Quality Assurance and Compliance
Onsite Desk Monitoring Review
for
Perkins Career and Technical Education

St. Petersburg College

September 30 – October 4, 2024

Final Report

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St. Petersburg College
Perkins Career and Technical Education
Quality Assurance and Compliance Monitoring Report

I.   INTRODUCTION

The Division of Career and Adult Education (Division) within the Florida Department of Education (Department) has several key responsibilities, including leadership, resource allocation, technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation. These duties require the Division to oversee the performance and regulatory compliance of federal and state funding recipients. The Quality Assurance and Compliance (QAC) office plays a critical role in this process by designing, developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive quality assurance system, which includes monitoring. This system aims to ensure financial accountability, program quality and regulatory compliance. As stewards of federal and state funds, it is the Division's duty to regularly monitor the use of workforce education funds and regulatory compliance of providers on a regular basis.

II.   AUTHORITY

The Department receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education under the Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act and for Adult Education (AE) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. The Department awards sub-grants to eligible providers to administer local programs. The Department must monitor providers to ensure compliance with federal requirements, including Florida's approved state plans for CTE and Adult Education/Family Literacy. Each state shall have procedures for reviewing and approving applications for sub-grants and amendments to those applications, for providing technical assistance, for evaluating projects and for performing other administrative responsibilities the state has determined are necessary to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and regulations pursuant to 34 Code of Federal Regulations 76.770, Education Department General Administrative Regulations and the Uniform Grant Guidance for grant awards issued on or after December 26, 2014. The Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education, is required to oversee the performance of sub-grantees in the enforcement of all laws and rules (Sections 1001.03(8) and 1008.32, Florida Statutes).

III.   QAC CORE MONITORING GUIDE

The Core Monitoring Guide is designed to be utilized by any reviewer who is conducting an onsite or desk monitoring of any program currently administered by the Division. The guide includes a brief overview of each aspect of the monitoring design and the process, as well as objectives that can be used when agencies are monitored or reviewed. The guide can be found on the Division's website at:
https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/compliance/

IV.   PROVIDER SELECTION

Various sources of data are used throughout the implementation of the quality assurance system. The monitoring component of the system is risk-based. Risk assessment is a process used to evaluate variables associated with the grants and assign a rating for the level of risk to the Department and the Division. A risk matrix identifying certain operational risk factors is completed for each provider. The risk matrix for each program monitored is located in Appendix A. The results of the risk assessment process and

consideration of available resources are used to determine one or more appropriate monitoring strategy(ies) to be implemented.

The QAC office may apply any specific monitoring strategy to any federal or state-funded provider at any time. There may be circumstances that may warrant onsite monitoring, desk monitoring review or other strategies regardless of a provider's risk matrix score.

The St. Petersburg College (SPC) monitoring strategy was determined to be an onsite monitoring review (OSMR). Notification was sent to Dr. Tonjua Williams, President, on August 16, 2024. The designated representative for the agency was Ms. Marie Couch, Project Director, Workforce Education.

The Division's representative conducting the OSMR was Program Specialist Michael Swift of the QAC.

V. ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Finance
The provider was awarded the following grants for fiscal years (FY) 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24:

FY 2021-22			
Grants	Grant Number	Grant Amount	Unexpended
Perkins Postsecondary	522-1612B-2CP01	$ 2,363,294.00	$ 90,048.85
FY 2022-23			
Grants	Grant Number	Grant Amount	Unexpended
Perkins Equipment Upgrade and Modernization	522-1613B-3CR01	$ 21,800.00	$ 0.00
Perkins Postsecondary	522-1613B-3CP01	$ 2,267,088.00	$ 158,246.47
FY 2023-24			
Grants	Grant Number	Grant Amount	Unexpended
Perkins Postsecondary	522-1614B-4CP01	$ 1,912,463.00	$ 66,626.56
Perkins Equipment Upgrade and Modernization	522-1614R-4C001	$116,147.00	$18,551.15

Additional information about the provider may be found at the following web address:
https://www.spcollege.edu/

VI. MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The monitoring activities included pre- and post-review planning, an entrance and exit meeting, records review and interviews with administrators, if necessary.

Onsite Visits
The monitoring team visited the following sites as part of the OSMR:
- SPC – EpiCenter
- SPC – Allstate Center
- SPC – Midtown Campus
- SPC – Health Education Campus
- SPC – Clearwater Campus

The entrance conference for SPC was conducted on September 30, 2024. The exit conference was conducted on October 3, 2024. The participants are listed below:

Name	Title	Entrance Conference	Exit Conference
Marie Couch	Project Director, Workforce Development, SPC	X	X
Kritina Renaud	Grants Manager, SPC	X	
Jackie Skryd	Vice President, Workforce Development, SPC	X	X
Julia Meyer	Certification Testing Coordinator, SPC	X	
Karen Reynolds	Director of Procurement, SPC	X	
Raynier Mohammed	Senior Information Technology Analyst, SPC	X	
Liz Mott	Senior Administrative Services Specialist, SPC	X	
Kimberly Qualls	Senior Administrative Services Specialist, SPC	X	X
Vicky Thomann	Grants Accountant, SPC	X	X
Vonda Woods	Director of Accounting, SPC	X	X
Mike Meigs	Associate Vice President of Accounting, SPC	X	
Division Monitoring Team			
Michael Swift	Program Specialist, QAC	X	X
Chuck Davis	Program Specialist, QAC	X	X

Interviews
No interviews were required as part of the OSMR. SPC submitted thorough and qualitative documentation and records via the Department ShareFile.

Records Review
Program, financial, administrative and student records were reviewed. A complete list is provided in section VII, part F. A minimum of 50 student records were checked. In addition, policies and procedures were examined and discussed at various times during the monitoring review.

VII.   OBSERVATION

A.   ADMINISTRATION refers to the management and supervision of programs, the structure of programs and services, grant oversight and other administrative areas.

- The SPC Perkins grants are managed by a knowledgeable project director with numerous years of experience within her respective program areas. The project director works directly with administrators and faculty to determine the needs of each program area and to determine if those needs fit within the scope of their federal award(s).
- As part of their 2023-24 comprehensive local needs assessment (CLNA), SPC CTE administrators consulted with numerous stakeholders and entities across their service area. Representatives from these stakeholder groups also provided insight into the workforce needs

and opportunities for special population students. The list of stakeholders includes, but is not limited to:

- o CareerSource Pinellas (CareerSource) – Representatives of local workforce board
- o Pinellas County Schools (PCS) – Local secondary educational agency representatives
- o Executive Director of Retention Services – Special populations and individuals with disabilities
- o CTE Academic Deans and faculty
- o SPC Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- o Local business owners and industry partners
- o St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

- SPC used Regional and Local Targeted Occupations lists to assess the economic and educational needs of its service area. Additional letters of support were received for occupations not identified by the demands lists.
- Other organizations such as the Helios Foundation, Pinellas Education Foundation and the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay also provided valuable input on education gaps and how to fill those voids within the community.
- Workforce Advisory meetings are held throughout the school year with the above-mentioned stakeholders, as well as other participants who represent multiple entities within the region. CTE advisory committee members also provide input for programmatic needs, as well as information on current and future industry trends and needs.
- SPC conducts ongoing professional learning and training events to ensure all CTE administrative staff are up to date on any changes that come from the federal and/or state-level Department of Education. Division-sponsored training events are also attended. SPC provided multiple records of training and learning events. Examples of professional learning activities were provided by SPC.

B.   **DATA AND ASSESSMENT** refer to all the data and assessment system components, including test administration, test security, data collection, entry, reporting and procedures. The use of data in program decision-making is also explored and commented on.

- SPC utilizes PeopleSoft Student® as its integrated Management Information System (MIS) and student information system. The MIS meets all Department requirements as defined by the Data Dictionary.
- SPC has a Student Database Submission manual that outlines the procedures for collecting and reporting industry certification data and program completers. Division policies on the submission of student data are also adhered to and followed.
- The Information Technology Director and Student Support Assistant Director are ultimately responsible for state reporting and ensuring that data submission requirements and reporting deadlines are met.
- Procedures are in place that outline the necessary steps to ensure that all student data reported by the college is valid, reliable and aligned with reporting requirements. Multiple checks and balances are in place to ensure the accuracy of data reported to the Department.
- SPC provides students with the following notification(s) regarding the use and dissemination of student data:
- o Notification of social security number collection, usage and release.
- o Student authorization for access to educational records.
- o Student and parental rights provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Students may opt in or out of these notices at any time.

- Samples of CTE student data were reviewed and verified for accuracy as part of the OSMR. All student records were provided by SPC. Records reviewed included:
  - CTE postsecondary industry certifications
  - Postsecondary Adult Vocational program completers

  Upon review of the requested student data, all information was reported correctly.
- All personnel involved in data entry and management receive regular training on data reporting procedures and compliance requirements. Additionally, CTE administrators attend Division events such as quarterly webinars and Management Information System Advisory Task Force meetings. Other professional learning events are attended when the opportunity is available.

C.   **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION** refer to those elements that contribute to student learning and skill acquisition.

- SPC offers CTE programs on seven campuses, in addition to online options for some programs. Additionally, SPC has an articulation agreement with PCS to offer dual enrollment for high school students to earn postsecondary credits and certifications in addition to their secondary curriculum. As part of this agreement, the Pinellas Education Articulation Committee meets at least twice a year to strengthen the partnership and pathways between the two.
- SPC has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CareerSource to work together to align tools and resources for potential students, offering a seamless transition from exploring career opportunities to entering a program, then onto meaningful employment.
- CareerSource also uses additional services such as:
  - Job search and career development support
  - Professional networking opportunities
  - Resume development
  - Professional learning events
- CTE and academic pathways include work-based learning opportunities and career exposure events to provide students with a deeper understanding of their chosen career paths. Business Relationship Managers and Employment Internship Specialists assist students by coordinating such events and helping students attain internships and other job opportunities.
- Specifically, Health Science students participate in clinical rotations with multiple medical facilities in the region and Dental Hygienist students work alongside licensed dentists in SPC's Dental Clinic, which provides dental services to the community.
- In an effort to continually attract and retain non-traditional students, SPC partners with business and industry to identify outreach and exposure opportunities, such as tours and demonstrations, that expose CTE students to non-traditional fields. SPC makes a concerted effort to represent targeted populations as advisory committee members, student mentors and instructional support staff.
- The Executive Director of Retention Services heads multiple groups such as Veteran Services, Women on the Way, the Mental Health Initiative, Accessibility Services and other programs that address the needs of underrepresented students. Such populations include first generation, minority and low-income students.
- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, no student who self-declares a disability is denied appropriate and reasonable accommodation as determined by the student's needs.
- The SPC Accessibility Services office provides and facilitates students with accommodations such as adaptive technologies, note-takers, interpreters and any other available services to

ensure equal access to a barrier free education. Accessibility Coordinators and Assistive Technology Specialists help students attain the services they need.

- SPC maintains multiple program advisory councils for each of its programs so industry partners can review the curriculum, outcomes, equipment and programs to ensure the programs stay aligned with industry standards. These advisory councils also offer valuable input during the CLNA process.
- SPC offers ample professional learning and training to CTE administrators and staff. Administrators also participate in ongoing training provided by the Division, as well as annual professional learning through the college. Program-specific training and/or certifications are also completed as required.
- CTE-related faculty and staff also host sessions during college-wide professional learning days to increase training and CTE engagement with colleagues.

D. **TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT** refers to a review of the technology and equipment used by students and instructors in the classroom; addresses access, availability, innovation, use and condition.

- All inventory criteria set forth by federal, state and local guidelines are included within the college's fixed asset management system.
- SPC has policies and procedures to establish actions for purchasing, tracking and managing equipment acquired with federal grant funds in compliance with federal regulations and institutional policies. Policies include property management, equipment safety/storage, inventory reconciliation and inventory disposal. In addition to these policies and procedures, SPC has internal controls and procedures to govern loss prevention, transfer of property and the surplus of capital equipment.
- The Materials Management Specialist is ultimately responsible for the college's capital assets. Additional job functions include coordinating the movement, stocking, purchasing, delivery and disposal of equipment.
- All capitalized equipment and inventory over $5,000 is tracked via the college's inventory management system. Policies for inventory management of non-capitalized equipment is also adhered to.
- Monitoring staff conducted inventory reviews at multiple SPC campuses, and all inventory was accounted for and in its correct location. QAC staff verified all inventory at the $5,000 threshold, as well as spot checked $1,000 items for internal controls compliance. No issues were uncovered.
- Capitalized equipment is inventoried at least annually, and all inventoried property must match the records maintained within the inventory management system.
- SPC did experience theft of a grant-funded student laptop. A campus incident report was created by the SPC police department and submitted as part of the monitoring review.

E. **EQUAL ACCESS** refers to compliance with federal non-discrimination laws' requirements relating to recruitment, enrollment, participation and completion of programs.

- SPC included the necessary policies required by the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) and other federal laws, which ensure equal access and participation in programs regardless of sex, race, national origin, color, disability or age.

F. **RECORDS REVIEW** refers to reviewing the records and documents that evidence compliance with federal and state rules and regulations. In addition, a sampling of financial and programmatic records is reviewed.

Documents reviewed were:
- Notification of social security number collection, usage and release
- Student authorization for access to educational records
- FERPA notification
- Program academic plans
- Data reporting policies and procedures manual
- Time and effort reports
- Purchasing card (P-card) records
- Student data
- Operational policies and procedures
- Purchasing Manual
- Grant Budget Analysis (GBA)
- Multiple MOUs
- Dual enrollment articulation agreements
- Advisory committee meeting records
- Travel records
- GEPA statement
- Disability Services Manual
- Academic support services
- CLNA documentation
- Professional learning records

G. **FINANCIAL** refers to aspects of the federal fiscal requirements that providers must meet when expending federal funds, including financial management, procurement, inventory management and allowable costs.

- SPC uses Peoplesoft® as its dedicated financial management system. Purchasing, contracts, deliverables and all fiscal aspects of their grants are housed within the system.
- SPC uses the Florida College System accounting manual as a uniform and systematic guide for all accounting and fiscal measures of their federal grant award. The college also has a Grant Accounting Handbook for uniform guidance on federal grants.
- The following components of the policies and procedures manual were reviewed as part of the monitoring process:
  o Purchasing guidelines and procedures
  o Sole source and single source purchases
  o Budget implementation
  o Cash management
  o Contracts and bids
  o Purchasing cards (P-card)
  o Inventory management
  o Procurement
  o Conflict of interests
  o Ethics
  o Travel
- The monitoring team lead conducted a GBA to compare SPC's approved budget versus their final expenditure reports that are submitted to the Department Comptroller's office. All records were aligned with their approved federal award.

- SPC does use grant-funded P-cards for minor purchases up to $2,000. All purchases made with P-cards must receive prior approval and be used solely for the operation of a grant-funded program. When a P-card is used, it is the responsibility of the authorized card holder to submit proper documentation to the finance department for reconciliation toward the appropriate grant fund. Sample P-card transactions and reconciliations were provided by SPC.
- SPC does use grant dollars to fund travel for students and administrators to attend competitions, conferences, training, etc. All pre-approved travel is submitted via a Travel Authorization Form, and no travel takes place unless fully authorized and approved. All travelers are reimbursed (mileage, meals, per diem, etc.) in accordance with applicable federal and state law.
- No purchases shall be authorized without prior approval from the Division via a grant award letter and/or subsequent amendment(s).
- Once a service or equipment need is determined, the department head will create a purchase requisition for review by the Purchasing Department. Once approved, a purchase order is prepared, processed and sent to the vendor. When equipment is received or a service is completed, the accounts payable department will then process payment to the vendor and/or contractor.
- All supplies, equipment and services charged to a grant-funded source shall be purchased using sound judgement and obtained at the lowest cost possible. Expenditures must go toward the operation of programs and fit within the scope of the grant. Unless exempt from competition, the per unit dollar value of a purchase dictates the procurement method used to acquire goods and/or services.
  o Less than $5,000 – Requires one or more written or verbal quotations be solicited.
  o $5,000 but less than $65,000 – Requires three written quotations to be solicited.
  o Over $65,000 – Competitive solicitations will be managed by the purchasing department. Policies on sole source and single source purchases are also included in the college purchasing manual.
  - SPC does have personnel who serve as a designated contract manager. When entering into a grant-funded contractual agreement, no employee shall sign said contract unless designated the authority to do so. All contracts are reviewed by the SPC General Counsel before entering into the agreement

H.   **COLLABORATION** refers to the collaborative agreements, partnerships or memoranda of understanding (MOU) that are in place to benefit an agency's programs and students.

- SPC has numerous collaborations, partnerships and MOUs throughout their service region. These partnerships aid in the expansion and implementation of the core objectives of SPC. The list of partners includes, but is not limited to:
  o CareerSource Okaloosa Pinellas
  o Pinellas County Schools
  o University of South Florida
  o St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce
  o Bay Care Health System
  o Empath Health

VIII. RESULTS

SPC was not found to be out of compliance.

IX.   SUMMARY

After completing the monitoring review and receiving any additional information requested, a preliminary report is sent to the provider for their review. The Division monitoring team lead may consider comments at their discretion. Once the final report is approved, it will be sent to the agency head and a copy will be sent to the provider's designated contact person. The final report will also be posted on the Department's website, which can be found at: https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/compliance/

Once all outstanding corrective action plan items have been completed (when applicable), the Division will issue a closure letter to the agency head and designated contact person. This letter will signify the end of the monitoring process and that no further action is required.

The monitoring team would like to extend their appreciation to all participants in the St. Petersburg College monitoring review, on behalf of the Division. A special thanks is offered to Ms. Marie Couch for her participation and leadership during this process.

St. Petersburg College
Career and Technical Education
Risk Matrix

**Risk Scores Matrix for Districts Receiving Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Carl D. Perkins Grants**

Agency Name: **St. Petersburg College**
Program Type: **CTE**
Monitoring Year: **2023-2024**

Metric	Scaling	Point Value	Points Assigned	Weight	Total Metric Points
Number of Years Since Last Monitored	7 or More Years	7	3	X 10	30
	5-6	5			
	3-4	3			
	0-2	1			
Total Budget for all Perkins Grants Combined	Upper Quartile	7	7	X8	56
	Upper Middle	5			
	Lower Middle	3			
	Lower Quartile	1			
Number of Perkins Grants	4 or More	7	5	X 8	40
	3	5			
	2	3			
	1	1			
Change in Management Information Systems (MIS) from Previous Fiscal Year	Yes	7	0	X 6	0
	No	0			
Agency CTE Program Director Change from Previous Fiscal Year	Yes	7	7	X 6	42
	No	0			
Unexpended Funds from all Perkins Grants Combined	Upper Quartile	7	7	X 4	28
	Upper Middle	5			
	Lower Middle	3			
	Lower Quartile	1			
	0	0			
Number of Findings from the Office of the Auditor General	Upper Quartile	7	3	X 4	12
	Upper Middle	5			
	Lower Middle	3			
	Lower Quartile	1			
	0	0			
			AGENCY RISK SCORE:		**208**

Data sources used for calculations: Prior to July 1, 2023

ATTACHMENT A

St. Petersburg College - Institutional Highlights

St. Petersburg College (SPC) serves a diverse student body of all ages, ethnicities, and from all walks of life. The College enrolls around 34,000 students annually, with almost 40% of local high school seniors attending SPC within a year of graduation. Our skilled graduates fill local jobs, which helps grow businesses and stimulate the economy through these citizens' upward economic mobility.

SPC recently launched its strategic plan for 2024-2027, following a collaborative process that engaged key stakeholders in shaping its objectives and priorities. This new plan articulates our institution's culture, values, and expertise into a roadmap for the future, focusing on supporting better jobs, better lives, and better communities for all. The plan's ambitions reflect our determination as an institution to improve and streamline academic pathways to high-value programs that lead to high-paying jobs and support better outcomes for our students, faculty, and staff while investing in our community.

Deliver Excellence in Teaching and Learning

SPC's career-focused curriculum has sought to meet the community's needs by training workers to fill in demand jobs through relevant programs and offering robust support systems to ensure student success. 90% of SPC students who earn Associate in Science degrees are employed or continuing their education after graduation. The 2024 U.S. News & World Report rankings listed SPC first in the Tampa Bay region in two categories: Best Online Bachelor's Programs and Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans. This is the fourth year in a row that SPC has received top rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

SPC works closely with Pinellas County Schools (PCS) to promote dual enrollment opportunities and award college credits to students who complete courses that articulate into college programs. SPC administrators, faculty, and staff maintain strong relationships with PCS administrators and counselors to through the "Pinellas Together Partnership" which was created to support information sharing and develop strategies for collaboration. The hallmarks of this partnership include site visits to each other's programs; reviewing of curriculum, program, and credit alignment; as well as regular meetings between the School Superintendent and College President to discuss how we can work together to ensure our communities thrive economically.

Teaching & Learning Highlights:

- Over the last two years, an institutional alliance was designed to strengthen secondary and postsecondary pathways across the Bay Area. One outcome of this partnership was the creation of new secondary-level workforce academies that provide students with opportunities to earn college credit, degrees, and industry credentials while still in high school.
- The SPC Dental Hygiene Clinic provides cleaning and x-ray services to more than 2,500 community members annually through a low to no-cost clinic. The clinic offers a clinical learning environment for Dental Hygiene A.S. Degree students and affordable preventive dental care for residents.
- SPC's new Field Surveying Technician Certificate, whose development was supported by the Perkins equipment grant, is now offered at the Midtown Campus. This program aligns with local workforce needs, including St. Petersburg's growing need for construction professionals for city projects such as Deuces Rising and the Historic Gas Plant Redevelopment, the future home of the Tampa Bay Rays.
- SPC completed construction on the new Chris Sprowls Workforce Innovation Hub at the Tarpon Springs Campus this year. The Hub was designed to support students, faculty, and local

manufacturing businesses' entrepreneurial spirit and growth by offering multi-functional spaces that provide opportunities for technical collaboration. The state-of-the-art facility is primed to become a key location for local industry to convene around the future of manufacturing in the Tampa Bay region. This 10,000-square-foot space is named after the former Florida House of Representatives Speaker Chris Sprowls.

Drive Economic Advancement

As part of our participation in the national Unlocking Opportunity network, SPC has been working with other colleges to look at how we improve students' lives by evaluating post-completion outcomes and determining promising strategies that will ultimately result in high wage careers. SPC was invited to join this network because of our national reputation for innovation and a focus on student employment after completing a degree or certificate.

At our 2024 Summer Institute, we focused on course sequencing and students' entry and exit points at various stages of learning (on and off ramps). More than 125 faculty and staff gathered to brainstorm

how students can move through programs to ensure timely graduation and a seamless transition to 4-year degree programs. Faculty and staff convened with their respective Career and Academic Communities and examined the credentials, jobs, and wages associated with their academic pathways. They also reviewed their program websites to ensure accuracy and provide recommendations for aligned and updated job titles for roles for which graduates are qualified.

SPC's Business Relationship Managers (BRMs) offer a responsive and efficient concierge service approach to connecting businesses with quality talent through our students and graduates and engaging them with the College in meaningful ways. BRMs form relationships with local employers and commit their time and attention to understanding their businesses' hiring needs and the landscape of their industries as a whole. These relationships motivate employers to engage with the College in various ways, from providing mentorship and internships to guest lecturing and joining advisory committees.

Driving Economic Advancement Highlights:
- During the 2023-2024 academic year, SPC's BRMs and Career Readiness Navigators (CRNs) helped place 2,640 students into jobs and internships. Notable Employers of these students include Raymond James, TD SYNNEX, KnowBe4, Field & Main Bank, Tampa General Hospital, BayCare, Kemco Systems, Catalent Pharma Solutions, and various city and state government offices across the Tampa Bay Area.
- SPC is introducing a new resource for students and staff called Titan Track which outlines specific action steps crucial to student success and creates milestones along their educational journey. These action steps and milestones focus on both classroom and career or transfer readiness, helping them transition to the working world in their focus industry or from our institution to another after earning their credential or degree at SPC.
- This year, our SPC Promise Scholarship was expanded to three additional area high schools in the highest poverty zip codes. The SPC Promise scholarship ensures that every student who graduates from one of these eight high schools can earn a valuable degree or credential even if they can't afford the cost of attendance by paying all tuition and fees for these students' associate degrees and financial aid-eligible certificates.

Strengthen Our Community

The Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions at St. Petersburg College is dedicated to advancing academic excellence, community engagement, economic vitality, and public understanding through high-quality,

solutions-directed, non-partisan public policy programs. Its purpose is to enrich the educational experience, engage with local government to promote unity and efficiency, facilitate economic activity, and involve citizens in their college and government.

St. Petersburg College offers food pantries at several of its Pinellas County locations to meet the needs of students struggling to afford food. Food insecurity is an issue faced by millions of college students nationwide. The College's Food Pantry Program aims to remove barriers outside the classroom that can prevent students from achieving academic success. Laptop lending and free bus passes are other ways we aim to help students with additional costs that cause barriers to getting to school and completing their work.

Strengthening our Community Highlights:

- SPC President Dr. Tonjua Williams launched her "Standing in Gap" podcast in 2024. The podcast brings together thought leaders from diverse backgrounds, such as corporate executives, generous donors, impassioned students, dedicated faculty, and community leaders, to explore the profound impact of standing in the gap for others.

- This year, SPC reintroduced its Leadership SPC program, designed to foster internal talent and provide unforgettable professional development opportunities to selected participants after a yearslong hiatus. Leadership SPC 2024 offered its 20 participants a variety of professional development activities, including presentations from SPC senior leadership, networking and relationship building with colleagues throughout the college, training on industry best practices and college operations, campus tours, a two-day trip to Tallahassee focused on community college advocacy, and a curriculum on Community College Leadership from the National Association of Community Colleges.
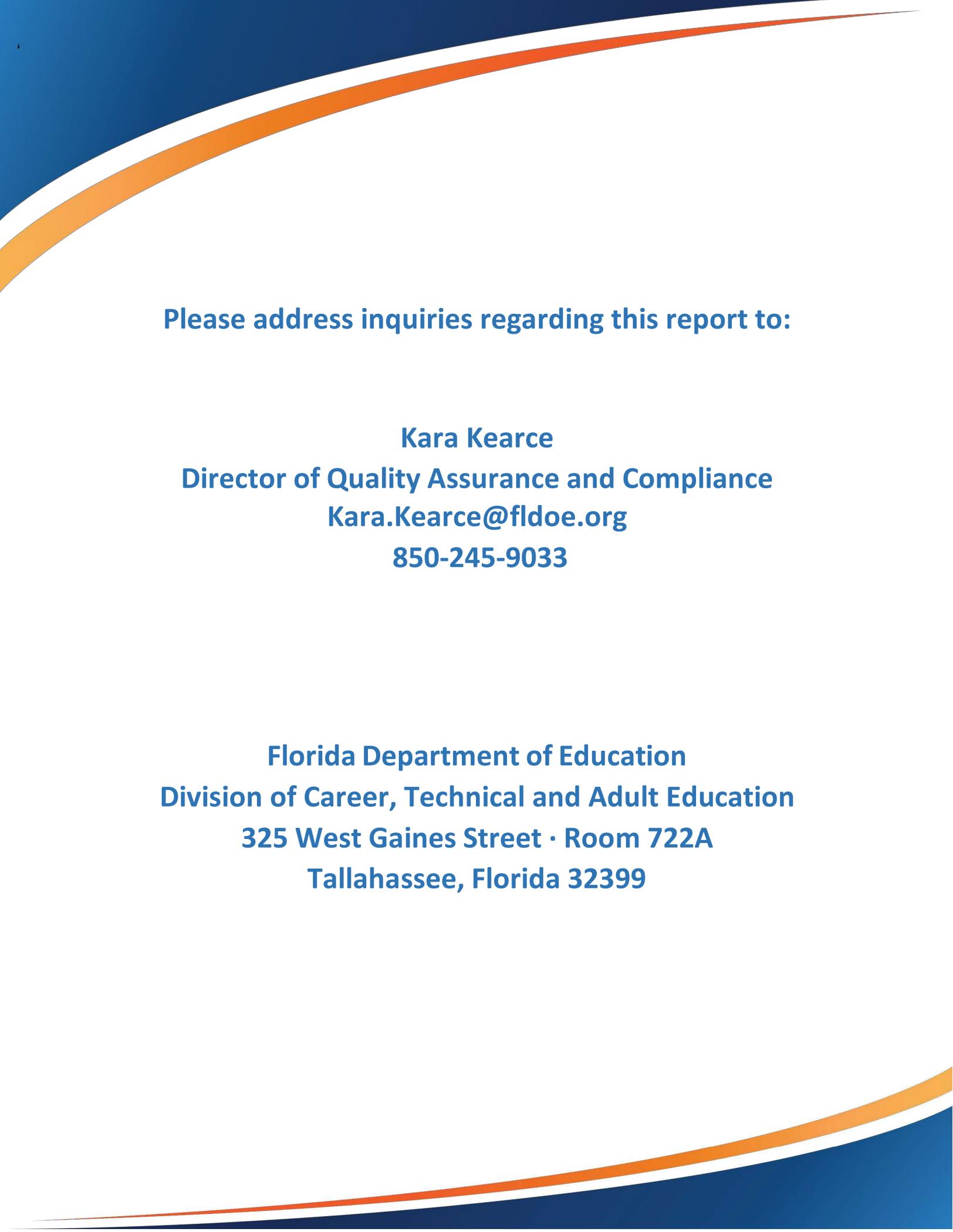
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