

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA,
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
PASCO-HERNANDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
AND ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE**

INDICATING THEIR COMMITMENT TO A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DESIGNED TO EXPAND ACCESS, MEET THE EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS FOR GROWTH, AND PROVIDE FOR A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE IN THE TAMPA BAY REGION

WHEREAS, the demand for higher education in the Tampa Bay region is continually growing; and

WHEREAS, the availability of highly skilled technicians, scientists, professionals, and managers is a critical factor in the economic growth of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay region is currently host to a large, motivated, yet undereducated workforce; and

WHEREAS, this region boasts an educational infrastructure with one of the most effective two-plus-two systems of higher education in the nation; and

WHEREAS, a regional consortium of higher education institutions can be employed to create a deep pool of highly skilled and educated technicians, scientists, professionals, and managers to provide a competitive advantage for the Tampa Bay region in economic development and diversification; and

WHEREAS, the signatory parties of this Agreement believe the region's two-plus-two system can further collaborate and expand to meet the demands described above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PASCO-HERNANDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE AS CONSORTIUM PARTNERS AGREE TO THE TENETS OF THIS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

- I.** Consortium partners commit to a proactive strategy of cooperation to produce
 - A. substantial, measurable increases in access to public higher education and degree production at the associate's, bachelor's and graduate degree levels;
 - B. better preparation of students at every level to promote further study;
 - C. increased transfers from community colleges to the university or other four-year programs within the consortium;
 - D. reduced time to degree for the associate's and bachelor's degree programs; and
 - E. other measures of strategic importance to the region's educational and economic progress.

- II.** Consortium partners are committed to planning, developing, and aligning instructional programs at the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels to create a deep, flexible, and highly skilled workforce in response to demands and anticipated economic growth opportunities.

- III. Consortium partners will collaborate in innovative ways to promote expanded access for regional students to include
 - A. guaranteed admission to the university for the Associate of Arts (AA) graduates and the Associate of Science (AS) graduates consistent with statewide articulation policy and AS-to-BS agreements;
 - B. concurrent enrollment status for selected community/state college students with university advisors assigned to these students;
 - C. preferential admission to selective upper-division programs at the university for graduates from consortium partners; and
 - D. expansion of financial aid resources to support two-plus-two students.
- IV. Consortium partners will collaborate on possible joint staffing opportunities for faculty, student services and other key personnel for the benefit of the consortium.
- V. Consortium partners pledge to expand the two-plus-two model as both the most effective and efficient system for producing quality graduates at all levels.
- VI. Consortium partners agree that they will not seek to offer bachelor's degrees, nor invite other baccalaureate providers to their campuses unless the university declines to deliver the program which has been identified as needed by the residents within the service area of the community/state college. Similarly, the university will not seek to develop programs in areas that would be in direct competition with programs available through the consortium colleges.
- VII. Consortium partners will create a specific operating plan to guide the local strategy within the framework of the resolution. Routine collaboration among consortium partners will provide a climate for planning, trust, and innovation capturing best practices and creative thinking from each partner.
- VIII. Consortium partners will establish an interdependent arrangement that enables deeper alignment of systems, policies, and procedures ensuring seamless and concurrent transitions for students. Data sharing will enable the consortium to improve the quality of processes and student learning in a systematic manner and advance public accountability for the results to which we pledge.
- IX. Consortium partners will collaboratively establish, publish and annually review the Addendum to this agreement which outlines specific inter-institutional admission processes, arrangements, communications, operations and staffing in support of the consortium agreement framework outline herein (see attached Addendum).
- X. Consortium partners agree, while this resolution is not a legally binding agreement, it is a pledge to share our stewardship of this consortium, advance the prosperity of our regional community, and serve the students to whom we are enjoined by offering the very best possible educational opportunities.

ADDENDUM

REGIONAL CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PASCO-HERNANDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Dated: November 16, 2011

THE PARTIES OF THIS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT WILL COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH INTER-INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES WHICH PROMOTE AND PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

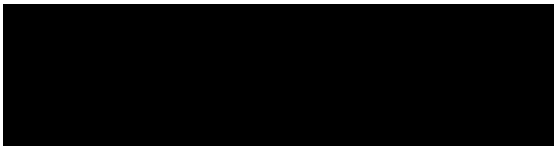
1. Joint admission among regional Florida State Colleges (SCs)/Community Colleges (CCs) and USF with guaranteed transfer for Associate in Arts (AA) graduates who meet GPA requirements and complete the requisite program prerequisites.
2. Modified transfer admission criteria, where appropriate, for graduates of regional colleges of the consortium versus those from colleges outside the region.
3. Transitional advisors from USF to work closely with community/state college advisors and their students throughout their AA progress toward admission to USF (i.e. – visits to SCs and CCs on regular basis to meet with advisors and students, arrange trips to USF for campus tours, and other special arrangements).
4. Work toward an information sharing system that will allow prospective transfer students from regional colleges to access USF's degree audit (Degree Works) system for a clear understanding of actual progress toward baccalaureate degrees.
5. Outline of variations in transfer requirements to regional campuses within the USF system.
6. Sharing of information for reverse transfer from USF institutions to SC degree programs.
7. Establish a policy to transfer coursework back from USF to SCs and CCs for students who did not complete the AA to fulfill requirements to be granted the AA from their original institutions.
8. Data sharing from USF to SCs and CCs regarding transfer student success by academic major to identify potential issues for course articulation (content and standards) to improve student success.

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IN THE TAMPA BAY REGION.



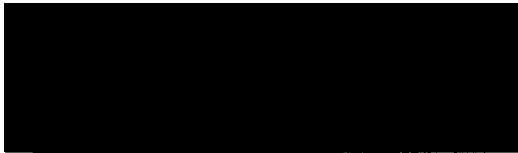
Ken Atwater
President
Hillsborough Community College

11/16/11
Date



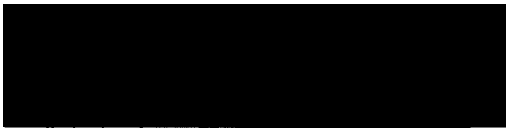
Katherine M. Johnson
President
Pasco-Hernando Community College

11/16/11
Date



William D. Law
President
St. Petersburg College

11/16/11
Date



Judy Genshaft
President
University of South Florida

11/16/11
Date