



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Administration

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300

Jeff Hendry,
Director, John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government
Florida Institute of Government Executive Office and Statewide Administration
3200 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite 7
Tallahassee, FL 32303

October 28, 2024

Re: Support for IOG in Central Florida and the Greater Orlando Area

Dear Director Hendry,

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing in support of the University of Central Florida (UCF) to secure state funding for the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government (IOG) to serve our region of Central Florida and the Greater Orlando Area through its faculty experts on local and state government and public policy and administration.

Created by the State Legislature in 1981, the Florida Institute of Government—and its affiliate programs among higher education institutions in the state—is charged with sharing resources and expertise that responds to solving problems of state and local governments. Currently there are several IOG programs in the state (e.g., Tallahassee, Tampa, and Boca Raton), but none in our region of Florida.

The School of Public Administration at UCF aims to support the IOG in our region with its faculty and staff expertise and access to resources for public service education. Through a prospective IOG, we believe there will be more opportunity for the school to provide access to training, technical assistance and applied research for pressing issues in local and state government, which would be beneficial to us. Further, the school shared that they have a stated commitment of providing quality education to current and future public service professionals who can improve our local and global communities for the better.

Given the School of Public Administration's mission, outreach to us, and our regional need for an IOG, we at the Marion County Board of County Commissioners support the IOG at UCF. UCF's proposed IOG in the School of Public Administration at UCF Downtown Orlando, in partnership with Florida Institute of Government Executive Office and Statewide Administration, will serve the state and our local governments. Please contact our office should you have any questions about our support.

Sincerely,

Mounir Bouyounes, P.E.
County Administrator