

# **State Colleges in Florida**

**A Pilot Project Created by the 2008 Florida Legislature**

**November 5, 2008**

## Summary of Recommendations

### Definition and Characteristics of a State College in Florida (page 7)

*Recommendation:* Amend current law to reflect that the baccalaureate degree is part of the primary role for state colleges and require as the primary defining characteristic that state colleges must receive Level II accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and be approved to offer baccalaureate degrees in Florida by the State Board of Education.

*Recommendation:* Amend current law to specify that the upper division mission of a state college is to serve local, regional, and statewide educational and employment needs.

### Baccalaureate Program Selection and Approval for State Colleges (page 8)

*Recommendation:* Maintain the current approval process by the State Board of Education for institutions who are applying to offer the initial baccalaureate degree. After initial approval by the State Board of Education and attainment of Level II accreditation by SACS, authorize each state college board of trustees to establish and discontinue all programs.

### Transition Criteria for Use of the Name State College (page 12)

*Recommendation:* Boards of Trustees of any of the other members of the Florida College System can use the name state college once the college has received State Board of Education approval to offer baccalaureate degrees and Level II accreditation by SACS.

### Governance and Coordination for State Colleges (page 13)

The Pilot Project group affirmed the current policy of local governance for state colleges without recommendations for change as stated in the guiding principles of this report. Statewide coordination options for consideration are presented.

### College-level communication and mathematics skills examination (CLAST) (page 14)

*Recommendation:* Return to one law governing CLAST for all colleges in the Florida College System (s. 1008.29 F.S.) for both lower-division and upper-division students.

### Funding Issue 1 – Funding Basis (page 16)

Recommendation: 85% of SUS upper division full cost of instruction

Funding Issue 2 - Enrollment Calculation (page 20)

*Recommendation:* Maintain current upper division policy of projected enrollment and revisit the enrollment issue in 5 years as programs mature.

Funding Issue 3 – Startup Funds (page 21)

*Recommendation:* Authorize state colleges to utilize options for startup funds: legislative budget requests for startup funds, and a categorical appropriation for startup grants through the SBE.

Funding Issue 4 – Student Tuition for Upper Division Courses (page 23)

*Recommendation:* State college tuition should continue to be set in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and local boards of trustees should be authorized to vary within the statutory range currently authorized for the Florida College System with the provision that it could not exceed the average university tuition.