

The District Board of Trustees of Valencia Community College
Briefing Paper
December 17, 2014

Poinciana Campus Property Donation
Land Acquisition/Donation Contract Update

Parties: The District Board of Trustees of Valencia Community College, Florida and Osceola County, Florida

Background: Valencia College published a Request for Proposals to locate and secure suitable real property for a future Poinciana Campus, to be conveyed at no cost as a gift to the College, or conveyed to the College at a steeply discounted price. Two entities submitted proposals: AV Homes, Inc. and Osceola County. AV Homes proposed four potential sites and Osceola County proposed one site, for a total of five potential sites for consideration.

At its regular meeting in July, 2014, the District Board of Trustees authorized the College to enter into a contract with Osceola County for the gift conveyance of the property located at Pleasant Hill Rd. and Reaves Rd., with further authorize the College, if the transaction with Osceola County cannot be completed to the satisfaction of the College, to then enter into a contract with the owner of the second shortlisted site, AV Homes, for the conveyance of the property located at Cypress Pkwy. & Laurel Ave.

Property: Osceola County will agree to donate to Valencia College a parcel of 18.93 acres located at and contiguous to Pleasant Hill Rd. and Reaves Rd. (the "Property") for the purpose of developing and operating the College's Poinciana Campus. This parcel is part of a larger 373.9 acre parcel owned by the County planned as the "College Station" project.

Key Deal

Points:

- ▶ The Property will be conveyed via donation by the County in fee simple to the College, pad ready for development, with all necessary site work and utility infrastructure completed and in place.
- ▶ The Property will be conveyed by the County to the College with all necessary land use and zoning entitlements applicable to the Property in place to authorize the College to develop and use the Property for purposes related to, consistent with, and in support of its mission.
- ▶ The deed for the Property will contain a restrictive covenant which will run with the land, requiring the Property be used or held for educational purposes. It is also contemplated that the parties will agree on reasonable use restrictions for the larger College Station project to prevent disruption of Valencia's campus.
- ▶ Osceola County and Valencia College will enter into a Post-Closing and Cooperation Agreement to address development matters such as Property roadway entry/exit points, turn lanes, Valencia's ability to tie into the master drainage system for the larger College Station project, and similar longer term development related matters.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES/OUTCOMES 2012-2014

	LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME
2012 SESSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building 4, Osceola Campus: Request \$4.1 million as the final PECO allocation to complete the newest building being constructed on the Osceola Campus.2. Budget: Support the Governor's recommended budget, which provided for no reduction in state funding for the Florida College System.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Valencia received an appropriation of \$4,191,590 to complete the project. In addition, the College received an additional \$1,807,926 for general renovations and remodeling.The \$70 billion dollar budget included a 2.8 percent increase for the Florida College System over the previous year's budget. Valencia received an increase of 13.9%, with about half of the increase comprised of non-recurring funds.

VALENCIA COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES/OUTCOMES
2012-2015

	LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME
<p>2013 SESSION</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developmental Studies/Prep: Monitor proposed legislation, conforming and implementing bills, and appropriations proviso. 2. Dual Enrollment: Request \$62 million from state lottery funds to the Florida College System to be distributed to the 28 colleges on the basis of previous year Dual Enrollment tuition and fees waived. 3. Cost, Price, Capacity Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the Florida College System's Florida First in Education Proposal. - Secure more operational funding to add to instructional capacity and quality. - Avoid/minimize budget cuts. - Secure more funding/options for Valencia's capital needs (Transform and P3). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SB 1720 conformed all references in state law to "college preparatory" to "developmental education." Definitions are provided, provides for student counseling notifications of developmental education options, changes with respect to the College Placement Test, and establishes additional college reporting requirements 2. SB 1514 mandated that school districts pay the standard tuition (not fees) to colleges for students attending dual enrollment classes on a college campus. Other reimbursement rates are established depending on employing institution of faculty and location of instruction. 3. Funding for the Florida College System and the Florida College System Program Fund (FCSPF) was increased slightly for 2013-14 from the 2012-13 level. Valencia has previous nonrecurring funds restored to recurring status, and receives a small net decrease in state funds compared to the prior year.

VALENCIA COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES/OUTCOMES
2012-2015

	LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME
<p>2014 SESSION</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dual Enrollment: Fund Dual Enrollment as a “scholarship program.” 2. Florida College System Budget Request: Support use of “Florida First Plan” and funding of \$150 million for system. 3. Poinciana Campus: Request funding for purchase of property, master site planning, and first phase construction of a 60,000 square foot building with related parking. 4. Veterans/ Undocumented Student Fee Exemption/Fee Waivers: Support legislation that would provide authority to establish fee waivers or fee exemptions for out of state fees that might otherwise be applicable to veterans of the armed forces of the United States and to certain undocumented students who meet specified criteria. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dual enrollment received no significant legislative treatment during the 2014 Session, save for minor clarifications of last year’s legislation and a requirement that colleges establish collegiate high schools in their respective districts. 2. Valencia received a net increase of 1.4% in Florida College System Program Fund funding. 3. Valencia received an appropriation of \$1 million for the Poinciana Campus. 4. Bills passed to provide authority for colleges to waive out of state fees for honorably discharged veterans who physically resides in Florida while enrolled in a postsecondary institution, and for students (including undocumented students) who meet specified criteria.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: 2015

THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

DECEMBER, 2014

Funding

▶ Funding Challenges

- ▶ Valencia, arguably the highest performing college in the system and possibly the country, was recognized by the Aspen Institute as the best community college in the nation in 2011 – the result of high graduation and transfer rates, and the salaries that our students earn upon entering the workforce. Not only does Valencia provide students with a high-quality education, it is also the most efficient college in the state system.
- ▶ During the past six years, Valencia's enrollment increased by more than 30 percent, but state funding to the college has been cut by more than 30 percent. Demand, however, is not abating. While other state colleges are currently experiencing flat or declining enrollment, Valencia's student enrollment is up this year over 2 percent.
- ▶ Despite its long record of success, Valencia receives significantly less funding per full-time student than the 27 other colleges in the system. This inequity in funding has persisted for more than a decade without resolution. This year, state funding will provide only 35 percent of Valencia's total operating budget – a situation that makes Valencia more dependent on tuition than any of the other Florida colleges.
- ▶ Because much of the college's budget comes from tuition, it is becoming increasingly difficult to operate without raising tuition. Despite the college's many money-saving measures – including \$2 million in energy savings since 2011, and cuts in the number of adjunct instructors and part-time staffers, as well as deep cuts in travel and supply costs – the college's operating expenses

(property and casualty insurance, health insurance, FRS contribution) continue to rise.

- At Valencia, we are committed to keeping tuition low for students. During the recession, Valencia shouldered repeated budget cuts – but the college’s leadership and board of trustees kept student tuition and fees flat.
- We understand that college must remain affordable. That’s why Valencia refuses to charge students many of the fees that our peer institutions tack on, such as parking fees, student ID fees, and access fees. And we are slashing the costs of textbooks through several initiatives.
- Unfortunately, the state’s formula for funding allocation does not reward - in fact, it punishes - colleges that strive to keep tuition as low as possible. This year, after three straight years of zero tuition increases, the college initiated a small tuition increase – which was imperative because the college received an increase in state funding of only \$700,000 (on a total budget of \$150 million). That state allocation did not cover many urgently needed expenditures, such as critical faculty hires, health insurance increases, and small COL raises, which were provided last year to employees for the first time in over four years.
- Even with this year’s small tuition increase, Valencia is still the least expensive of all state colleges and universities in Central Florida.
- For more than 20 years, Valencia has been at or near the bottom in allocation of funding for the state colleges. This situation has persisted for a variety of reasons, including political imbalances in the state, funding formula quirks, and distinctive small college funding issues. Moreover, in the days when Valencia and other colleges like it (Seminole State) were growing rapidly and other schools were either not growing or growing at a slower rate – our growth was not funded. In fact, if you classify the colleges in categories of rural-small, small, medium, and large – four of the Central Florida regions’ six colleges (Valencia, Seminole State, Lake-Sumter and Polk State colleges) are at, or near the bottom, in funding.
 - ❖ **Legislative Priority:** Valencia College affirms its commitment to providing our community with access to a productive, yet affordable, higher educational experience, and respectfully requests an equitable increase in recurring state funding in an amount commensurate with Valencia’s exemplary performance and its historical funding position within the Florida College System.

▶ **Poinciana Campus**

- ▶ Valencia College received approval from the State Board of Education to establish a Poinciana Campus to better serve the southern area of its two-county service district, especially in and around the growing community of Poinciana and the South Lake Toho area. Last session, the Florida legislature appropriated \$1 million dollars toward the acquisition and planning of the first phase of the Poinciana Campus, a \$22 million project which is being developed in cooperation with the Osceola County School District, the University of Central Florida, and the Florida College System institution to the south, Polk State College. To accelerate development of this important new campus, Valencia's District Board of Trustees has advanced \$2 million of internal College funds, in anticipation of legislative funding.
- ❖ **Legislative Priority:** Valencia College requests that the remainder of the funding for the purchase of property, master site planning, and first phase construction of a 60,000 square foot building with related parking be completed within the next 2 years.

Additional Key Legislative Issues

▶ **Dual Enrollment**

- ▶ The original Dual Enrollment program was created by the Florida legislature to encourage the enrollment of high school students in college courses to accelerate their completion of college credits and to broaden their curricular options. The Dual Enrollment program is highly beneficial for students and for the State of Florida. Students can get a head start on their college careers, while significantly decreasing the cost of their college education. In some cases, students can complete their first two years of college and earn their associate in arts degrees during high school – which can save their families more than \$6,000. For the state, savings comes from students moving through degree programs more rapidly and in reduced class sizes in high schools. From its inception, the Dual Enrollment program has been “free” to students and their parents (no tuition, registration or lab fees are charged to or paid by students and books are provided by the high schools). Until last year, the colleges generally have absorbed the direct costs of instruction.
- ▶ Starting last year, in order to provide funding to colleges to offset these previously unfunded instructional expenses, the legislature mandated that school districts (and their charter schools) must reimburse colleges for the cost of the standard tuition rate per credit hour from funds provided in the Florida Education Finance Program when dual enrollment course instruction takes place on the postsecondary institution's campus and the course is taken during the fall or

spring term. Florida law further provides that when dual enrollment is provided on the high school site by postsecondary institution faculty, the school district shall reimburse the costs associated with the postsecondary institution's proportion of salary and benefits to provide the instruction. Finally, the law provides that when dual enrollment course instruction is provided on the high school site by school district faculty, the school district is not responsible for payment to the postsecondary institution. Interestingly, the law does not mandate this reimbursement to colleges from school districts for dual enrollment courses taken by students during the summer terms, or for home schooled students. Some colleges charge private high schools these amounts for dual enrollment courses taken by their respective students.

- **Issue:** The legislature mandated reimbursement of standard tuition fees by the school districts to the colleges because this unfunded approach was becoming unsustainable, jeopardizing the future viability of the program. Despite this, some school districts lobbied to repeal the mandated reimbursement, and the new law created hostile negotiating environments and hindered college-school district partnerships throughout the state. Rather than simply returning the dual enrollment program to its previous unfunded status, we propose a new approach to dual enrollment program funding.

- ❖ **Proposed Concept:** Valencia College respectfully proposes a solution that the Florida College System Council of Presidents approved last year: the legislature address Florida College System capacity and funding issues by treating dual enrollment as a “scholarship program.” Accordingly, we ask the legislature to consider funding dual enrollment scholarships from dedicated state lottery dollars (and not from college or school district funds), as is the case for the Bright Futures scholarship program.

This seems a timely and appropriate funding source, given the growing success of the Florida Lottery – and the fact that tighter restrictions on Bright Futures scholarships has reduced the number of scholarships being granted and the amount drawn out of lottery dollars. Based on current Florida College System dual enrollments, funding this scholarship program would cost approximately \$48 million. (Spending on Bright Futures has dropped from \$429 million in 2008-09 to \$266 million this year.) Note that this proposal does not seek state funding for the FTEs generated in dual enrollment, but only for the tuition and fees portion, consistent with the model of a scholarship program.

▶ **Florida College System Baccalaureate Degrees**

- During the 2014 Legislative Session – a key member of the Florida Senate called for a moratorium on the offering of baccalaureate degrees by Florida College System (FCS) institutions through April, 2015. This was meant to produce a thoughtful review of the FCS baccalaureate degree program approval process, to ensure that the Colleges are responding appropriately to state workforce needs, and to assess the possibility of any unproductive duplication between the Florida College System and the State University System.
- The Florida Council of Presidents established a committee to review this issue. The Committee was led by Dr. Shugart, President of Valencia College. The following legislative recommendations have been put forth:
 - Eliminate the statutory exception for baccalaureate program approval currently provided to St. Petersburg College. (St. Petersburg College has voluntarily complied with the standard baccalaureate program approval process since 2010 and has agreed to the elimination of the statutory exception).
 - Reinforce the workforce orientation of the baccalaureate degrees within the Florida College System by explicitly eliminating any possibility of approval for Bachelor of Arts programs.
- Given these recommendations and the belief in the consistency that exists between actual FCS baccalaureate degree programs and the legislation that allowed for their existence, the Council of Presidents for the Florida College System anticipates the expiration of the current moratorium on pending and future baccalaureate programs. The Presidents will rely on guidance from the State Board of Education, and the Division of Florida Colleges, to ensure a timely and meaningful resumption of the baccalaureate degree program review and approval process.

▶ **Creative Village – Downtown Orlando**

- ❖ **Legislative Priority:** Valencia College supports UCF's request for \$57 million to fund a 165,000 square foot UCF-Valencia College Joint Use Facility in Downtown Orlando as part of the new Creative Village project. This will serve as the anchor building for the UCF Downtown Campus, providing classroom space for Valencia College and UCF, as well as for common areas and joint student support services.



Valencia College Legislative Delegation



*Please extend thanks to all of the members of Valencia's local legislative delegation
Their names and contact information are listed below.*

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• Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (Alternating Chair)
- Joint Legislative Budget Commission
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
- Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities (Chair)
- Health Policy
- Transportation



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• Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining (Alternating Chair)
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government (Chair)
- Environmental Preservation and Conservation
- Ethics and Elections
- Fiscal Policy
- Governmental Oversight and Accountability (Vice Chair)

Valencia College Legislative Delegation: Florida Senate (continued)



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Committee Assignments

- Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
- Environmental Preservation and Conservation
- Finance and Tax
- Judiciary
- Rules (Vice Chair)



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- Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
- Fiscal Policy
- Higher Education (Chair)
- Judiciary
- Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
- Regulated Industries



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- Joint Administrative Procedures Committee
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- Commerce and Tourism (Vice Chair)
- Community Affairs
- Ethics and Elections
- Transportation

Valencia College Legislative Delegation: Florida House of Representatives



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Valencia College Legislative Delegation: Florida House of Representatives (continued)



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Valencia College Legislative Delegation: Florida House of Representatives (continued)



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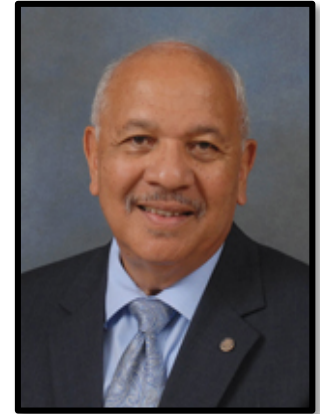
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