

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE DISTRICT
BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF
BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
LAKE-SUMTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
SEMINOLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
AND VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

INDICATING THEIR COMMITMENT TO A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DESIGNED TO EXPAND ACCESS, MEET THE EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS FOR GROWTH, AND PROVIDE FOR A COMPETITIVE, SKILLED WORKFORCE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the demand for higher education in central Florida is growing exponentially through the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, the availability of highly skilled technicians, scientists, professionals, and managers may be the single most critical factor in the economic growth of every region in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, the region of central Florida is host to a large, motivated, but under-educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, this region boasts the basic infrastructure of the most effective two plus two system of higher education in the nation; and

WHEREAS, this regional infrastructure could be employed to create a deep pool of highly skilled and educated technicians, scientists, professionals, and managers creating a competitive advantage for the region in economic development and diversification; and

WHEREAS, the partners believe the region's two plus two system – already among the most effective in the nation – can be further expanded to meet the demands described above;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LAKE-SUMTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SEMINOLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Section 1. Consortium partners commit to a proactive strategy of cooperation to produce substantial, measurable increases in access to public higher education and degree production at the associate's, bachelor's, and graduate degree levels; better preparation of students at every level for further study; increased transfers from consortium community colleges to the University of Central Florida; reduced time to degree for both associate's and bachelor's degree students; and other measures of strategic importance to the region's educational and economic progress.

Section 2. Consortium partners are committed to planning, developing, and aligning instructional programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels to create a deep, flexible, highly skilled workforce in response to and in anticipation of the region's economic growth opportunities.

Section 3. Consortium partners will collaborate in innovative ways to promote expanded access for Florida students, including guaranteed admission to the university for Consortium Associate of Arts (AA) graduates and selected Associate of Science (AS) graduates consistent with university policy; concurrent enrollment status for selected community college students with university advisors assigned to these students; expanded access for AS graduates through articulated AS to BS degrees; preferential admission to selective baccalaureate upper division programs at the University of Central Florida for graduates of consortium community colleges; development and expansion of joint-use facilities providing access to dozens of baccalaureate and graduate degrees on community college campuses; and expansion of financial aid resources to support two plus two students.

Section 4. Consortium partners will collaborate on joint staffing opportunities for faculty, student services, and other key personnel areas.

Section 5. Consortium colleges pledge to expand the two plus two model as both the most effective and efficient system for producing quality graduates at all levels. Partner community colleges will not seek authority to offer bachelor's degrees, nor invite any other baccalaureate provider to its campuses, unless the University of Central Florida declines to deliver a program, at times and in a manner that is responsive to student needs, which is identified as needed by the residents within the service area of each community college. Similarly, the University of Central Florida will not develop general purpose, stand-alone branch campuses in counties served by consortium community colleges.

Section 6. Each partner will create a specific operating plan to guide the local strategy within the framework of this resolution. Day-to-day collaboration among partner institutions will provide a climate for planning, trust, and innovation, capturing best practices and the most creative thinking from each partner. The interdependent nature of the consortium will enable deeper alignment of systems, policies, and procedures, ensuring seamless (and concurrent) transition for students. Immediate data sharing will enable the consortium to improve the quality of processes and student learning in a systematic manner and advance public accountability for the results to which we are pledged.

Section 7. While this resolution is not a legally binding contract, it is a pledge to stewardship, not only of the public resources entrusted to each institution, but of our mission to this regional community and the students to whom we are enjoined to extend the very best in educational opportunity.

