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1  
2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s.  
3 1000.21, F.S.; redesignating the names of certain  
4 community colleges as colleges; creating s. 1001.60, F.S.;  
5 establishing the Florida College System to be comprised of  
6 public postsecondary educational institutions meeting  
7 certain criteria; providing system purposes; providing  
8 limitations; authorizing the name change of an institution  
9 under certain conditions; providing for local boards of  
10 trustees and membership thereof; amending s. 1004.35,  
11 F.S.; conforming provisions; creating s. 1004.87, F.S.;  
12 establishing the Florida College System Task Force for the  
13 purpose of developing recommendations for the transition  
14 of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting  
15 colleges and for establishing and funding state colleges;  
16 providing for membership and appointments; providing  
17 duties of the task force; requiring reporting; providing  
18 for dissolution of the task force; creating s. 1004.875,  
19 F.S.; creating the State College Pilot Project for the  
20 purpose of developing recommendations for the transition  
21 of community colleges to state colleges and for developing  
22 a funding model for the Florida College System;  
23 designating certain institutions to participate in the  
24 pilot project; providing duties of the institutions;  
25 requiring reporting; providing an effective date.

26  
27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

28  
29 Section 1. Paragraphs (b), (e), (k), (u), and (x) of

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30 subsection (3) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, are amended  
31 to read:

32 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-  
33 20 Education Code:

34 (3) "Community college," except as otherwise specifically  
35 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch  
36 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

37 (b) Broward ~~Community~~ College.

38 (e) Daytona Beach ~~Community~~ College.

39 (k) Indian River ~~Community~~ College.

40 (u) Polk ~~Community~~ College.

41 (x) Santa Fe ~~Community~~ College.

42 Section 2. Section 1001.60, Florida Statutes, is created to  
43 read:

44 1001.60 Florida College System.--

45 (1) PURPOSES.--In order to maximize open access for  
46 students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic  
47 education and career degree education, and provide associate and  
48 baccalaureate degrees that will best meet the state's employment  
49 needs, the Legislature establishes a system of governance for the  
50 Florida College System.

51 (2) FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM.--There shall be a single  
52 Florida College System comprised of the public postsecondary  
53 educational institutions identified in s. 1000.21(3) that grant  
54 2-year and 4-year academic degrees as provided by law. An  
55 institution within the Florida College System may not offer  
56 graduate degree programs.

57 (a) The programs and services offered by institutions in  
58 the Florida College System in providing associate and

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59 baccalaureate degrees shall be delivered in a cost-effective  
60 manner that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and  
61 to the state over the cost of providing the degree at a state  
62 university.

63 (b)1. With the approval of the institution's local board of  
64 trustees, an institution in the Florida College System may change  
65 the institution's name and use the designation "college" if it  
66 has been authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees pursuant to s.  
67 1004.73 or s. 1007.33 or if it has received approval from the  
68 State Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph.

69 2. With the approval of an institution's local board of  
70 trustees, any institution in the Florida College System may  
71 request approval from the State Board of Education to change the  
72 institution's name and use the designation "college." The State  
73 Board of Education may approve the request if the institution  
74 enters into an agreement with the State Board of Education to do  
75 the following:

76 a. Maintain as the institution's primary mission  
77 responsibility for responding to community needs for  
78 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as  
79 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

80 b. Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-  
81 level degree programs and workforce education programs.

82 c. Continue to provide outreach to underserved populations.

83 d. Continue to provide remedial education.

84 e. Comply with all provisions of the statewide articulation  
85 agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public degree-granting  
86 institutions as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant  
87 to s. 1007.23.

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88        3. An institution in the Florida College System shall not  
89 use the designation "university."

90        (3) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.--Each institution within the  
91 Florida College System shall be governed by a local board of  
92 trustees as provided in s. 1001.64. The membership of each local  
93 board of trustees shall be as provided in s. 1001.61.

94        Section 3. Section 1004.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
95 read:

96        1004.35 Broward County campuses of Florida Atlantic  
97 University; coordination with other institutions.--The State  
98 Board of Education, the Board of Governors, and Florida Atlantic  
99 University shall consult with Broward ~~Community~~ College and  
100 Florida International University in coordinating course offerings  
101 at the postsecondary level in Broward County. Florida Atlantic  
102 University may contract with the Board of Trustees of Broward  
103 ~~Community~~ College and with Florida International University to  
104 provide instruction in courses offered at the Southeast Campus.  
105 Florida Atlantic University shall increase course offerings at  
106 the Southeast Campus as facilities become available.

107        Section 4. Section 1004.87, Florida Statutes, is created to  
108 read:

109        1004.87 Florida College System Task Force.--

110        (1) The Florida College System Task Force is established  
111 within the Division of Community Colleges of the Department of  
112 Education for the purpose of developing findings and issuing  
113 recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges to  
114 baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for  
115 establishing and funding state colleges.

116        (2) (a) All members of the task force must be appointed on

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117 or before August 31, 2008, and the task force shall hold its  
118 first meeting on or before September 15, 2008.

119 (b)1. The task force shall be comprised of the Commissioner  
120 of Education and 11 members appointed by the Commissioner.

121 2. The Commissioner of Education shall be the chair and a  
122 voting member of the task force.

123 3. The appointees shall include seven community college  
124 presidents, one state university president, the president of an  
125 institution that is eligible to participate in the William L.  
126 Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program, the president of  
127 an institution that is licensed by the Commission for Independent  
128 Education and grants baccalaureate degrees, and one member at  
129 large. The community college presidents appointed to the task  
130 force may not include the presidents of the institutions named to  
131 participate in the State College Pilot Project. The community  
132 college presidents appointed to the task force must reflect the  
133 diversity of program offerings and service areas of the 28  
134 community colleges and include representatives of community  
135 colleges that are authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees,  
136 community colleges that are not authorized to grant baccalaureate  
137 degrees, community colleges that have urban service areas,  
138 community colleges that have rural service areas, community  
139 colleges the service areas of which have populations of 500,000  
140 or more, and community colleges the service areas of which have  
141 populations of fewer than 500,000.

142 (3) The task force shall:

143 (a) Recommend a program approval process for new  
144 baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet the  
145 employment needs of Florida, including approval as a

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146 baccalaureate-degree-granting community college and as a state  
147 college.

148 (b) Recommend a funding model that considers projected  
149 enrollment, adjustments for actual enrollment, program mix, and  
150 comparable support for similar programs across all institutions,  
151 including state colleges and community colleges authorized by the  
152 State Board of Education to award baccalaureate degrees pursuant  
153 to s. 1007.33. The funding model must ensure that the programs  
154 and services offered by institutions in the Florida College  
155 System in providing associate and baccalaureate degrees are  
156 delivered in a cost-effective manner that demonstrates  
157 substantial savings to the student and to the state over the cost  
158 of providing the degree at a state university.

159 (c) Identify the areas, both geographic and academic, in  
160 which an increased number of graduates who have baccalaureate  
161 degrees are necessary in order to meet regional and statewide  
162 workforce needs.

163 (d) Monitor implementation of the State College Pilot  
164 Project.

165 (e) Recommend priorities and criteria for baccalaureate  
166 programs that may be offered without specific approval by the  
167 State Board of Education.

168 (4) Any recommendation from the task force to the  
169 Legislature requires approval by at least three-fourths of the  
170 membership of the task force.

171 (5) The task force shall be staffed by existing employees  
172 of the Division of Community Colleges.

173 (6) (a) Community colleges, state universities, the  
174 Commission for Independent Education, and the Agency for

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175 Workforce Innovation shall provide information and assistance to  
176 the task force.

177 (b) Independent postsecondary educational institutions,  
178 representatives of the business community, and other stakeholders  
179 are encouraged to provide the task force with information to  
180 assist the task force in its deliberations.

181 (7) The task force shall submit a report and  
182 recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education,  
183 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
184 Representatives by March 2, 2009. The report must include any  
185 comments from the task force regarding the final report resulting  
186 from the State College Pilot Project and any specific  
187 recommendations of the task force for legislative action during  
188 the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature.

189 (8) The task force shall be dissolved effective June 30,  
190 2010, prior to which time it shall issue its final report with  
191 recommended detailed criteria for implementing the Florida  
192 College System as a permanent part of the state system of higher  
193 education.

194 Section 5. Section 1004.875, Florida Statutes, is created  
195 to read:

196 1004.875 State College Pilot Project.--

197 (1) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interest  
198 of the state to provide the residents of the state affordable  
199 access to baccalaureate degree programs that are designed to meet  
200 regional and statewide employment needs.

201 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the State  
202 College Pilot Project is created, which shall be conducted by  
203 Chipola College, Daytona Beach College, Edison College, Indian

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204 River College, Miami Dade College, Okaloosa-Walton College, Polk  
205 College, Santa Fe College, and St. Petersburg College in  
206 collaboration with the Florida College System Task Force. The  
207 purpose of the pilot project is to recommend to the Legislature  
208 an approval process for the transition of baccalaureate-degree-  
209 granting community colleges to state colleges in order to meet  
210 the employment needs of Florida, criteria for the transition of  
211 institutions in the Florida College System to state colleges, and  
212 a funding model for the Florida College System.

213 (b) With the approval of the community college's board of  
214 trustees and continued compliance with the provisions of  
215 subsection (3), a community college identified in paragraph (a)  
216 as a participant in the State College Pilot Project may change  
217 the institution's name and use the designation "state college."  
218 An institution participating in the State College Pilot Project  
219 shall not use the designation "university."

220 (3) Each institution identified in subsection (2) as a  
221 participant in the pilot project shall:

222 (a) Maintain, as the institution's primary mission,  
223 responsibility for responding to community needs for  
224 postsecondary academic education and career degree education as  
225 prescribed in s. 1004.65(6).

226 (b) Maintain an open-door admissions policy for associate-  
227 level degree programs and workforce education programs.

228 (c)1. Require, as a condition of admission to upper-  
229 division programs, successful completion of the college-level  
230 communication and mathematics skills examination (CLAST),  
231 established pursuant to s. 1008.29, unless the student has been  
232 awarded an associate degree from a community college or a state



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233 | university.

234 |       2. For purposes of a longitudinal analysis of the CLAST,  
235 | and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,  
236 | administer the CLAST to each student admitted to an upper-  
237 | division program unless the student has previously achieved the  
238 | minimum scores that constitute successful completion of the  
239 | examination as established pursuant to s. 1008.29(4). The  
240 | institution shall report annually the test scores of each student  
241 | tested pursuant to the provisions of this subparagraph and any  
242 | exemption the student has been provided pursuant to s. 1008.29(9)  
243 | to the Florida College System Task Force until its dissolution,  
244 | to the State Board of Education once the task force is dissolved,  
245 | and to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
246 | Accountability.

247 |       (d) Continue to provide outreach to underserved  
248 | populations.

249 |       (e) Continue to provide remedial education.

250 |       (f) Comply with all provisions of the statewide  
251 | articulation agreement that relate to 2-year and 4-year public  
252 | degree-granting institutions as adopted by the State Board of  
253 | Education pursuant to s. 1007.23.

254 |       (g) Be prohibited from awarding graduate credit or graduate  
255 | degrees.

256 |       (h) Be prohibited from participating in intercollegiate  
257 | athletics beyond the 2-year level.

258 |       (i) Deliver the programs and services in providing  
259 | associate and baccalaureate degrees in a cost-effective manner  
260 | that demonstrates substantial savings to the student and to the  
261 | state over the cost of providing the degree at a state

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262 | university.

263 |       (4) (a) The institutions participating in the pilot project  
264 | shall collaborate with the Florida College System Task Force to  
265 | make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the  
266 | President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
267 | Representatives on specific issues that should be addressed in  
268 | the transition of a community college to a state college. Any  
269 | recommendations of the institutions participating in the pilot  
270 | project require approval by two-thirds of the participating  
271 | institutions. At a minimum, the following areas should be  
272 | addressed during the course of the pilot project:

273 |       1. The development of a program approval process to be  
274 | followed by the State Board of Education when considering  
275 | proposals for new baccalaureate degree programs that are designed  
276 | to meet the employment needs of Florida. Proposals for new  
277 | baccalaureate degree programs are not limited to proposals  
278 | designed to meet regional workforce needs.

279 |       2. The formulation of criteria for the transition of an  
280 | institution from a community college to a state college.

281 |       3. The development of a funding model for state colleges.

282 |       (b) A final report, including a status report on the  
283 | transition of the institutions participating in the pilot project  
284 | and recommendations on the issues outlined in paragraph (a),  
285 | shall be submitted to the State Board of Education, the President  
286 | of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
287 | the Florida College System Task Force by January 1, 2009.

288 |       Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.