



# PRESS RELEASE

## **UCF, Community Colleges Agree on Strategy to Expand Access for Students**

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ORLANDO-- With higher education demands expected to grow exponentially over the next two decades, the University of Central Florida and Brevard, Lake-Sumter, Seminole and Valencia community colleges are committing to meet those regional needs through a consortium agreement that will increase access by streamlining transfers and expanding program offerings.

The institutions' boards of trustees passed a resolution last month that will lead to the creation of a strategic plan that will expand access to students and help create a competitive, skilled workforce in Central Florida. The university and community colleges will signify the commitment through a formal joint signing ceremony at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the UCF Student Union Cape Florida Ballroom on the East Orlando campus.

A statewide 2+2 agreement already allows community college students with associate degrees to transfer to a state university to complete their bachelor's degrees.

The resolution, a first in Florida, will provide for a regional partnership that more deeply aligns systems, policies and procedures, resulting in seamless and concurrent transition for students, expanded access for associate of science graduates, preferential admission for graduates of consortium community colleges, expansion of joint-use facilities and joint faculty and staff, and immediate data sharing.

"The expansion of associate, bachelor's and graduate degree production in Florida through the consortium will meet the educational and workforce needs of the burgeoning Central Florida area and allow for students to move further in their educational goals without having to leave their communities while taking care of family and work," said David Harrison, vice provost for Regional Campus at UCF.

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