



## 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

Rich Bianculli  
Chairman, Marion County Hospital District 2021 Board of Trustees  
1121 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Ocala, FL 34471

Mr. Bianculli,

Today, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners approved \$2 million to help in funding the construction of the Center for nursing education at the College of Central Florida. With this amount and the amount provided by the Marion County Hospital District we would show our total support for this endeavor.

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 funding received 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 This phase will create a new one-story Center for Nursing and Education that will replace the outdated current facility and provide a cornerstone for nursing education for the next 50 years.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.

Providing this funding support 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: Curt Bromund, Chief Executive Officer, Marion County Hospital District  
Marion County Board of County of Commissioners  
Mounir Bouyounes, P.E. – County Administrator