

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Innovation and Online Committee  
January 31, 2019**

**SUBJECT:** Recognition of Exemplary Online Student

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

For information

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

To promote the impact of online education in the State University System and to recognize the accomplishments of individual online students, the Committee will recognize Mrs. Lauren Apodaca who has achieved a degree in early childhood education through the FIU Online program.

Lauren achieved a bachelor's degree from the FIU Online program despite an ongoing battle with Guillain-Barre' Syndrome, a serious and rare disorder in which the immune system attacks the nervous system and causes respiratory arrest and paralysis. Unable to participate as a residential campus student, while rehabilitating, Lauren enrolled in FIU Online and was appreciative of the steadfast accommodation, support, and encouragement provided by FIU faculty and administrators.

Lauren is currently a fifth grade teacher and attributes much of her success to the FIU Online program. She has stated: "I do not think I would be where I am now had it not been for FIU Online."

Lauren will attend today's meeting to briefly describe her extraordinary journey to complete a bachelor's degree through the FIU Online program.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** None

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Mrs. Lauren Apodaca, FIU Online