

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Update
 May 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Florida College System (FCS) Update

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

N/A

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr. Tonjua Williams, President, St. Petersburg College, will provide the FCS update on behalf of the Council of Presidents on items presented below.

2018 ALL-FLORIDA ACADEMIC TEAM

On April 6, 2018, in Tampa, the FCS honored the 2018 All-Florida Academic Team, which recognizes outstanding students for their academic achievement, leadership and service to their communities. Students are nominated by their respective colleges to the All-USA Academic Team competition sponsored by USA Today and the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. This year's team consisted of 134 Florida College System students.

MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS CONVENING

On April 9, 2018, more than 140 FCS mathematics faculty, department chairs and administrators gathered at St. Petersburg College for the 2018 Math Pathways Convening. Co-hosted by the Florida Student Success Center and St. Petersburg College, the theme of this convening was geared toward mathematics pathways redesign.

Mathematics is such an important and foundational subject. However, we are finding that mathematics is becoming a barrier to students seeking a postsecondary education. For decades, the traditional algebra- and calculus-based mathematics sequences were regarded as the best route for almost all two- and four-year students, regardless of their majors. Today, that is no longer the case. College mathematics requirements are changing in response to the evolving needs of students, the economy and society at large.

At this convening, we reviewed research, shared national best practices and identified challenges and solutions to implementing mathematics pathways redesign. In addition to employees from 28 colleges, attendees also included representatives from University of Texas at Austin Charles A. Dana Center, Florida College Access Network, Florida Virtual Campus, the University of Florida, Florida State University, the State University System (SUS) through the Board of Governors and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

To continue the work, the Florida Student Success Center is forming statewide mathematics workgroups around three critical areas: the secondary to postsecondary mathematics pathway, mathematics pathways within Florida College System institutions, and the FCS to SUS mathematics pathway. By leveraging innovation and expertise across all public sectors of higher education – K-12, the Florida College System and the State University System – Florida will be better prepared to engage in this important work and lead the nation on reducing academic barriers.

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

On April 16, 2018, the Constitution Revision Commission completed its work and approved eight bundled amendments, composed from eighteen proposals, for the November 2018 ballot. Amendment 7 establishes that there shall be a single state college system comprised of all public community and state colleges. A local board of trustees shall govern each state college system institution and the state board of education shall supervise the state college system as provided by law. Amendment 7 also includes provisions for first responder and military member survivor benefits. For any of the amendments to become law, they must win support from 60 percent of the voters.

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH EFFORTS

Access to a college credential has never been more important. There was a time that a high school diploma was one's ticket to the middle class. Now, an individual increasingly requires education or training beyond high school to be competitive for entry-level jobs. By 2020, 65 percent of jobs will require a postsecondary degree or credential. Currently, only 47 percent of working-age Floridians hold a postsecondary degree or credential. To close this gap and raise the educational attainment level, Florida must focus on student populations that include traditional students matriculating into college after high school. Maintaining access requires conscientious, persistent and targeted efforts. Florida's colleges employ a number of strategies to ensure students are prepared for and have access to college. Innovative practices implemented in many of the colleges have proven successful and will continue to elevate Florida's nationally recognized system and institutions to excellence. The following programs are clear examples of these efforts.

Gulf Coast State College: Utilizing Navigators for Recruitment and Enrollment

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) has recently focused on improving ways to connect with K-12 students in the community. Feedback from high schools revealed the need for additional resources to communicate college-going information. To assist with this effort, GCSC created a Navigator program to embed on-site communication within each high school in the college's service district. The Navigator program utilizes advisors to help guide students who are unsure of their next steps after graduation. Workshops are held for both students and parents to familiarize them with college processes, including the filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In the first year of implementation, Navigators conducted over 27 events and campus tours for more than 775 students and 117 parents. For district seniors, GCSC waived the application fee and awarded more than \$33,000 in scholarships to Navigator-nominated students.

Valencia College: Got College? Increasing the College-Going Rate in Osceola County

The "Got College?" program, organized by Valencia College, the School District of Osceola County and the Education Foundation of Osceola County, is a community-wide, grassroots effort to increase the college-going rate in Osceola County. "Got College?" includes a number of initiatives that are designed to help students overcome the barriers that have historically prevented students from pursuing postsecondary education. For example, the Valencia Ambassador Program places current Valencia students in K-12 classrooms in Osceola County to talk about the importance of going to college. Valencia also hosts "Mock College" days where more than 1,500 students in grades 3rd-12th are invited to campus to attend "mini-classes" led by Valencia professors to gain a sense of what college is like. As a result of these and other efforts, the college-going rate in Osceola County has increased from 40.1 percent in 2010 to 48.6 percent in 2015.

Palm Beach State College: Achieve Palm Beach

Achieve Palm Beach was established to ensure that every Palm Beach County high school graduate completes a postsecondary credential within six-years of high school graduation to prepare them for a meaningful career and sustainable wage. Achieve Palm Beach was built on the premise that to be competitive, Florida needs to increase the percentage of individuals age 25 to 64 with a high-quality, postsecondary degree or credential to 60 percent by 2025. In partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, the Achieve Palm Beach program has been established to increase the percentage of graduates through mentoring, advising and college access information.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Facilitator/Presenter: Dr. Tonjua Williams, President, St. Petersburg College