

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Update**

September 23, 2016

SUBJECT: Florida College System – Dr. Edward Meadows, President, Pensacola State College, on behalf of the Council of Presidents

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

N/A

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is a pleasure to be with you today as a representative of the Council of Presidents. To start I would like to take a second to pick up where my colleague President LoBasso ended last week in saying that your support of our System is critical as we strive to continually improve and ensure that every town, suburb and city in Florida thrives. Just consider that for every dollar spent on the Florida College System the state receives a return of \$2.90.

We accomplish this goal by having a focused vision and a plan to arrive at the goals we set forth. Today you will consider targets for the Department of Education's strategic plan that charts a course of improvement for all Floridians attending a school, technical center or college or receiving services from a provider through Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services. This work is important as your goals and targets also inform our strategies and activities at the local level. We are supportive of these efforts as they reinforce the performance funding model that has helped our System receive additional funding it needs to serve all Floridians while also ensuring our colleges are meeting the local workforce demands.

Just one example of how we meet local workforce demands is through our baccalaureate degree programs. Today two proposals will come before you – one focused on data and analytics and the other on Nursing. As I have listened to previous Board meeting these are two topics of continual interest by you and we are doing all we can to start, where appropriate and necessary, baccalaureate degree programs that meet local workforce needs.

It is worth reminding you that baccalaureate degree programs are just a sliver of our offerings. We are also squarely focused on workforce certificates and associate degree programs. We thank you for your continued support funding industry certifications as they play a key role in workplace success. We, as a System, continue to be among the nation's leaders in the number of associate degrees awarded.

Of the 110,000 graduates, half earned an associate in Arts. As a result, nearly half of the juniors and seniors at State University System institutions started with us. A firm focus on

2+2 articulation is paramount to the success of our System and our state. To that end we appreciate the contributions of the Commissioner to the Board of Governors Select Committee on 2+2 and the support of the Division of Florida Colleges staff.

Finally, I am pleased to share that on Sept. 13, 2016, the Aspen Institute announced that **Broward College and Indian River State College** are among the 10 community college finalists for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The selection committee which is comprised of former community college presidents, respected researchers and policy experts, selected the ten finalist institutions after reviewing extensive data from over 100 eligible finalists on performance and improvements in learning, graduation workforce outcomes and equitable outcomes for all students, focusing on those in traditionally underserved racial/ethnic groups. Both Santa Fe College and Valencia College are former Florida College System recipients of this prestigious award.

To continue this great work – and it is great work – we need your continued support. We need you to continue to be our advocates. We welcome you to our campuses whenever you have the time. As the Council of Presidents Chair I would be happy to facilitate a campus visit for you.

Again, I would like to thank you for your time today and look forward to your continued support.

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Facilitator/Presenter: Dr. Edward Meadows, President, Pensacola State College