



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM MONTH

WHEREAS, access to affordable, high-quality postsecondary education is vital to the quality of life of our citizens and the economy of our state; and

WHEREAS, Florida remains first in the nation for public higher education, ranked #1 by *U.S. News & World Report* for eight consecutive years and excelling as a leader in talent development because of top tier policies on student access, affordability and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, comprised of 28 state colleges, the Florida College System serves as the primary access point for Floridians to postsecondary education, enrolling nearly 680,000 students statewide, with students completing more than 135,000 degrees, certificates and industry certifications in 2023-24; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System is driving the state's workforce talent pipeline, constantly preparing students for in-demand, high-wage careers, with ninety percent of its 2022-23 workforce graduates employed or continuing their education in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida College System graduates earn competitive wages with an average annual salary one year after graduation of \$77,853 for a bachelor's degree and an average of \$72,563 for an associate in science degree in 2023-24; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has invested \$10 billion in workforce education since 2019 to create or expand high-demand programs such as aviation, artificial intelligence, welding technology, marine engineering, agribusiness and environmental science, all of which are delivered in the Florida College System; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has made strategic investments totaling \$182 million to expand nursing programs that are delivered by every Florida College System institution, resulting in a nursing program enrollment increase of 10.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, Florida remains nationally recognized in dual enrollment with 90,024 secondary students completing dual enrollment college courses at Florida College System institutions in the 2023-24 academic year, saving families nearly \$89 million in tuition and fees in one year.

WHEREAS, the Florida College System supports Florida's commitment to being the most military-friendly state in the nation, with 42,336 active-duty service members, veterans, reservists and their spouses and dependents were enrolled, and 11 colleges earning the Collegiate Purple Star Campus Designation for their outstanding support for military students and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2025 as *Florida College System Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 28th day of March, in the year two thousand twenty-five.





Governor