



December 17, 2014

**TO:** THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of Valencia College

**FROM:** SANFORD C. SHUGART  
President

**RE:** EAST CAMPUS OAK TREE DEDICATION RESOLUTION

The large sand live oak tree located at the north entrance of Building 8 of the East Campus of Valencia College is a distinctive feature of the landscape of the East Campus and members of faculty, staff, and students have expressed an interest in preserving the tree for as long as possible, having used the oak tree on numerous occasions as a place of refuge and respite for replenishing their spirits. The oak tree is a part of the campus “Classroom as Living Laboratory,” which utilizes outdoor spaces and vegetation for access and learning opportunities.

The College would like to continue to promote the preservation of the oak tree, and to dedicate the tree to the faculty, staff, and students of Valencia College, in commemoration the upcoming 50th anniversary of the founding of Valencia.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College approve the East Campus Oak Tree Dedication Resolution as presented.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sanford C. Shugart".

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President



## **The District Board of Trustees of Valencia College East Campus Oak Tree Dedication RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the large broad leaf evergreen oak tree (the Oak Tree) located at the north entrance of Building 8 of the East Campus of Valencia College is a distinctive feature of the landscape of the East Campus and members of faculty, staff, and students have expressed an interest in preserving the tree for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Tree is a significant specimen of a Sand Live Oak, Genus – *Quercus*, Species - *geminata*, from the Fagaceae (beech/oak) Family, and noted for hurricane wind resistance and interesting foliage, as documented by the University of South Florida Herbarium; and

WHEREAS, students, faculty and staff have used the Oak Tree on numerous occasions as a place of refuge and respite for replenishing their spirits, and the tree is a part of the campus "Classroom as Living Laboratory," which utilizes outdoor spaces and vegetation for access and learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Valencia College has been designated as a "Tree Campus USA", receiving certification from the Arbor Day Foundation for 2012 and 2013, and is applying for certification as a "Tree Campus USA" again for 2014 and will apply again for 2015; and

WHEREAS, Valencia College has demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability in myriad ways;

NOW THEREFORE, the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College certifies and acknowledges that in full regular session, it did unanimously approve and resolve that effective December 17, 2014 and henceforth, Valencia College will continue to promote the preservation of the Oak Tree, and directs that a plaque be placed at the Oak Tree to dedicate the tree to the faculty, staff, and students of Valencia College, in commemoration the upcoming 50th anniversary of the founding of Valencia.

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Maria Grulich  
Chairman, District Board of Trustees

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Sanford C. Shugart  
President, Valencia College

December 17, 2014

# East Campus Oak Tree Resolution

# Purpose of the Resolution

- The faculty, staff and students of East Campus have expressed great interest in the preservation of an approximate 100-year-old+, sand live oak tree, which is designated as a “significant specimen” by the University of South Florida Herbarium. The tree is located on East Campus at the north entrance of Building 8.
- A Task Team, led by Patricia Smith, Biology Professor and Michelle Foster, Dean of Academic Affairs, is working with facilities staff, students and faculty on projects to name, celebrate and preserve the tree for the future.
- This tree is used by faculty and staff as a place of refuge and as a classroom , providing a living laboratory for study by science students.
- East Campus has been designated as a “Tree Campus USA” receiving certification from the Arbor Day Foundation since 2012 and is applying for continuing designation in 2015.
- The Task Team, working with student groups VESA (Valencia Earth Studies Association), Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government and Valencia College Student Development, plans to do a campus-wide naming event in February 2015, naming the tree and then designating its special status in ceremonies commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Valencia.
- We ask the Board of Trustees to approve the resolution which supports preserving the sand live oak tree, providing a plaque and designating the special status of the tree.







