



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM MONTH

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is comprised of 28 public state colleges and community colleges and joins a month-long national celebration of innovation, achievements, and successes in community colleges; and

WHEREAS, Florida College System institutions provide access to high-quality, affordable academic and career educational programs that maximize student success across the entire state, foster innovation, and develop a globally competitive workforce, while responding nimbly to state and community needs; and

WHEREAS, Florida is ranked the #1 public higher education system in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report* for the sixth consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, *U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges* recognized five Florida College System institutions in the top 100 in four separate categories: Best Regional College, South; Best Online Bachelor's Programs; Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans; and Least Debt Regional College, South; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has committed over \$5 billion to workforce education initiatives since 2019, including programs to expand training options at Florida College System institutions in healthcare, transportation, technology, construction, manufacturing, education, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has announced \$59 million for new programs in nursing and health education to increase the capacity of Florida College System institutions to produce nurses and other critical healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, in 2021-2022, Florida College System institutions enrolled nearly 640,000 students, including 63,000 active-duty service members, veterans, and reservists, and spouses and dependents, and Florida College System students earned more than 135,000 degrees, certificates, and industry certifications; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is the state's workforce talent pipeline, and plays a vital role in making Florida #1 in workforce education by 2030, and since 2019, nearly 210,000 rapid credentials have been awarded to Florida College System students; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of the 2020-21 Florida College System graduates who earned workforce credentials are employed or continuing their education in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida College System baccalaureate degree graduates earn an average of nearly \$65,000 a year in the year following graduation and Associate in Science graduates earn an average of over \$56,000 in their first year after graduation; and

WHEREAS, in 2021-22, 62 percent of Associate in Arts completers transferred into upper division programs through Florida's renown 2+2 system, with 45 percent in state universities and 17 percent in Florida College System workforce baccalaureate programs; and

WHEREAS, more than 76,000 secondary students completed college courses through dual enrollment in the Florida College System in 2021-2022, with a 93 percent course passage rate, saving Florida families approximately \$58 million in tuition and fees in one year; and

WHEREAS, one Florida College System institution has either won the prestigious \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence or has been recognized as finalist or a finalist with distinction every year since the contest's inception in 2011, and in 2023 a Florida College System institution is again named a finalist for the Prize.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby extend greeting and best wishes to all observing April 2023 as *Florida College System Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-three.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written over a horizontal line.

Governor