Two local schools partner in doctor of pharmacy program

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State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine have partnered to facilitate the admission of SCF graduates into LECOM’s Doctor of Pharmacy program.

The agreement establishing the SCF-LECOM School of Pharmacy Early Acceptance Program was signed March 13 at SCF’s Bradenton campus.

Employment in the field of pharmacy is projected to grow by 23 percent between 2008 and 2016, or 2.92 percent average growth per year, which is much faster than the average for all occupations projected by the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, according to the Florida Business Journal.

Previously, the University of Florida and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University have been the State University System options available to SCF graduates who qualified for a Doctor of Pharmacy program.

The Early Acceptance Program calls for LECOM to reserve five slots for SCF students who complete an undergraduate (associate) degree, including or in addition to required higher-level math and science courses.

SCF and LECOM will jointly advise and monitor the academic progress of qualified, interested students to assure they can demonstrate they are capable of handling the rigorous course load of the demanding program. The program will be open to current SCF students as well as current high school students enrolling at SCF.

The program will begin in fall 2012. Enrollment and other information will be available soon on the SCF and LECOM websites.