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Madeline Pumariega
Chancellor, Florida College System

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents
FROM: Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor
DATE: May 24, 2018
SUBJECT: **2018 Legislation Affecting Special Populations**

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The 2018 Florida Legislature passed, and Governor Rick Scott signed, legislation that will have implications for the special populations served by Florida College System (FCS) institutions.

Military and Veterans Outreach

House Bill 29 addressed services provided for veterans and military members. Section (s.) 446.041, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was modified to require the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to lead and coordinate outreach efforts to educate veterans about apprenticeship and career opportunities. The Division of Florida Colleges will collect information on current institutional initiatives promoting veterans' movement into the workforce and include the information on www.floridacollegesystem.com as well as coordinate with the Division of Career and Adult Education regarding specific outreach efforts for veterans. The legislation also modified s. 446.081, F.S., to allow apprenticeship programs to provide special consideration to veterans, minorities and women, unless otherwise prohibited by law, rule or regulation.

Section 1012.56, F.S., now allows FDOE to extend the validity period of a temporary educator certificate for two years due to the military service of an applicant's spouse. In response to the changes to s. 1012.56, F.S., the FDOE Bureau of Educator Certification will propose an update to State Board of Education Rule 6A-4.004, Florida Administrative Code, extending the validity period of a temporary educator certificate for two years due to the military service of a spouse.

Section 295.22, F.S., has been modified to expand which entities may administer the Veterans Employment and Training Services program. To find out more about the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program, please visit www.veteransflorida.org. This information will be shared with Veterans Affairs liaisons, the Council of Student Affairs, Council on Instructional Affairs and Council of Business Affairs.

For a list of resources regarding assisting veterans with transition into the workforce, please visit www.floridacollegesystem.com/students/veterans.aspx.

Fee Waivers for Active Duty Military

The provisions of HB 75, related to fee waivers for active duty military, go into effect on July 1, 2018. A new subsection of law added to s. 1009.26, F.S., grants authority to FCS institutions to waive any fee authorized in s. 1009.23, F.S., for active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States using military tuition assistance provided by the United States Department of Defense. Colleges are required to report the number and value of these fee waivers annually.

The Revenue Estimating Conference held an Impact Conference on May 3, 2018, and reported a negative indeterminate impact on the colleges due to this change in the law, because it is up to each college to decide the extent to which they waive these fees.

As a reminder, s. 1009.23 (12)(a), F.S., specifies that FCS institutions may not charge any fee except as authorized by law. Technical requirements for reporting these waivers will be transmitted to college reports coordinators as soon as practical.

Education for Prisoners

The provisions of HB 1201, related to educating prisoners, go into effect on July 1, 2018. A new subsection of law added to s. 944.801, F.S., grants authority for the Florida Department of Corrections to contract with a district school board, Florida Virtual School or a charter school authorized to operate under s. 1002.33, F.S., to provide education services in the Correctional Education Program including any educational, career or vocational training authorized by the department. Beginning July 1, 2018, s. 951.176, F.S., will permit each county to contract with a district school board, Florida Virtual School or a charter school authorized to operate under s. 1002.33, F.S., to provide education services for inmates at county detention facilities including any educational, career or vocational training authorized by the sheriff or chief correctional officer, or their designee.

Importantly, s. 1011.80, F.S., regarding funds for operation of workforce education programs has been modified to permit the use of funds for operation of workforce education programs for the education of inmates in specific circumstances. The 2018 statute reads “State funds provided for the operation of postsecondary workforce programs may not be expended for the education of state inmates with more than 24 months of time remaining to serve on their sentence or federal inmates.” Equally important; however, ss. 1011.81(4), F.S., regarding the Florida College System Program Fund has not been amended and remains worded as “State funds provided for the Florida College System Program Fund may not be expended for the education of state or federal inmates.”

MP

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