

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM PROGRAM FUND REQUEST: \$222.2 MILLION

The Florida College System remains the point of access for Floridians to pursue a high-quality affordable education. The FCS institutions' budget consists of approximately 50% state appropriated funding and the other half student tuition and fees. Last year, the Legislature provided \$1.2B in funding to the 28 Colleges. Collectively, we have not increased tuition in the past 5 years in order to keep colleges affordable and accessible for all demographics across the state. Therefore, we have established a few additional priorities in order to meet the workforce demands of industry for our state as well as maintain Florida's ranking of #1 in Higher Education according to US News & World Report.

Operational Support

\$212 million

Quality Faculty recruitment/retention Workforce Program Expansion and Development

- Operational costs for workforce (High Skill High Wage)
- Target to achieve the Florida Chamber 2030 Plan, which identifies future job needs
- Five priority areas that have been identified include Aerospace & Aviation, Finance & Professional Services, Health Care & Life Sciences, Logistics & Distribution, and Manufacturing

Student Success Initiatives

- Increase advisors to achieve a ratio of 450 students to 1 advisor over 3 years
- Purchase advising technologies
- Implement STEM and Gateway Initiatives for Student Pathways (i.e. Emerging Technologies and Student Support Services: AI, cybersecurity, simulation, etc.)
- Increase retention (short term) and completion (long term) while shortening time to degree

Industry Certifications

\$10.2 million

- Increase of \$10.2 million fully funds \$1,000 per certification program (which are currently being prorated) and increases the total number of certificates awarded
- Currently at 14,000 industry certifications. Increased funding would allow for approximately 19,000 industry certifications (per DOE projections)

