

**State Board of Education Meeting  
Florida College System Council of Presidents**

- As newly elected Vice Chair of the Florida College System's Council of Presidents (COP) and Chair of Policy and Advocacy, I express gratitude on behalf of COP for your support during the 2021 Legislative Session.
- The gavel was passed to Dr. Angela Garcia Falconetti, President, Polk State College, on June 17, 2021, to serve as Chair of COP for 2021-2022.
- COP created a new leadership position this year – a Vice-Chair elect – who is Dr. Tim Beard, President, Pasco-Hernando State College.
- COP's Parliamentarian is Dr. Larry Barrett, President, Florida Gateway College.

**2021 Legislative Priorities**

- During the 2021 legislative session, COP maintained three goals that were successfully accomplished.
  1. **Conserve** the Florida College System's budget.  
*Outcome: Florida's colleges serve as the primary source of workforce education in every county throughout our state and this year we were pleased that the state increased the program budget by 5.19% or \$64 million.*
  2. **Invest** in our colleges' infrastructure. Despite more classes being online due to the pandemic, our colleges still need safe and well-maintained classrooms and lab spaces for many programs including law enforcement and health sciences.  
*Outcome: The state allocated \$123 million for Capital Improvement Projects.*
  3. **Maintain** funding for library, distance learning, and student services. This supports vital services including:
    - a. The online catalog of distance learning programs
    - b. Statewide advising
    - c. The Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative*Outcome: The Legislature created the Postsecondary Academic Library Network, allocating \$9 million to the Florida colleges and \$11 million to the universities to maintain this critical academic service.*

**Bills**

- The Council of Presidents, pending approval by the Governor, will coordinate with the Department of Education and the Division of Florida Colleges to ensure the effective implementation of the 10 bills passed during the legislative session.
- President Ken Atwater and the District Board of Trustees of Hillsborough Community College hosted a bill signing to further support the Governor on June 24, 2021, during

which the Governor, legislative, and college leaders celebrated the signing of three bills, one of which was HB 1507: Workforce Related Programs and Services.

**2022 Legislative Session**

- Planning is underway for the development of COP's 2022 legislative priorities to present to you in during the August 18, 2021, SBE meeting in Miami.