Taking the First Step:
SCF COLLEGIATE SCHOOL VIABILITY STUDY

- State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) will conduct a viability study exploring the development of a collegiate school, grades 6-12, often called a charter school.

- The viability study will be conducted in 2009 and will include a needs assessment to demonstrate whether a collegiate school would attract the required enrollment. Typical activities include community listening sessions, surveys, interaction with a task force, and other means to receive stakeholders’ input.

- By design, a collegiate school typically is small with a focused college-oriented curriculum. State and federal education leaders have encouraged collegiate schools as a way to increase the number of students who graduate from college. Preliminarily, the SCF study will explore developing an entrepreneurial collegiate school with emphasis on “First Generation” students (those whose parents did not go to college). The proposed school’s curriculum would be designed specifically to encourage graduation from college.

- The proposed school would be located on SCF’s Bradenton campus. A collegiate school agreement would be developed in agreement with the sponsoring school district, in this case Manatee County Schools. SCF President Dr. Lars A. Hafner and Superintendent Tim McGonegal and their respective staffs have met to discuss the study and the process of exploring the proposed school concept, its focus and student population.

- Linda Benware of Innovative Education Strategies Inc., North Redington Beach, Fla., has been selected to conduct the study. Benware was the founding principal in 2004 of a collegiate high school that currently is ranked the No. 1 high school in its county and among the top 10 high schools in Florida. She also has 35 years of experience as a public school teacher and administrator.

- More information will follow as the study proceeds.

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