

VICTORY FOR POLK STATE COLLEGE

Supporters of Polk State,

Thanks to your advocacy, we won our battle to restore \$2.5 million of \$3 million in operating funds to Polk State College! This afternoon, the Florida Legislature approved the restoration of our funding. It is our understanding that the Governor will sign the bill to make it official. Thanks to our students, faculty, staff, and community, we are declaring victory for Polk County.

I am so thankful that you responded to the call to action. It is a result of our loud and sustained advocacy that our funding was restored. I am also grateful to the Polk County Legislative Delegation, Senators Kelli Stargel, Denise Grimsley, and Tom Lee, and Representatives Ben Albritton, Sam Killebrew, Colleen Burton, Neil Combee, and Mike La Rosa, for hearing, and responding, to our call. Also, I am grateful to the Polk State College District Board of Trustees, Senator JD Alexander, and Derek Whitis for their advocacy.

Please thank them all for their unwavering support of our institution.

This legislative resolution to our crisis will require the College to return the Lake Wales Arts Center facility and all programming associated with the center back to the Lake Wales Arts Council, Inc. The College will work closely with the Lake Wales Arts Council, Inc. as well as affected Polk State College employees over the coming months.

I am so grateful that we will be able to continue our primary mission – providing affordable, accessible higher education – to all parts of Polk County. Together, we are Polk and we are awesome.

Eileen