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MEMORANDUM

TO: State University System Presidents
Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Chancellor Ray Rodrigues
Commissioner Manny Diaz

DATE: October 19, 2023

SUBJECT: *Hope Florida* Initiative

As you may be aware, this year First Lady Casey DeSantis launched *Hope Florida*, a multi-agency effort, serves as a connection point for community collaboration between the public and private sector, faith-based communities, and nonprofits. This initiative goes beyond government to create a pathway for Floridians accomplish the American Dream – ultimately achieving prosperity and economic self-sufficiency.

As the efforts are well underway, we wanted to bring this program to the forefront of your attention and encourage all State University System and Florida College System institutions to participate as partners. *Hope Florida* is designed to match Floridians in need with Hope Navigators to help identify barriers to prosperity, make referrals to community-based partners, and provide one-on-one support. These supports are available to all who may be facing challenges, including children aging out of foster care, parents and families who need assistance, or individuals on public benefits.

As vital members in your community, you can play an important role in *Hope Florida*. Your institution can get involved in two key ways:

- Providing tuition assistance to *Hope Florida* participants; and
- Providing employment opportunities to *Hope Florida* participants.

We recognize that coordination and collaboration amongst a variety of stakeholders is often the right pathway to help those in need. We hope that you join us in this important initiative. For more information, contact HopeFlorida@fldoe.org.