

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

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## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: 2014

THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

### Funding and Facilities Issues

#### ► Dual Enrollment

The 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. From the beginning, the Dual Enrollment program has been “free” to students (no tuition, registration or lab fees are paid and books are provided by the high schools) and up until this past year, the colleges generally have absorbed the direct costs of instruction.

For the state, savings come from students moving through degree programs more rapidly and in reduced class sizes in high schools. This past Session, in order to provide funding to colleges to offset previously unfunded expenses, the legislature mandated that school districts are required to reimburse colleges for the cost of tuition at the standard rate approved in the annual appropriations bill. This approach has created challenges for school districts and colleges around the state, and some adjustment may be found to be appropriate.

**Legislative Priority:** Valencia College respectfully proposes a new approach to Dual Enrollment funding, promoted last year by the Florida College System Council of Presidents, that will address the capacity and funding issues and reduce the cost to the state. As a “scholarship program,” it would be logical to fund the Dual Enrollment program from lottery dollars, 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. Note that this proposal does not seek the funding of the FTEs generated in Dual Enrollment, but the tuition and fees, only, consistent with the model of a scholarship program.

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### ► Florida College System Budget Request

Last year, the Florida College System Council of Presidents advocated for a three-year funding plan entitled Florida First in Education, aimed at making Florida First in Preparation for Careers, First in Success and Completion, First in Access and Affordability, and First in Accountability. The Governor and the Legislature address parts of the Plan in their policy and budget bills passed in the 2013 Session.

**Legislative Priority:** Valencia College fully supports the continued use of the Florida First Plan as its top priority for the 2014 Legislative Session. The Florida First Plan (Year Two) requested amount for the system is \$150 million, apportioned as follows:

Student Achievement and Success .....	\$40 million
Performance Capacity/Compression .....	\$20 million
Performance Capacity/Funding Model .....	\$43 million
Performance Outcomes .....	\$20 million
Workforce Grants .....	\$25 million
Operating Costs of New Facilities .....	\$ 2 million

### ► Poinciana Campus

Valencia College has requested approval from the State Board of Education to establish a Poinciana Campus in order 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. This proposed Poinciana Campus is part of and consistent with Valencia's 2001 Long Range District Facilities Plan, supported by the 2011 Update to the initial Plan. Also, the proposal for the Poinciana Campus was made 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.

**Legislative Priority:** Valencia College requires funding for the purchase of property, master site planning, and first phase construction of a 60,000 square foot building with related parking. Valencia respectfully requests \$22 million for this purpose.

### ► Veterans Fee Exemption/Fee Waivers

**Legislative Priority:** In order to make college more affordable and accessible to veterans of the armed forces of the United States (including reserve components thereof) who were honorably discharged and physically reside in Florida while enrolled in classes, Valencia supports legislation that would provide authority to establish fee waivers or fee exemptions for out of state fees that might otherwise be applicable to these individuals.