VALENCIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

October 28, 2026

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VALENCIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FROM: DR. CARLA MCKNIGHT
Executive Director

RE: RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMITMENT TO NURSING SIMULATION EXPANSION

As a direct-support organization of Valencia College, the Valencia College Foundation advances the College's strategic priorities through fundraising and philanthropic investment. Expanding nursing simulation capacity is one of the College's highest priorities and a key fundraising priority for the Foundation. This expansion will enable the College to serve more nursing students, strengthen their preparation for clinical practice and professional licensure, and help address Central Florida's growing demand for qualified nurses. The project will retrofit and modernize existing learning spaces at the College's West Campus to better reflect the complex clinical environments students will encounter in the workforce.

Recent changes to Florida's Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund expanded eligibility for state matching funds to include contributions from organizations beyond healthcare partners. These changes created an opportunity for the Foundation to leverage its resources through a dollar-for-dollar state match. A $2.5 million contribution from the Foundation to the College could generate an additional $2.5 million in state funding, resulting in a total investment of $5 million in the project, subject to state funding availability and applicable program requirements.

The application timeline required expedited consideration. The Florida Department of Education released information for the fiscal year 2026–2027 LINE Fund application approximately two weeks before the September 16, 2026, letter of intent deadline, leaving a limited time to secure funding commitments. Because the full Board of Directors was not scheduled to meet within that timeframe, the Executive Committee, pursuant to its authority under the Foundation’s bylaws, convened on September 14, 2026, to consider the time-sensitive opportunity. The Executive Committee approved a commitment of $2.5 million from the Foundation's unrestricted funds to support the project and enable the College to pursue the available state matching funds.

Pursuant to Article V, Section A(4) of the Valencia College Foundation Bylaws, the Executive Committee is authorized to exercise the powers and authority of the Board of Directors when the Board is not in session. Although the commitment has been duly approved by the Executive Committee and subsequent ratification by the full Board is not required, the Executive Committee's action is being presented for ratification to promote transparency and formally document the Board's affirmation of the commitment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
The Executive Director recommends that the Board of Directors ratify the Executive Committee's September 14, 2026, action committing $2.5 million in unrestricted Valencia College Foundation funds to Valencia College for the retrofit and modernization of existing learning spaces at West Campus to expand nursing simulation capacity.



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Executive Director