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THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY,  
RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

Philip Morgaman, Chairman  
Akshay Desai, Vice Chairman

April 10, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, State Board of Education

FROM: Philip E. Morgaman, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Morgaman".

SUBJECT: Okaloosa-Walton Community College Baccalaureate Degree Proposals

The Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement, at its April 9, 2003 meeting at Flagler College in St. Augustine, took the following actions on the two baccalaureate degree proposals that Okaloosa-Walton Community College has submitted to the State Board of Education:

**Request to offer a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing**

The State Board of Education should support a joint ADN to BSN program between Okaloosa- Walton Community College and the University of West Florida. If this program cannot be implemented by the fall of 2004, the State Board of Education should ensure that an alternative ADN to BSN program is developed and implemented by 2005. All institutions of higher education, both public and private, in addition to Okaloosa-Walton Community College, should be considered by the State Board of Education as candidates to deliver this degree.

**Request to offer Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Project and Acquisitions Management**

Determining the actual demand for the proposed degree program is difficult, as evidenced in the letters of support from the businesses in the area and in their follow-up e-mail correspondence to our staff. The responses received to our e-mail survey from CEOs of the local businesses indicate that there is local demand for the program. Additionally, while respondents to our survey have made projections, most indicate that they would like a pool of candidates to draw on as needed, which would indicate a fluctuation in the level of demand. This program is designed to meet a very unique economic development need in the college's service area related to a major military

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installation located there which has the capability to contribute significantly to the economy of our state on a consistent basis.

**The State Board of Education should approve this Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Project and Acquisitions Management program if it determines that the program is consistent with the State Board of Education budget priorities.**

### **Actions Recommended Concerning the Submission and Approval Process**

The Council, after taking action on the Okaloosa-Walton Community College proposals, then discussed and made the following recommendations with regard to the broader issue of community college applications to grant baccalaureate degrees.

- 1. Partnerships among public and independent institutions in a region should be explored exhaustively by a community college prior to the college's development of a proposal to develop and deliver a baccalaureate program.**
- 2. The State Board of Education, as part of the review process, should require a joint meeting of the boards of trustees of both the college and state university which serves the area to determine if a stand-alone community college baccalaureate is the appropriate course of action. The university board of trustees' comment on the proposed program should be included in the submission to the State Board of Education.**
- 3. The State Board of Education should establish a schedule for the submission, review and approval of these programs - specifying a set time once or twice a year.**

The following is recommended as a way to support the above process and improve access to baccalaureate education on a cost effective basis:

**The boards of trustees of all community colleges and universities in each region should jointly conduct a baccalaureate degree needs analysis. The needs analysis and plan to address identified needs should be submitted to the State Board of Education and the Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement. Development of the needs analysis and plan should involve representation from the business community, workforce boards, chambers of commerce, economic development councils, and independent colleges and universities.**