

Comments on behalf of the FCS Council of Presidents:

The last time my colleague President Falconetti addressed you in the beginning of session, we were cautiously optimistic and humbled to ask you to support our request to the legislature to conserve the Florida College System budget, invest in our college's infrastructure, and maintain funding for the Florida Academic Library Network.

You are likely aware, but I am pleased to share that with the strong support of leadership at DOE, including the Commissioner and this Board, the legislature increased program funding to the system by over 50 million dollars, invested in infrastructure projects at many colleges, and funded the Florida Academic Library Network. We want to thank you for providing a strong voice in support of the Florida College System and our 2021 legislative priorities.

These funding decisions have come at a critical time, when we can intentionally and strategically use these dollars for current and future students, so that each of our unique institutions continues to be nimble and meet the needs of our communities and employers. Your strong support has been invaluable throughout this past year as our boards of trustees made the decisions necessary for teaching and learning to continue uninterrupted across our System. We are proud of them and our teams, we're excited about the future and we cannot thank you enough on behalf of our students.