

Florida's Community College System began in 1933 when Palm Beach Junior College was established as a public two-year college. From that date until 1947, when the status of St. Petersburg Junior College was changed from private to public, Palm Beach Junior College remained the only public two-year college in Florida. When the Florida Minimum Foundation Program was enacted in 1947, combined state and local support for community colleges became a reality. Because of this combined support, Pensacola Junior College was established in 1947. Also, Chipola Junior College, established in 1947 as a private institution, changed its status to become a public junior college.

In 1955, the Legislature established the Community College Council, whose report was published in 1957 under the title, "The Community Junior College in Florida's Future." This report, which was approved by the State Board of Education, contained recommendations for needed legal changes and a master plan for establishing a system of public community colleges in Florida. The system would provide post-high-school education within commuting distance of more than 99 percent of Florida's population. With the development and implementation of the master plan, Florida became a national model for the development of a statewide system of community colleges.

Consequently, the 1957 Legislature authorized the creation of the Division of Community Colleges in the State Department of Education and appropriated funds for six new community colleges to begin implementation of the master plan. These colleges were:

Gulf Coast Community College
Central Florida Community College
Daytona Beach Community College

Manatee Junior College
North Florida Junior College
St. Johns River Community College

The state continued to build additional community colleges through the 1960's and early 1970's. In 1972, the master plan was fully implemented with the opening of Pasco-Hernando Community College.

There were twelve district Black Colleges that merged with the Florida Community College System. These black colleges served as a critical foundation for the Community College System:

Booker T. Washington Junior College founded in 1949, merged with Pensacola Junior College in 1965
Carver Junior College founded in 1960, merged with Brevard Junior College in 1963
Collier-Blocker Junior College founded in 1960, merged with St. Johns River Community College in 1965
Gibbs Junior College founded in 1957, merged with St. Petersburg Junior College in 1966
Hampton Junior College founded in 1958, merged with Central Florida Community College in 1966
Jackson College founded in 1961, merged with Chipola Junior College in 1966
Johnson College founded in 1962, merged with Lake-Sumter Community College in 1966
Lincoln College founded in 1960, merged with Indian River Community College in 1965
Roosevelt College founded in 1958, merged with Palm Beach Community College in 1965
Rosenwald College founded in 1958, merged with Gulf Coast Community College in 1966
Suwannee River College founded in 1959, merged with North Florida Community College in 1967
Volusia Community College founded in 1957, merged with Daytona Beach Community College in 1966

Florida's twenty-eight community colleges were established to serve the citizens of the State of Florida by offering the first two years of a baccalaureate degree, vocational education, and adult continuing education. Furthermore, in order to bring instruction closer to students, more than 2,000 other locations, such as churches, public schools, and community centers are also used. In addition, Florida Community Colleges have established additional centers and campuses to better serve students needs.

To further ensure the efficient and effective operation of Florida's Community College System, the Florida Legislature established the State Community College Coordinating Board in 1979, and in 1983 replaced that board with the State Board of Community Colleges. Since then, the State Board of Community Colleges has earned the respect of the community colleges by preserving local control, represented by local Boards of Trustees, while simultaneously establishing systemwide policies and coordination. The Florida Community College System has received national recognition because of this unusual balance between local control, and state coordination and funding.

During the expansion and modification of Florida's Community College System, the postsecondary educational needs in Florida were changing. The identifiable changes included an increase in the average age of students; changes in enrollment patterns, population growth, and population patterns; increased emphasis on vocational education, economic development; and the entry of women into the work force in unprecedented numbers. The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC) was established in 1981 to provide overall guidance and direction for the improvement of postsecondary education in Florida. A new community college master plan was developed. The Master Plan for the Florida Community College System was first published in September 1983. This Master Plan addressed several concerns, including emphasis on the improvement of quality, the trend toward increased part-time enrollments, minority needs, women's needs, and student financial aid needs. The 1988 Master Plan updated the 1983 plan and identified challenges (from which strategic plans would evolve) addressing areas such as quality education, economic development, and quality of life.

The 1993 Master Plan for the Florida Community Colleges was a call to a continued commitment to the "Challenge of a Changing Context." This master plan outlined the following eight goals for the system:

1. Preserve open access and increase student success in community college programs;
2. Strengthen the quality of programs and curricula among the community colleges;
3. Strengthen articulation, cooperation and collaboration among public schools, community colleges, the state university system, private colleges, and other institutions;

4. Establish partnerships at the state and local level to support broad-based, multilateral economic development initiatives and strategies;
5. Strengthen the human resources of the community colleges;
6. Strengthen the utilization of technology to support contemporary standards and future applications in academic computing technologies, administrative computing systems, and educational telecommunications;
7. Renew Florida's commitment to community college education by strengthening the long-term fiscal stability of the system and providing support for an increasingly diverse population; and,
8. Strengthen and provide leadership in institutional effectiveness, accountability, and local control.

The 1998 Strategic Plan endorsed the principles for all of postsecondary education contained in the overall Master Plan for Florida Postsecondary Education developed by the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission. The language requires that Florida's postsecondary education sectors and institutions shall:

- ‡ Be student/customer focused;
- ‡ Meet rising student demand while increasing program and degree completion and maintaining standards of excellence;
- ‡ Be cost effective;
- ‡ Use fully all providers and modes of delivery;
- ‡ Require a fair investment by all beneficiaries—students, the state and local community, business and industry; and,
- ‡ Reward excellence in operation and results.

In addition, the State Board of Community Colleges believes the Community College System:

- ‡ Will remain the major access point for postsecondary education;

- | Is the leading provider of workforce development;
- | Should be held fully accountable for its use of state funds; and,
- | Is best governed by local boards of trustees and coordinated by a State Board.

The statewide mission for the Florida Community College System was amended in 1994 and is contained in Chapter 240, section 301, Florida Statutes. The primary mission of the Florida Community College System includes the following:

- | Providing lower level undergraduate instruction and awarding associate degrees;
- | Preparing students directly for vocations requiring less than baccalaureate degrees;
- | Providing student development services; and,
- | Promoting economic development for the state within each college district through the provision of special programs.

The secondary role for community colleges includes offering programs in:

- | Community Services which are not directly related to academic or occupational advancement;
- | Adult pre-college education; and,
- | Recreational and leisure services.

As stated in Florida Statutes, Chapter 240, section 301:

"The community colleges' mission reflects a commitment to be responsive to local educational needs and challenges. In achieving this mission, the colleges strive to maintain sufficient local authority and flexibility while preserving appropriate legal accountability to the state."

The Florida Community College System will use the goals outlined in the 1998-2003 Strategic Plan to strive to maintain a high quality of education. This will include keeping an open-door policy for all students as well as training the next generation of the work force for the challenges and goals of the upcoming decade.

Florida's 28 Community Colleges*

<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>Year the College was established</u>
Palm Beach Community College	1933
St. Petersburg Junior College	1947**
Chipola Junior College	1948***
Pensacola Junior College	1947
Gulf Coast Community College	1957
Central Florida Community College	1958
Daytona Beach Community College	1958
Manatee Community College	1958
North Florida Community College	1958
St. Johns River Community College	1958
Brevard Community College	1960
Broward Community College	1960
Indian River Community College	1960
Miami-Dade Community College	1960
Edison Community College	1962
Lake City Community College	1962
Lake-Sumter Community College	1962
Okaloosa-Walton Community College	1964
Polk Community College	1965
Florida Keys Community College	1966
Florida Community College at Jacksonville	1966
Santa Fe Community College	1966
Seminole Community College	1966
South Florida Community College	1966
Tallahassee Community College	1967
Valencia Community College	1967
Hillsborough Community College	1968
Pasco-Hernando Community College	1972

* Please refer to inside back cover for addresses and page 3 for the history of the black junior/community colleges.
 ** St. Petersburg Junior College was established in 1927 as a private institution and became part of Florida's public system in 1947.
 *** Chipola Junior College was established in 1947 as a private institution and became part of Florida's public system in 1948.

