 8 DI Women's Soccer Tournament, Daytona State College
- Nov. 3-4 – FCSAA DII State/NJCAA District Volleyball Tournament, Palm Beach State College
- Nov. 3-4 – FCSAA DI State/NJCAA Region 8 Volleyball Tournament, Florida SouthWestern SC
- Nov. 6 – NJCAA DI District Volleyball Tournament, Florida SouthWestern State College
- Nov. 7-8 – FCSSGA Advocacy Conference, Tallahassee Community College
- Nov. 8 – Council for Athletic Affairs Fall Meeting, Virtual
- Nov. 16-18 – FCSAA Press Association Conference, Daytona State College

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Warren  
FCSAA Executive Director