

**The Florida College System Council of Presidents
State Board of Education Meeting, March 30, 2022
Submitted by Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti, President, Polk State College and
Chair, Florida College System Council of Presidents**

Budget conference concluded on Monday, March 14, 2022, marking the end of Legislative Session. The conference report shows an overall increase of **\$172.6 million** or 12.7% for the Florida College System over the current year operating budget. As you are aware, the Florida College System Council of Presidents (COP) advocated for three legislative priorities in support of Governor's goal of Florida becoming number 1 in workforce development by 2030:

1. STRENGTHEN the **Florida College System Program Fund**, \$60 million
2. RENEW the **Florida College System Infrastructure**, \$39.8 million (deferred maintenance)
3. REINVEST in **FCS Performance Funding**, \$25 million investment in performance funding for the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund and Workforce Fund, and \$14 million for industry certification incentives.

All three goals, upon the conclusion of session, have been accomplished and surpassed. The following are highlights from the budget:

1. **Program funds** show an increase of \$103.2 million (almost 8%)
2. **Florida College System Infrastructure**: Deferred Building Maintenance Program funds for colleges at \$400 million
FCS Performance Funding Student Success Incentive Fund increased to \$30 million (\$20 million for 2+2 and \$10 million for workforce); \$14 million for industry certification incentives.

Selected additional appropriations included in the budget are:

- New Nursing Education funds of \$59 million
 - Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) in the amount of \$40 million
 - Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) in the amount of \$19 million
- Postsecondary Academic Library Network, \$14.4 million.

The Council remains focused on four initiatives in critical areas that will continue to impact our System, and in turn, our State:

1. The expansion of health science programs, specifically nursing.
2. Results of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA) study regarding health care.
3. The continued discussion regarding a funding formula.
4. The expansion and development of new and relevant workforce programs to Accelerate Florida.

The Council of Presidents continues to advance the development of a strategic plan titled “Accelerate Florida”. Accelerate Florida is comprised of one goal - *to ensure more than half a million students complete academic and workforce programs by 2025*. We are committed to accelerating academic and workforce pathways toward a brighter and more vibrant economy for our students and our sunshine State. As we advance workforce programs such as nursing, allied health programs, cybersecurity, and more, Accelerate Florida will move the System in the direction of increased student enrollment, retention, and completion.

Accelerate Florida is directly aligned with the GetThere Campaign led by Senior Chancellor Mack and will serve as a platform for future legislative requests. The Council of Presidents is committed to advancing the GetThere Campaign and the career pathways provided by the 28 colleges comprising the Florida College System. The goal is to position these programs as an exciting, affordable, and faster alternative to the traditional university pathway. We are also committed to providing the additional skills and knowledge needed to allow Floridians to re-enter the workforce with the in-demand skill sets essential for their region.

The Council of Presidents is grateful to Governor DeSantis for his support of the Florida College System, specifically as the colleges excel in ensuring the colleges are the best in the nation in workforce education by 2030. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund awards to FCS colleges for workforce training initiatives are creating jobs and skilled workers in a variety of industries, combatting local industry needs.