



2022 Annual Report

Florida Consortium of
Metropolitan Research
Universities



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

If you are reading this annual report, it is highly likely you are college educated. That means at some point in your life, you applied for, was accepted by, and attended a college or university. I am also willing to double down and bet you have attended multiple universities and received more than one degree. How that process changed your life I cannot be certain, but I assume that it was likely for the better. However, for tens of thousands of college students, higher education is not a positive experience. College is a negative experience for many students. Each year over 19 million people attend a college or university in the United States. Many of them will find barriers and roadblocks to their success that we need to assist in removing in order to provide a smoother path for as many students as possible. Especially if that student has been historically underrepresented or comes from a family where generational poverty is prevalent.

That is why we formed the Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities seven years ago.

According to the United States Census Bureau, about 17% of enrolled college students are classified as low-income or in the bottom two tiers of the socio-economic ladder. These students are more likely to be students of color, the children of parents who do not have a college degree and are likely to access our universities via a transfer pathway. It is because of this that only 14% of these low-income students will ever realize their dream of a college education and earn a bachelor's degree. That is three times less than those students in the highest two income brackets where 60% will earn their degree. So, we have to ask ourselves, if we all agree postsecondary education is a good thing then why do we make it so hard for low-income students to access it? During 2022, the Florida Consortium has been asking these very questions.

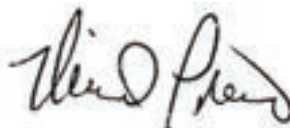
The Florida Consortium marked its seventh year on July 7, 2022, and we continued in our mission to Transform Learning into Talent for the State of Florida. Our work this past year is a testament to our collective desire to ensure every student we recruit, admit, and enroll has an

opportunity to attain a world-class education and has access to the best jobs in the State of Florida. As Florida's Metropolitan universities, we commit to access, quality, and affordability so every student, regardless of their zip code, can receive a baccalaureate degree and an opportunity for a career of their choosing. And to celebrate that commitment, we are looking toward 2023 as the Year of the Transfer. After all, most of our students start someplace else but find their way to FIU, UCF, or USF to complete their journey.

2022 was a year of transition for the Florida Consortium. New leadership emerged at all three of our member universities; FIU, UCF, and USF including the appointment of Rhea Law as the eight President of the University of South Florida, and Kenneth Jessell as the sixth President of Florida International University.

However, that did not stop our work in the slightest. As 2022 wore on, we discovered that our collaborative work was even more valued and created better avenues for connection and engagement. As 2022 began, we began our work on our Transfer Success Network projects including Articulation Platform Technology, our Coaching Academy, and Transfer Success Supports. We developed a number of reports and projects focused on workforce engagement including employability forecast reports in Cyber Security and Nursing, an analysis of alumni outcomes, and a white paper on social capital for our students. 2022 was a transition year for the Florida Consortium but it will only serve as an on-ramp for future success in 2023. When we cast aside barriers and open lanes for all students.

Sincerely,

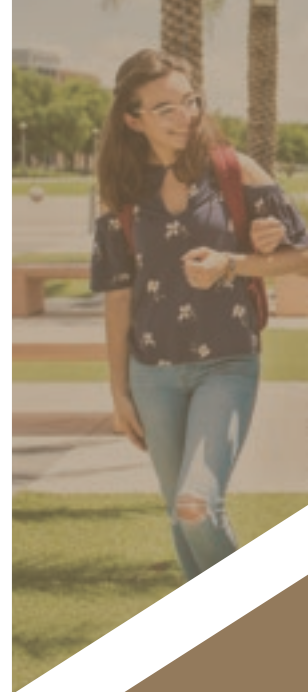




We leverage the unique assets of Miami, Orlando, and Tampa Bay, cities in the State of Florida, to develop talent which enhances community well-being.



We strengthen the State of Florida's talent pipeline through sharing ideas and scalable solutions which accelerate learner achievement and access to economic opportunity.





STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

The Florida Consortium believes all students, particularly first-generation, minority, and underrepresented students, should have the opportunity to walk across the stage at graduation prepared for a career of their choosing, preferably in the state of Florida. Florida is an incredible place to live, work, play, and raise a family. But where will our citizens go to college, work, and live? What kind of skills and opportunities will they need to help build the State of Florida economy of the future?

The Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities members is working together to ensure the State of Florida continues to provide students an opportunity for a world-class and affordable degree that addresses the high skill needs of the state.

The Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities emerged from a shared commitment to transforming students' lives and the metropolitan areas that we serve in Miami, Orlando, and Tampa Bay. Together our three institutions share:

1. Our shared values are based on serving our student bodies and promoting success in and beyond the classroom for students of all backgrounds, no matter what socioeconomic status.

2. One of our strengths as public research universities is we have also earned the Carnegie Classifications of Community Engagement for Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships.

3. We maintain a preference for engaging in collaborative work to improve the lives of Florida's next-generation workforce through innovative programs aimed at career readiness.

The combination of resources, expertise, and commitment allows the Consortium to launch and complete initiatives at a speed and scale that Florida International University (FIU), the University of Central Florida (UCF), and the University of South Florida (USF) could not attain separately.

The Consortium accelerates the pace and extent of change by sharing, learning, and applying best practices, policies, and program designs. The Florida Consortium will produce more career-ready graduates with lower debt, better training, and adaptable skill sets. The Consortium drives economic development in Florida by creating synergies and efficiencies between the state's three large metropolitan public research universities and the public, private, and non-profit sector institutions that rely on them for a steady and growing supply of talented graduates.

STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES

Over the previous seven years, the Florida Consortium has become the premier state-based higher education consortium. Our ability to work, in concert, on issues and challenges at a speed and efficiency rarely seen in higher education is our key advantage. We have developed this model with support from our partner at Helios Education Foundation and added a new partner in the Lumina Foundation. We can now look beyond our current strategic configuration and bring new partners to this partnership. As 2022 unfolded, it became clear if we are going to achieve lofty goals, we must expand our reach to include state and local leaders, state college partners, and regional employers.

We need to have those organizations assist us in creating a cradle-to-career infrastructure that will allow our talented students to find a career of purpose.

Partnerships will enable Orlando, Tampa Bay, and Miami to grow and prosper.

The **strength** of our collaboration is rooted in our connection to our cities and our state. In 2022 we became more aware that our

student body and faculty reflect who lives in our cities. We know that most of our students who attend Florida Consortium member universities intend to stay and work in the state of Florida, most notably in our metro areas.

Each year we produce **over 30,000 graduates** combined, and **74.5%** of these graduates **stay and work in Florida**. More students staying in Florida means over **3,000 more credentialed students** contributing to the state than the other institutions in the State University System combined. And these students are learning from some of the most innovative and creative faculty in the world.

Each year our universities **issue over 200 utility patents**, and these projects have been developed and sourced from our students. Our partnerships have led to sustained economic development in cyber security, healthcare, and banking. Along with researchers at CAEL (Center for Adult Education and Learning) to assist us in developing data-driven strategies focused on connecting talent with opportunities in our state.

There are a few **challenges** on the horizon that we must address in the coming years.

The first is the need to reduce the time to degree for our transfers students and ensure that they are "Transfer Ready" into a major that will assist them in developing their talent.

For decades our transfer success teams have created strong partnerships with our state colleges to provide direct access to our universities. However, traditionally, these transfer students are less likely to transfer into their desired major or graduate on time. That is why we are addressing these issues by tackling the information gaps transfer students often have. By investing in upskilling staff at our member universities and state colleges with college coaching methodologies **we can ensure**

transfer students feel they have advocates across campus to assist them. The other way we will get information into their hands is through Articulation Platform Technology. This technology will help students assess if they are transfer ready and, if not, what they need to do to get there.

We are also concerned with the soaring cost of living and stagnant wages in Florida. While we can produce world-class talent for our booming employment market, these jobs need to compensate well enough to provide our students with a high quality of life. Threats to our graduates include affordable housing. The pandemic has created a housing market where few young homebuyers can find a home under conditions they can afford. Renters are seeing 15-25% rent hikes in a single year. Without a change in these economic conditions, we may see an erosion in our educational gains. As students see opportunities in states with a lower cost of living, this may hurt the state's talent base.

Some of these issues may seem out of our control; we must use our amplified voice in places such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce, our state and local lawmakers, and employers of these concerns and offer our assistance in finding solutions.



BAKERS DOZEN KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR

01

Produced a report on **Nursing needs in the state of Florida** that was presented to the Florida Consortium President's Council in June 2022.

05

We began our **sixth year** as a member of the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Foundation Board of Trustees. The Florida Consortium sponsored the annual **Learners to Earners Summit** as a title sponsor and Executive Director, Dr. Michael Preston served as our trustee.

02

Produced a report on **solving the Iron Triangle of higher education**. The Iron Triangle is university quality, affordability, and access. Final report published in 2023.

06

Produced a report on **alumni destination for all university colleges** and featuring the top employers, average salaries, and major skills presented. This was delivered to the Presidents Council in June 2022.

03

Coordinated our **annual transfer success partner meeting** during the 2022 Florida College Access Network annual meeting in May of 2022.

04

We sponsored the sixth annual Transfer Success Summit. This was held in person for the first time in three years and featured our Keynote speaker, Dr. Heather Adams of the Aspen Institute. **Over 120 attendees** enjoyed over **12 sessions** focused on academic success, economic achievement, and policy support. The event was held at Florida International University in Miami.

07

Launched our **Student Transitions Podcast** and have produced three episodes to date. Episode four is in production for a January 2023 release.

12

Launched the **College Coaching Academy** in the Spring of 2022 and to date **over 150 participants** have completed and received a badge for completing the academy. Hosted by UCF, USF, and FIU and nearly a dozen of our partner state colleges.

08

Co-Sponsored, along with USF, our **seventh National Student Success Conference** as a webinar series during 2022. Sessions were via webinar and had over 500 participants.

13

Organized and convened the **Student Accessibility Collective** that focused on sharing best practices and efficiencies for campus accessibilities for students and faculty.

09

Wrapped up our Emotional Intelligence series in January 2022 with **over 100 participants** at USF. This concluded three sessions and over 200 participants trained on Emotional Intelligence.

10

Secured a second grant funded by the Lumina Foundation focused on Transfer Student Success. The grant is **\$400,000** for 18 months.

11

Presented on the Florida Consortium to the Helios Education Foundation Board of Trustees in January 2022. This presentation **featured our work on transfer Success.**



STATEWIDE IMPACT

48%

Percent of State University System (SUS) Undergraduate Enrollment

76%

Percent of Graduates who Stay and Work in Florida

55%

Percent of SUS Pell Eligible Students

71%

Percent of Graduates Employed or Continuing Ed - 1 Year

64%

Percent of SUS State College Transfers

63%

Six Year Minority Graduation Rate

57%

Percent of SUS Minority Enrollment

\$42,200

Average Starting Salary for Graduates

58%

Percent of SUS Degrees Earned by Minorities

32,092

Number of Bachelors-Degrees Awarded in 2021

FLORIDA CONSORTIUM BY THE NUMBERS - METRICS



STUDENT SUCCESS METRICS

METRIC	YEAR	FCMRU	SUS AVG
Percent of Graduates Employed	2018-2019	71	72
Median Wages	2018-2019	\$41,415	\$41,900
Average Cost (120 Hours)	2019-2020	\$3,483	\$3,020
Four Year Graduation Rate	2016-2020	52.6	58.8
Academic Progress Rate	2019-2020	90.6	89
Programs of Strategic Emphasis	2019-2020	55.6	54
University Access Rate	2018-2019	42.1	37.1
Percent of Degrees W.O./ Excess Hours	2019-2020	82	82
Percent of Freshmen in top 10% of class	2020	32	38
Time to Degree - 120 Hours	2019-2020	4.3	4.1
Six Year Graduation Rate	2014-2020	71	76
Bachelor's degrees Awarded	2019-2020	36,371	72,214
Percent of bachelor s Awarded to Black and Hispanic Students	2014-2020	71	76
Percent of students age 25+	2020	19	15
Percent of FTE Undergraduates Enrolled in Online Courses	2019-2020	37	33
Percent of bachelor's degrees in STEM and health	2019-2020	37	37
Total undergraduate Enrollment	2020	139,285	280,355
Full-Time Enrollment (FTE)	2019-2020	129,479	266,737

FACULTY SUCCESS METRICS

METRIC	YEAR	FCMRU	SUS AVG
National Academy Members	2021	30	36
Faculty Awards	2018	20	40
Total Research Expenditures (\$M)	2019-2020	830	1,451
Percent of Research Dollars from External Sources	2019-2020	57	55
Utility Patents Awarded/Avg	2019-2020	246/82	200/22
Number of Licenses Awarded/Avg	2018-2019	133/44	289/32
Number of New Start-Ups	2018-2019	12	17

