



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Campus

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District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Jeff Gold, Chairman
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Vice Chairman
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Commissioner

October 5, 2021

Senator Jennifer Bradley
Chair, Marion County Legislative Delegation
1279 Kingsley Ave., Suite 117
Orange Park, FL 32073

Senator Bradley,

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I am providing you with this letter of support for the College of Central Florida's request for funding in the amount of \$2 million toward the construction of a new Center for Nursing Education building located on the College of Central Florida's Ocala Campus.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the United States will need another 203,700 new registered nurses every year through 2026. Despite being one of the top states for employing nurses, Florida's ever-growing population is no exception to the current nursing shortage.

The \$2 million will assist the College of Central Florida with the second phase of construction for their health science buildings. This phase will create a new one-story Center for Nursing and Education that will replace the outdated current facility and provide a cornerstone for nursing education for the next 50 years. It will provide 35,000 square feet of modern nursing labs and classroom space. The \$2 million that the Board of County Commissioners will fund will be combined with the \$6 million from the state and the \$1.2 million received from the Marion County Hospital District provided in order to complete the project.

Providing this support and funding will help the College of Central Florida's vision of a state-of-the-art Nursing Education facility come to fruition while increasing the number of quality nursing professionals serving our state in the future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gold, Chairman

Cc: Senator Dennis Baxley – District 12
Senator Keith Perry – District 8
Representative Stan McClain – District 23
Representative Brett Thomas Hage – District 33
Representative Joe Harding – District 22
Representative Yvonne Hinson – District 20
Marion County Board of County of Commissioners
Mounir Bouyounes, P.E. – County Administrator