

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Update

January 17, 2017

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

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#### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

N/A

#### **AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

N/A

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An update will be provided by Dr. Ed Meadows, President of Pensacola State College and Chair of the Florida College System Council of Presidents, on issues relating to Florida College System initiatives. Included will be:

- Textbook Affordability Report
- College Affordability Report
- Funding Formula
- Presidential Medal of Freedom: Dr. Eduardo Pardon, President, Miami Dade College

#### **Textbook Affordability**

The College Access and Affordability bill that passed during the 2016 legislative session requires Florida College System (FCS) institutions to implement innovative practices to ensure students have access to textbooks and instructional materials critical to success in college. Section 1004.085(8), Florida Statutes, requires FCS institutions to annually report current practices for the selection of textbooks and cost-saving innovations to the Florida College System Chancellor.

The reports found all 28 FCS institutions focused on college affordability through the development of policies and procedures for textbook adoption and the implementation of initiatives to reduce the cost of textbook and instructional materials for students. All FCS institutions continue to employ initiatives designed to reduce the cost of textbooks and instructional materials.

#### **College Affordability**

The College Access and Affordability bill also tasked the State Board of Education with conducting a study that identifies strategies and initiatives to promote college affordability by evaluating the impact of tuition and fees on students; and examines federal, state, and institutional financial aid on the actual cost of attendance for students and their families.

The *College Affordability* final report is comprised of two parts. First, strategies and initiatives underway within the Florida College System institutions are presented. These

activities are followed by an examination of the impact of student aid. The report closes with lessons learned and actions for the future.

### **Funding Formula**

Together with Division of Florida Colleges staff, we have worked to refine and modernize the FCS funding formula. The goal of these revisions during the past year was to ensure that the model accounted for the need in the system as well as reflected the actual tuition and fees that help support the need. It was also clear that some of the data tables that inform the model needed adjustments to align with current practice. After taking a deep dive into the intricacies of the model, it is clear that it is a robust formula. The original model was built collaboratively, and provided a very strong foundation. It reflects the complexity of our colleges. The model accounts for small colleges, multi-campus sites, and program mix. The work of COBA and the division has made the model more equitable through the revisions. These revisions were reviewed and the model unanimously adopted by the COP at our December 2016 meeting.

### **Presidential Medal of Freedom: Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, Miami Dade College**

On November 22, 2016 at the White House, President Barack Obama recognized Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, President of Miami Dade College with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor. Dr. Padron, who arrived in the US as a teenage refugee in 1961 and went on to earn a PhD in Economics from the University of Florida, has been President of Miami Dade College since 1995. Miami Dade, the largest public institution of higher education in America with an enrollment of more than 165,000 students, enrolls and graduates more minorities than any other institution in the U.S., including the largest numbers of Hispanics and African-Americans. Dr. Padron is credited with elevating MDC into a college of national prominence in U.S. higher education and he is widely recognized as one of the top educational leaders in the world. The Florida College System is proud to have Dr. Padron as our colleague and we congratulate him on his recognition and many extraordinary contributions to postsecondary education.

### **January is Celebrate Mentoring Month**

The Florida College System institutions are known to respond to the needs of its communities. At the heart of this is the belief that we all do better when everyone has a shot at reaching their dream. This is the core of our mission; fostering opportunities for students of all ages. The FCS institutions remains committed to helping our students—both current and future—by connecting more of them to effective mentoring programs and support networks that reinforce the fact that all people are valued and to empower them with the skills they need to reach their full potential.

### **January is (also) First Responders Month**

- The Florida College System has more than 13,000 students in training to serve their communities as First Responders.
- 93% of paramedics and 87% of firefighters find employment upon graduating from a Florida College System program.
- Students graduating with an A.S. in Emergency Medical Services earn on average \$56,516 a year.

Thank you for your time and ongoing support for the Florida College System and our students. We remain dedicated to maintaining quality, affordable postsecondary education and to meeting the workforce and economic development needs of our communities. Your interest and advocacy is greatly appreciated. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** N/A

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Dr. Ed Meadows, President, Pensacola State College and Chair, Florida College System Council of Presidents