




February 18, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Jim Murdaugh, President 

**SUBJECT:** Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program

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### Item Description

This item requires Board approval to apply for designation as a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program to enhance college pathways and student support options to students with intellectual or development disabilities for whom a traditional, degree seeking course of study is not most appropriate based on needs and abilities.

### Overview and Background

TCC established Eagle Connections in 2011 to serve students with intellectual or developmental disabilities for whom a traditional academic pathway was not appropriate. These students enrolled in select courses for an audit grade and participated in campus activities. However, there was no established employment focused credential or college pathways for students with differing interests and goals. Current enrollment in Eagle Connections this academic year is 11 students, the highest enrollment to date.

In 2016, the Florida State Legislature passed **F.S. 1004.6495, Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program and Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities**. The Center is housed at the University of Central Florida. The purpose of the legislation was to increase independent living, inclusive and experiential postsecondary education, and employment opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities through degree, certificate, or nondegree programs. The Center has established an application process for colleges to become designated as an approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. This designation allows students to receive state scholarships to participate in the program and provides additional grant funding to TCC to expand our program and services.

Through collaboration with Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, the Foundation, and community employers, a 33 hour Interdisciplinary Employment Credential has been developed that will allow students opportunities to choose a pathway, build core competencies, and participate in an internship experience.

### Past Actions by the Board

Approved the new Eagle Connections program November 2011

**Funding/Financial Implications**

None

**Staff Resource**

Sheri Rowland, Jennifer Barr and Steven Solomon

**Recommended Action**

Approve Letter of Support for Grant Application to Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities



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Tallahassee, Florida 32304-2895  
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Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities  
University of Central Florida  
College of Community Innovation and Education  
420 Teaching Academy  
4000 Central Florida Blvd.  
P.O. Box 161250  
Orlando, FL 32816-1250

Dear Dr. Paula Kohler:

This letter is in support of Tallahassee Community College's application for designation as a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. The TCC District Board of Trustees proudly supports the existing Eagle Connections program for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities and is in favor of expansion of the program with a new Interdisciplinary Employment Credential.

Sincerely,

Karen B. Moore  
Chair, District Board of Trustees of  
Tallahassee Community College