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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Polk State College achieves reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC

Monday, June 28, 2021 — Polk State College is celebrating the reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) which is a testament to the institution’s commitment to quality and integrity as well as its capacity to provide effective programs and services.

This concludes a three-year process of rigorous internal and external peer review and reinforces Polk State’s mission to serve as a quality driven institution that transforms lives through the power of teaching and lifelong learning.

“The College’s reaffirmation of accreditation means that Polk State has the resources, programs, and services in place to accomplish and sustain its mission,” Polk State President Angela Garcia Falconetti said. “This provides our students and the community with reassurance that Polk State remains committed to providing quality higher education and workforce training.”

As part of the College’s commitment to continued improvement, Polk State will continue to implement its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that was developed as part of the reaffirmation of accreditation process. Polk State’s QEP, Explore to Complete, engages students in career exploration, developing career goals, and selecting and persisting on academic pathways to complete their degrees and certifications. Explore to Complete will continue to bolster academic advising, career planning, and initiatives such as freshmen pre-advising.

Dr. Falconetti expressed thanks to Polk State’s Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Accreditation, and Research, Dr. Mary Clark, for her leadership throughout the SACSCOC process. She also extended great appreciation for the SACSCOC and Polk State District Board of Trustees.

“I am proud of the entire Polk State team. It takes students, faculty, staff, and administration all coming together to successfully complete a reaffirmation of accreditation,” Dr. Falconetti said. “Polk State’s SACSCOC accreditation celebrates the dedication and integrity of our entire College community.”

Polk State District Board of Trustees Chair Cindy Hartley Ross echoed this sentiment.

“Our Polk State College faculty, staff, and administration have again proven to be well prepared to offer our students quality, affordable, most relevant, and often trailblazing higher ed degrees and certificates that serve our Polk County community and the State of Florida’s ever-changing workforce needs,” Ross said. “On behalf of our District Board of Trustees, congratulations Polk State College!”

About Polk State College

Located in Winter Haven, Florida, and established in 1964, Polk State College is a multi-campus institution serving more than 15,000 students with Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science degrees, as well as 9,000 individuals in a

wide range of certificate and workforce training programs. The College also operates three charter high schools.

Polk State's advantages include small class sizes; hands-on learning; dedicated faculty; day and night classes; online options; affordable tuition; excellent financial aid; and a diverse community and vibrant student life, including fine arts opportunities, clubs, and intercollegiate athletics.