



January 10, 2020

Honorable Marshall Criser
Chancellor, State University System of Florida
Turlington Building
325 W. Gaines Street, #1614
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chancellor Criser:

It is my understanding that the Florida Board of Governors at its January 30 meeting will consider the approval of a Ground Lease between Florida State University and a subsidiary of Zimmer Development Company for the construction of residential housing, primarily for students attending the Panama City campus of FSU (FSUPC) and Gulf Coast State College (GCSC). This transaction has been approved by the Board of Trustees of Florida State University.

I am writing to strongly support this project and urge the BOG to approve this item. A representative of GCSC sat on the selection committee and we are in constant contact with FSU regarding this project. The feasibility consultants for the project surveyed GCSC students and I can personally attest to the interest expressed by our students for this project.

The relationship between FSUPC and GCSC started many years ago when the then president of the college and other community leaders supported the development of a university campus in the area. With the closest postsecondary institutions being two hours in any direction and with a large segment of our population being place bound, having FSUPC in Bay County has made a significant difference in higher education attainment in the area.

GCSC and FSUPC work together in a number of areas. FSU Police provide security for both campuses. FSU PC students use the GCSC fitness center and testing center. FSU provides mental health counseling and other EAP services for GCSC employees. In 2018, the two campuses established the Seminole-Commodore Alliance where students from each campus can participate in student activities at both institutions. In addition, we signed a strong articulation agreement providing a direct and guaranteed pathway for GCSC students to attend FSU PC provided they meet certain requirements.



The development of residential housing on the FSU PC campus, that would also be available to GCSC students, would enhance the already strong relationship between our two institutions. Research shows that students who spend more time on campus do better in their academic classes. We see this residential housing as a student success project. In addition to enhancing the academic success of our students who live on campus, we strongly believe it will increase the number of GCSC students transferring to FSU PC.

We plan to market the program in the same manner as FSU PC. Through the use of our web site, appropriate social media, direct mailings and contact with students, we will make sure they are aware of the opportunity to live just a short walk from their classes and other student activities.

I strongly urge you to support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Holdnak". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular stamp that is partially obscured.

Dr. John Holdnak
President