

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
January 24, 2024**

SUBJECT: AMAZON Career Choice Program: An Employer / Education Partnership

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For Information/Discussion

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amazon.com, Inc. is an American multinational technology company focusing on e-commerce, cloud computing, online advertising, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. Originally started as an online bookselling company, Amazon has morphed into an internet-based business enterprise and is now the world's largest online retailer and a prominent cloud service provider.

The Career Choice program was established by Amazon in 2012 to provide opportunities to its employees to advance their education, learn new skills, and build their careers. As a pre-paid tuition program, Amazon employees are able to earn academic degrees and certificates and receive training in high-demand occupations. In the U.S., the Career Choice program is available to more than 560,000 Amazon employees who have been employed for 90 days. Employees have access to annual funds for education as long as they remain at the company, with no limit to the number of years they can benefit.

In recent years, Amazon has partnered with hundreds of education partners across the U.S. (over 400 partners globally) to fund associate and bachelor's degrees and certificates, GED and high school completion, and ESL proficiency programs. Amazon has committed to invest \$1.2 billion in skills training programs for its employees by 2025.

Currently, in Florida, nine state universities and numerous state colleges are engaged in partnerships with the Amazon Career Choice Program.

At today's Committee meeting, the joint Amazon partnership with Florida State University, Florida A & M University, and Tallahassee Community College will be highlighted with representatives from these partner institutions in attendance.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitator/Presenters:

Cristal Cole
Colin Newman