

<b>Tab 2</b>	<b>SB 270</b> by <b>Burgess</b> ; Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
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<b>Tab 3</b>	<b>SB 312</b> by <b>Gaetz</b> ; Identical to H 00179 Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.
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**The Florida Senate**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**EDUCATION POSTSECONDARY**

**Senator Calatayud, Chair**

**Senator Simon, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025

**TIME:** 8:30—10:30 a.m.

**PLACE:** 301 Senate Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Calatayud, Chair; Senator Simon, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, Fine, Harrell, Jones, and Rodriguez

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1		Presentations from Florida Atlantic University, the College of the Florida Keys, and STAR Center on Florida's maritime industry and workforce development	Presented
2	<b>SB 270</b> Burgess	Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; Revising eligibility requirements for a student who earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school under certain circumstances, etc.  HE      02/18/2025 Fav/CS AHE FP	Fav/CS Yeas 6 Nays 0
3	<b>SB 312</b> Gaetz (Identical H 179)	Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.; Requiring the board of directors of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc., rather than the Board of Governors, to authorize the creation of a subsidiary of the corporation; authorizing subsidiaries of the corporation to enter into certain affiliation agreements, etc.  HE      02/18/2025 Amendment Adopted - Temporarily Postponed GO RC	Amendment Adopted - Temporarily Postponed

Other Related Meeting Documents

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Postsecondary

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BILL: CS/SB 270

INTRODUCER: Education Postsecondary Committee and Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

DATE: February 19, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Palazes	Bouck	HE	<b>Fav/CS</b>
2.			AHE	
3.			FP	

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 270 expands the eligibility criteria for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program to include a student who graduated from a non-Florida school if the parent retired from military service within 12 months prior to the student's graduation.

The bill also expands eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) award requirements to include the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone designation with eligible diploma options. The bill specifies the course composition of the AP Capstone designation.

The bill is effective on July 1, 2025.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program**

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded scholarship program for Florida high school graduates who merit high academic achievement and enroll in a degree, certificate, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution.<sup>1</sup> Since the 1997-98 academic year, the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1009.53(1), F.S.

Program has disbursed approximately \$9.2 billion for over 3.3 million students to attend an eligible postsecondary institution in this state.<sup>2</sup>

### ***General Eligibility Requirements***

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:<sup>3</sup>

- Be a Florida resident for at least one year preceding an award.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma unless:
  - The student completes a home education program.
  - The student earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on military or public service assignment away from Florida; or
  - The student earns a high school diploma from an eligible Florida private school.
- Be accepted by and enroll in an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary education institution.
- Be enrolled for at least six semester credit hours or the equivalent in quarter hours or clock hours.
- Not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency.
- Apply for a scholarship by high school graduation, or by December 31 for mid-year graduates.

### ***Academic Eligibility Requirements***

There are four awards through the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program, including the Florida Academic Scholars award, the Florida Medallion Scholars award, the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award.<sup>4</sup> In the 2023-2024 academic year, 35,111 students received an initial disbursement for one of the four awards offered through the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.<sup>5</sup>

### **Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) Award**

In the 2023-2024 academic year, 20,093 students received an initial disbursement for the FAS award.<sup>6</sup> Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the FAS award must meet the following academic requirements:<sup>7</sup>

- Graduate from a Florida public high school with a standard diploma, from a registered private high school, earn a GED, complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school if specific eligibility requirements are met.

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<sup>2</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Florida Bright Futures Student Counts and Total Costs (2024)*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsA.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1009.531(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1009.53(2), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Florida Bright Futures End-of-Year Report (2024)*, available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BF\\_2023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BF_2023_2024.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Office of Student Financial Assistance End-Of-Year Report*, Florida Academic Scholarship, available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFFAS\\_2023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFFAS_2023_2024.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Bright Futures Student Handbook*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bfhandbookchapter1.pdf>, at 3.



- Complete the required high school coursework.
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.5.<sup>8</sup>
- Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT, CLT, or SAT college entrance exam.<sup>9</sup>
- Complete 100 total hours of volunteer service, paid work hours, or combination of both.
- Submit a Florida Financial Aid Application no later than August 31 after high school graduation.

A student is exempt from the required ACT, CLT, or SAT college entrance exam scores if he or she is:<sup>10</sup>

- Awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;
- Recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or
- Recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

#### Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS) Award

In the 2023-2024 academic year, 14,442 students received an initial disbursement for the FMS award.<sup>11</sup> Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the FMS award must meet the following academic requirements:<sup>12</sup>

- Graduate from a Florida public high school with a standard diploma, from a registered private high school, earn a GED, complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school if specific eligibility requirements are met.
- Complete the required high school coursework.
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.0.<sup>13</sup>
- Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT, CLT, or SAT college entrance exam.<sup>14</sup>
- Complete 75 hours of volunteer service, 100 hours of paid work, or 100 hours of a combination of both.
- Submit a Florida Financial Aid Application no later than August 31 after high school graduation.

<sup>8</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Bright Futures Student Handbook*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bfhandbookchapter1.pdf>, at 3.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1009.531 (6)(a), F.S. The SAT score requirement for the FAS must be set no lower than the 89th national percentile. The corresponding ACT and CLT scores must be concordant with the applicable SAT scores.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1009.534, (1)(c)-(e), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Office of Student Financial Assistance End-Of-Year Report, Florida Medallion Scholarship* available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFFMS\\_2023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFFMS_2023_2024.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Bright Futures Student Handbook*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bfhandbookchapter1.pdf>, at 3.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Section 1009.531 (6)(a), F.S. The SAT score requirement for the FAS must be set no lower than the 75<sup>th</sup> national percentile. The corresponding ACT and CLT scores must be concordant with the applicable SAT scores.

A student is exempt from the required ACT, CLT, or SAT college entrance exam scores if he or she is:<sup>15</sup>

- Awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;
- Recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or
- Recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

#### Florida Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) Award

In the 2023-2024 academic year, 284 students received an initial disbursement for the Florida GSC award.<sup>16</sup> Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida GSC award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:<sup>17</sup>

- Earn a minimum of five postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit.
- Complete 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours.

#### Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSVS) Award

In the 2023-2024 academic year, 292 students received an initial disbursement for the Florida GSVS award.<sup>18</sup> Florida high school students who wish to qualify for a Florida GSVS award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:<sup>19</sup>

- Achieve the required weighted minimum 3.0 GPA in non-elective high school courses.
- Take at least three full credits in a single career and technical education program.
- Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in career education courses.
- Achieve the required minimum score on the ACT, SAT, or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT).
- Complete 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours.

#### **Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Designation**

The AP Capstone is a diploma program based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are designed to complement other AP courses that the AP Capstone student may take. The AP Seminar course is an introductory AP class for grades 10 and 11, and

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<sup>15</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Bright Futures Student Handbook*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bfhandbookchapter1.pdf>, at 5.

<sup>16</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Office of Student Financial Assistance End-Of-Year Report Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship*, available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFGSC\\_2023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFGSC_2023_2024.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Bright Futures Student Handbook*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bfhandbookchapter1.pdf>, at 8.

<sup>18</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Office of Student Financial Assistance End-Of-Year Report Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship*, available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFGSV\\_2023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFGSV_2023_2024.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Florida Department of Education, *Bright Futures Student Handbook*, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bfhandbookchapter1.pdf>, at 6.

serves as a prerequisite for AP Research, which is typically offered in grades 11 or 12. The AP scores for both courses are based on teacher assessment of student presentation components and College Board scoring of student-written components plus an end-of-course exam (for AP Seminar only). To earn an AP Capstone designation, students must earn scores of 3 or higher in the AP Seminar and AP Research courses, and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in the AP Seminar and AP Research courses, but not on four additional AP Exams, receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.<sup>20</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

CS/SB 270 amends s. 1009.531, F.S., to expand eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program to students who earned a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who, within 12 months before the student's high school graduation, retired from military or public service assignment away from Florida. Currently, a student who earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school may only qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if that student is living with a parent or guardian who is on military or public service away from Florida.

The bill amends s. 1009.531, F.S., to expand eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) award requirements to include the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone designation on the same basis as the International Baccalaureate or Advanced International Certificate of Education diplomas. The amendment requires that the AP Capstone designation may only be used for the FAS award if the student completes six AP courses, including:

- AP Seminar;
- AP Research;
- One AP course in mathematics or science;
- One AP course in English;
- One AP course in art, history, or social sciences; and
- One AP course in a subject of the student's choice.

The bill also specifies that earning an AP Capstone designation does not satisfy the requirements for a standard high school diploma.

The bill is effective on July 1, 2025.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

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<sup>20</sup> College Board, *How AP Capstone Works*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone/how-ap-capstone-works#:~:text=Students%20who%20earn%20scores%20of,Seminar%20and%20Research%20Certificate%E2%84%A2,> (Last visited Feb. 18, 2025).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill may increase the number of students who are eligible for a Bright Futures scholarship, but the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 1009.26, 1009.531, and 1009.534.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS By Education Postsecondary on February 18, 2025:**

The committee substitute expands eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholar award requirements to include the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone designation with eligible diploma options, but specifies that the AP Capstone is not a standard high school diploma option. The amendment requires that the AP Capstone designation can only be used if the student completes six AP courses, including AP Seminar; AP Research; one AP course in mathematics or science; one AP course in English; one AP course in art, history, or social sciences; and one AP course in a subject of the student's choice.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/18/2025	.	
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The Committee on Education Postsecondary (Fine) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 29 and 30  
insert:

Section 2. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to that section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—



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11 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars  
12 award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements  
13 for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and:

14 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as  
15 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high  
16 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
17 Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has  
18 attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(a) on  
19 the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic  
20 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered  
21 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,  
22 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

23 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
24 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, has completed the International  
25 Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International  
26 Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the Advanced  
27 International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to  
28 earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education  
29 Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s.  
30 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
31 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
32 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
33 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
34 Assessment Program;

35 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma  
36 from the International Baccalaureate Office, ~~or~~ an Advanced  
37 International Certificate of Education Diploma from the  
38 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office, or an  
39 Advanced Placement Capstone designation from the College Board;



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(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

The student must complete a program of volunteer service or, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, paid work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must include 100 hours of volunteer service, paid work, or a combination of both. Eligible paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in the student's total of paid work hours. The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

(2) For purposes of this section, the Advanced Placement





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Capstone designation shall consist of six Advanced Placement courses, including Advanced Placement Seminar; Advanced Placement Research; one Advanced Placement course in mathematics or science; one Advanced Placement course in English; one Advanced Placement course in art, history, or social sciences; and one Advanced Placement course in a subject of the student's choice. Receipt of the Advanced Placement Capstone designation does not satisfy the requirements for a standard high school diploma under s. 1003.4282.

Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (18) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—

(18)

(c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a state-approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed to the student. The amount disbursed to the student must be equal to the award amount the student has received under s. 1009.534(3) ~~s. 1009.534(2)~~ or s. 1009.535(2).

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 6

and insert:

under certain circumstances; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; revising student eligibility requirements for the Florida Academic Scholars award to include earning an Advanced Placement Capstone designation from the



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98 College Board; providing requirements for the  
99 designation; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; conforming a  
100 cross-reference; providing an effective

By Senator Burgess

23-00399A-25

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures  
 3 Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.;  
 4 revising eligibility requirements for a student who  
 5 earns a high school diploma from a non-Florida school  
 6 under certain circumstances; providing an effective  
 7 date.  
 8  
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 10  
 11 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 12 1009.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
 13 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;  
 14 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—  
 15 (1) In order to be eligible for an initial award from any  
 16 of the scholarships under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
 17 Program, a student must:  
 18 (b) Earn a standard Florida high school diploma pursuant to  
 19 s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282 or a high school  
 20 equivalency diploma pursuant to s. 1003.435 unless:  
 21 1. The student completes a home education program according  
 22 to s. 1002.41;  
 23 2. The student earns a high school diploma from a non-  
 24 Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is on,  
 25 or, within 12 months before the student's high school  
 26 graduation, has retired from, military or public service  
 27 assignment away from Florida; or  
 28 3. The student earns a high school diploma from a Florida  
 29 private school operating pursuant to s. 1002.42.

Page 1 of 2

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

23-00399A-25

2025270\_\_

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Page 2 of 2

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2/16/2025

Meeting Date

Postsecondary Education

Committee

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 270

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Logan Bregdon

Phone

850-528-1513

Address

P.O. Box 10691

Email

logan@afloridapromise.org

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32302

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

Foundation for Florida's  
Future

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Postsecondary

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BILL: SB 312

INTRODUCER: Senator Gaetz

SUBJECT: Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.

DATE: February 17, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	HE	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			GO	
3.			RC	

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## I. Summary:

SB 312 modifies requirements related to the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc. (IHMC) corporation. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires the board of directors of the IHMC to oversee the creation of not-for-profit subsidiaries and approve subsidiary articles of incorporation, rather than the Board of Governors.
- Clarifies that all IHMC subsidiaries must be not-for-profit.
- Requires reporting by the IHMC, rather than the University of West Florida.
- Grants subsidiaries the authority to enter into affiliation agreements.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

## II. Present Situation:

### The Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

The Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc. (IHMC) is a not-for-profit research institute established at the University of West Florida (UWF) and is affiliated with several Florida universities.<sup>1</sup> The IHMC was founded to advance research in human and machine cognition, with a focus on artificial intelligence, robotics, human performance, and information technology. Faculty and staff collaborate extensively with universities, research institutions, and private-sector partners to conduct cutting-edge scientific research.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sections 1004.447, F.S. and 1004.4471, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, *The IHMC Story*, <https://www.ihmc.us/aboutihmc/> (last visited Feb. 12, 2025).

The IHMC is authorized to create not-for-profit corporate subsidiaries to support its mission, provided they are approved by the Board of Governors.<sup>3</sup> The corporation and its subsidiaries must comply with Florida's public records and open meetings laws, ensuring transparency in their operations.<sup>4</sup> However, certain records and meetings of the IHMC and its subsidiaries are exempt from Florida's public records and open meetings laws to protect trade secrets, patentable material, proprietary research, confidential business transactions, donor identities, and information received from government entities under confidentiality agreements, though governmental entities may access this information when necessary for official duties.<sup>5</sup>

The IHMC and its subsidiaries are authorized to:<sup>6</sup>

- Receive, invest, and administer funds from public and private sources, including state and federal grants, private donations, and income derived from research activities.
- Secure patents, trademarks, and copyrights for its research products.
- Obtain comprehensive general liability protection, including professional liability protection, for the corporation and its subsidiaries.
- Enter into affiliation agreements with universities and research organizations.

The Board of Trustees of UWF is responsible for certifying that IHMC operates in compliance with state regulations and must report annually to the Governor, Legislature, and Board of Governors.<sup>7</sup>

### **The Board of Governors**

The State University System of Florida consists of 12 public universities,<sup>8</sup> each governed by an individual board of trustees. The Board of Governors (BOG) is responsible for overseeing, regulating, and managing the entire State University System,<sup>9</sup> ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws that govern its institution.<sup>10</sup>

If the BOG determines that an institution is not in compliance with applicable laws or regulations, it has the authority to take disciplinary actions, including:<sup>11</sup>

- Withholding state or other funding.
- Requiring periodic reports until compliance is achieved.
- Reporting noncompliance to the Legislature.

The BOG has established regulation<sup>12</sup> that outlines the structure, oversight, and reporting requirements for institutes and centers within Florida's State University System. The regulation

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<sup>3</sup> Section 1004.447(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1004.447(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 1004.4472, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 1004.447(2)(e)-(g), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1004.447(9), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> See State University System of Florida, *Universities*, <https://www.flbog.edu/universities/> (last visited Mar. 12, 2025) (identifying 12 state universities).

<sup>9</sup> FLA. CONST., art. IX, s. 7(a)-(d).

<sup>10</sup> Section 1001.705(2), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> See generally s. 1008.322(5), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Board of Governors Regulation 10.015.

classifies institutes and centers into three main categories: State of Florida institutes and centers, legislatively established institutes and centers, and university institutes and centers.<sup>13</sup> While most institutes and centers require BOG approval and oversight, certain entities, such as incorporated institutes with university affiliations, including the IHMC, are explicitly excluded from these requirements.<sup>14</sup> Instead, the IHMC operates as an independent not-for-profit research institute affiliated with UWF, and its governance follows specific statutory provisions.<sup>15</sup> Despite this exemption, the host university, UWF, retains responsibilities related to financial oversight and compliance reporting to ensure accountability.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SB 312 modifies s. 1004.447, F.S., by replacing the Board of Governors with the board of directors of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc. (IHMC) as the authority to approve the creation of not-for-profit subsidiaries. The bill specifies that all subsidiaries must be not-for-profit. The bill removes the requirement that the Board of Governors approve the articles of incorporation for any authorized and approved subsidiary.

The bill maintains the requirement that records and meetings of the corporation and subsidiaries are subject to Florida's public records and open meetings laws, but acknowledges the exemptions in s. 1004.4472, F.S., that makes certain information of the corporation or subsidiary confidential or exempt.

Additionally, the bill requires the IHMC, rather than the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida, to certify compliance with state requirements.

The bill amends s. 1004.4471, F.S., by authorizing IHMC subsidiaries to enter into affiliation agreements with certain universities. The bill includes conforming cross-references.

The bill modifies s. 1004.4472, F.S., by clarifying that a "subsidiary" must be a not-for-profit entity.

The bill is effective July 1, 2025.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

---

<sup>13</sup> Florida Board of Governors Regulation 10.015(1)(a)-(c).

<sup>14</sup> See *id.* at (1)(e).

<sup>15</sup> Section 1004.447, F.S.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill does not have an impact on state revenues or expenditures.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1004.447, 1004.4471, and 1004.4472.



**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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633286

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
02/18/2025	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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The Committee on Education Postsecondary (Fine) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 104 - 109

and insert:

~~2. The chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida or the chair's designee.~~

~~3.~~ The President of the University of West Florida or the president's designee.

~~3.4.~~ Three state university representatives.

~~4.5.~~ Ten ~~Nine~~ public representatives who are neither state



633286

11  
12 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====  
13 And the title is amended as follows:  
14       Delete line 7  
15 and insert:  
16       creation of a subsidiary of the corporation; revising  
17       the composition of the board of directors; requiring

By Senator Gaetz

1-00974-25

2025312\_\_

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to the Florida Institute for Human and  
 3 Machine Cognition, Inc.; amending s. 1004.447, F.S.;  
 4 requiring the board of directors of the Florida  
 5 Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.,  
 6 rather than the Board of Governors, to authorize the  
 7 creation of a subsidiary of the corporation; requiring  
 8 the corporation, rather than the Board of Trustees of  
 9 the University of West Florida, to annually certify  
 10 specified information to the Governor and Legislature;  
 11 amending s. 1004.4471, F.S.; authorizing subsidiaries  
 12 of the corporation to enter into certain affiliation  
 13 agreements; amending s. 1004.4472, F.S.; conforming a  
 14 provision to changes made by the act; providing an  
 15 effective date.  
 16  
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 18  
 19 Section 1. Section 1004.447, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 20 to read:  
 21 1004.447 Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition,  
 22 Inc.—  
 23 (1)(a) There is created a not-for-profit corporation, to be  
 24 known as the "Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition,  
 25 Inc.," which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and  
 26 operated in compliance with chapter 617. The Florida Institute  
 27 for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc., is established at the  
 28 University of West Florida.  
 29 (b) The corporation is authorized to create not-for-profit

Page 1 of 9

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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30 ~~corporate subsidiaries that are organized under the provisions~~  
 31 ~~of chapter 617~~ upon the prior approval of its the board of  
 32 directors ~~Governors~~, as necessary, to fulfill its mission.  
 33 (2) The corporation and any authorized and approved not-  
 34 for-profit subsidiary:  
 35 (a) Shall be a corporation primarily acting as an  
 36 instrumentality of the state, pursuant to s. 768.28(2), for  
 37 purposes of sovereign immunity.  
 38 (b) Is not an agency within the meaning of s. 20.03(1).  
 39 ~~(c) Is subject to the open records and meeting requirements~~  
 40 ~~of s. 24, Art. I of the State Constitution, chapter 119, and s.~~  
 41 ~~286.011.~~  
 42 (c)(d) May receive, hold, invest, and administer property  
 43 and any moneys acquired from private, local, state, and federal  
 44 sources, as well as technical and professional income generated  
 45 or derived from practice activities of the institute, for the  
 46 benefit of the institute and the fulfillment of its mission.  
 47 (d)(e) May perform all things necessary to secure letters  
 48 of patent, copyrights, and trademarks on any work products and  
 49 to enforce its rights therein. The corporation must consider  
 50 contributions by a state university and university personnel in  
 51 the development of trademarks, copyrights, and patents and shall  
 52 enter into written contracts establishing the interests of the  
 53 university and such personnel in each trademark, copyright, or  
 54 patent.  
 55 (e)(f) May secure comprehensive general liability  
 56 protection, including professional liability protection, for the  
 57 not-for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries.  
 58 (f)(g) May enter into affiliation agreements with other

Page 2 of 9

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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universities or research institutes.

~~(g)(h)~~ Is not subject to the provisions of chapter 287.

(3) Records of the corporation and any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary are public records under chapter 119 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, unless made confidential or exempt by law.

(4) Meetings of the governing board of the corporation and any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary must remain open to the public in accordance with s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution, unless made confidential or exempt by law.

(5)(3) The officers, directors, and employees of the corporation or any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary shall be governed by the code of ethics for public officers and employees as set forth in part III of chapter 112.

(6)(4) The articles of incorporation of the corporation ~~or any authorized and approved subsidiary~~ must be approved in a written agreement by the Board of Governors. The agreement and the articles of incorporation shall:

(a) Provide that the corporation and any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary shall provide equal employment opportunities for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

~~(b) Provide that the corporation and any authorized and approved subsidiary are subject to the public records and meeting requirements of s. 24, Art. I of the State Constitution.~~

~~(c) Provide that all officers, directors, and employees of the corporation and any authorized and approved subsidiary shall~~

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~~be governed by the code of ethics for public officers and employees as set forth in part III of chapter 112.~~

(b)(d) Provide that members of the board of directors of the corporation are responsible for the prudent use of all public and private funds and that they will ensure that the use of funds is in accordance with all applicable laws, bylaws, and contractual requirements.

(c)(e) Provide that the fiscal year of the corporation and any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary is from July 1 to June 30.

(7)(5) The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a board of directors who shall serve without compensation. Each director shall have only one vote.

(a) The board of directors shall consist of:

1. The chair of the Board of Governors or the chair's designee.

2. The chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida or the chair's designee.

3. The President of the University of West Florida or the president's designee.

4. Three state university representatives.

5. Nine public representatives who are neither state university employees nor state employees.

(b) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each make one initial appointment of a state university representative to the board of directors. Each director who is a representative of a state university shall be appointed for an initial term of 3 years. The Governor shall make three initial appointments of

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public representatives to the board of directors. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each make two initial appointments of public representatives to the board of directors. The chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida shall make two initial appointments of public representatives to the board of directors. Each director who is a representative of the public shall be appointed to serve an initial term of 2 years.

(c) Upon the completion of the initial terms, a director appointed under paragraph (b) shall be appointed by a majority vote of the directors to an additional 3-year term.

(d) Any vacancy in office of a director appointed under paragraph (b) shall be filled for the remainder of the term by majority vote of the directors.

(e) Any director may be reappointed by a majority vote of the board of directors.

(f) The chair of the board of directors shall be selected by a majority vote of the directors, a quorum being present.

(8)~~(6)~~ No later than 30 days following approval of the corporation's articles of incorporation by the Board of Governors, the corporation shall enter into an affiliation agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida for:

(a) The use or mutual provision of or participation in university programs or services, including use of the university's moneys, facilities, furnishings, equipment, other chattels, personnel, or services.

(b) The use of facilities and personnel for mutually approved teaching and research programs conducted by

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universities or research institutes.

(c) The preparation of an annual postaudit of the corporation's financial accounts and the financial accounts of any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary to be conducted by an independent certified public accountant. The annual audit report shall include management letters and be submitted to the Auditor General and the Board of Governors for review.

(d) Use of the facilities of the University of West Florida, including all furnishings, equipment, and other chattels used in the operation of those facilities.

If the agreement between the corporation and the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida is terminated, all property, including buildings, land, furnishings, equipment, and other chattels originally leased to the corporation, as well as any subsequently constructed or otherwise acquired facilities in connection with the operation of the institute, automatically reverts to full ownership by the University of West Florida. Such a reversionary interest of the state in all after-acquired facilities of the corporation is in furtherance of the goals of this section, and such a present ownership interest by the university is a continuing and insurable public interest.

(9)~~(7)~~ The corporation shall employ a chief executive officer to administer the affairs of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc. The chief executive officer shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the board of directors. The chief executive officer shall exercise the following powers and duties, subject to the approval of the

1-00974-25

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board of directors:

(a) Establish programs that fulfill the mission of the institute, as one of the nation's premier information-technology-related research organizations, in research, education, scientific advancement, and economic development. However, the chief executive officer may not establish academic programs for which academic credit is awarded, or programs that culminate in the conferring of a degree, without prior approval of the University of West Florida.

(b) Control the budget and the moneys appropriated or donated to the institute from private, local, state, and federal sources, as well as technical and professional income generated or derived from research activities of the institute. However, income generated by university faculty from research activities at the institute shall be shared between the institute and the university, as determined by the chief executive officer and the appropriate university president or the president's designee.

(c) Appoint representatives of the institute to carry out the research and educational activities of the institute and establish the compensation, benefits, and terms of service of such representatives. Representatives may hold concurrent appointments at affiliated academic institutions. University faculty may hold concurrent appointments at the institute.

(d) Control the use and assignment of space and equipment within the facilities.

(e) Create the administrative structure necessary to carry out the mission of the institute.

(f) Annually report in writing to the Board of Governors on the activities of the institute and state budget allocation

1-00974-25

2025312\_\_

expenditures.

(g) Provide a copy of the institute's annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chair of the Board of Governors, and the University of West Florida.

(h) Appoint a council of scientific advisers to the chief executive officer comprised of leading researchers and scientists who shall review programs and recommend research priorities and initiatives to maximize the state's investment in the institute.

1. The board of directors shall ratify the appointments of scientific advisers to the council.

2. Each member of the council shall be appointed to serve a 2-year term and may be reappointed.

~~(10)(9)~~ The Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability may require and receive from the corporation and any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary, or from their independent auditor, any detail or supplemental data relative to the operation of the corporation or subsidiary.

~~(11)(9)~~ The corporation ~~Board of Trustees of the University of West Florida~~ shall annually certify to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Board of Governors that the corporation and its authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiaries are complying with the requirements of this section and are acting in the best interests of the state.

Section 2. Section 1004.4471, Florida Statutes, is amended

1-00974-25

2025312\_\_

to read:

1004.4471 Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; affiliation with other universities.—The corporation created pursuant to s. 1004.447(1) and any authorized and approved not-for-profit subsidiary of the corporation may enter into affiliation agreements similar to the agreement described in s. 1004.447(8) ~~s. 1004.447(6)~~ with the boards of trustees of other public or private universities.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1004.4472, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.4472 Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.; public records exemption; public meetings exemption.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term:

(b) “Subsidiary” means a not-for-profit subsidiary authorized and approved by the corporation.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.



# Florida State Office of the Ocean Economy:

## How to Ensure We Keep Dominating

### *Committee on Education Postsecondary*

Florida State Senate

Tallahassee

2-18-2025

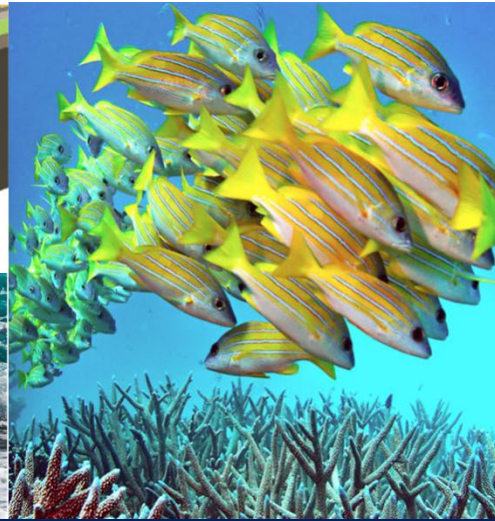
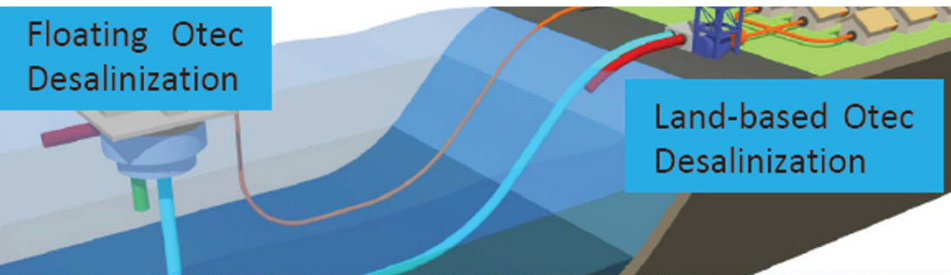
Colin Polsky, PhD  
Associate Vice President  
Professor of Geosciences  
FAU



# Florida State Office of the Ocean Economy

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1. What is the *ocean economy*?
2. What is the *Florida Office* of the Ocean Economy?
3. Opportunities for Federal engagement



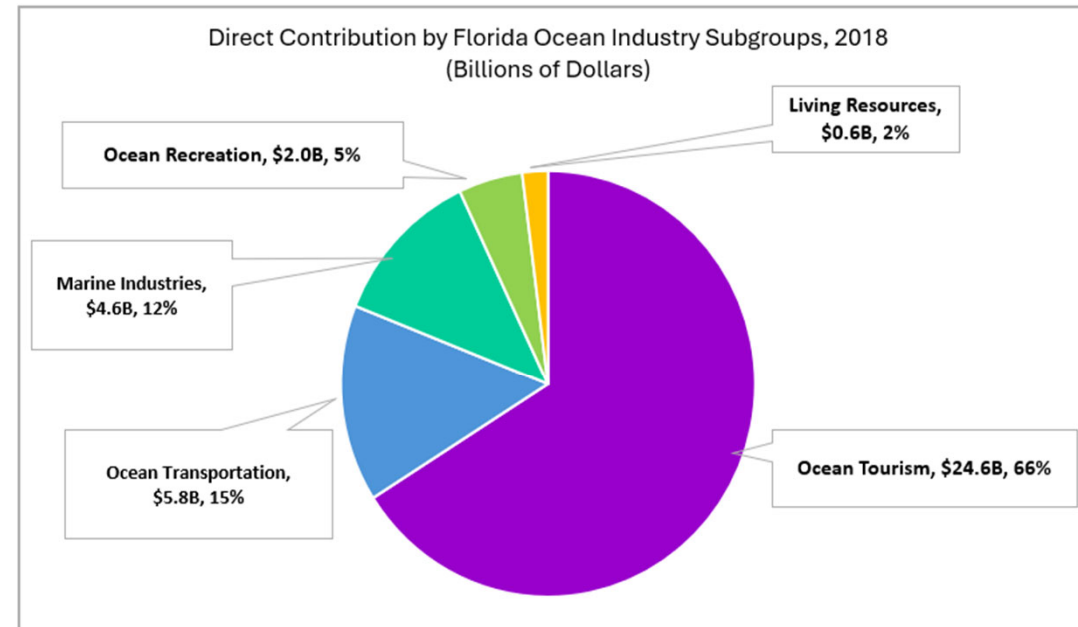
## A partial view of the Ocean Economy



# The U.S. ocean economy in 2022:

- 1.8% of total U.S. GDP
- \$777 billion in sales
- 2.4 million jobs

US BEA (2021); NOAA (2024)



Note: The value of recreational fishing and other nature-based activities is included in the data in several places including living resources, ocean recreation, and ocean tourism. The value for living resources comes from specific North American Industry Classification System codes that do not capture the total value of recreational fishing and other nature-based activities.

Florida Ocean Alliance, 2020

# Florida State Office of the Ocean Economy

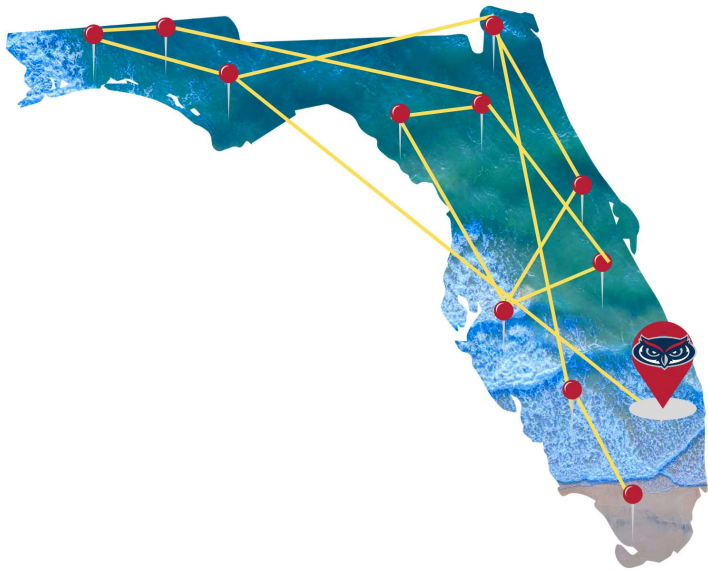
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1. What is the *ocean economy*? ✓
2. What is the *Florida Office* of the Ocean Economy?
3. Opportunities for Federal engagement

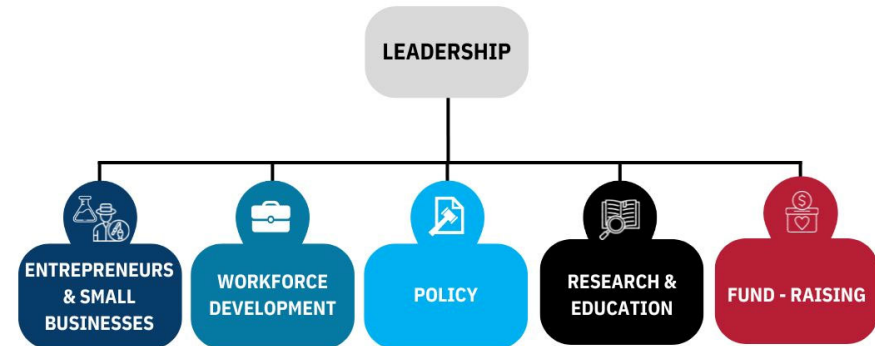


# Florida State Office of the Ocean Economy

Goal: To grow Florida's ocean economy by coordinating and collaborating with Florida educational institutions, businesses and business groups, non-profits, and government agencies.



## Florida State Office of the Ocean Economy



DRAFT V1

# FAU WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS NETWORK (WIN)

## HELPING SOUTH FLORIDA THRIVE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



### Expanding Access to Certifications

Creating and delivering industry-led credentials that support trades, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.



### Nurturing Transferable Skills

Teaching critical thinking, integrity, and tenacity to help our workers compete when demand for their technical skills evolves.



### Cultivating Civitas

Strengthening our economy by reinforcing trainings with American values.

<https://www.fau.edu/broward/news/win/>

# Florida State Office of the Ocean Economy

1. What is the *ocean economy*? ✓
2. What is the *Florida Office* of the Ocean Economy? ✓
3. Opportunities for Federal engagement



# U.S. Economic Development Administration: *Tech Hubs*

Miami Herald

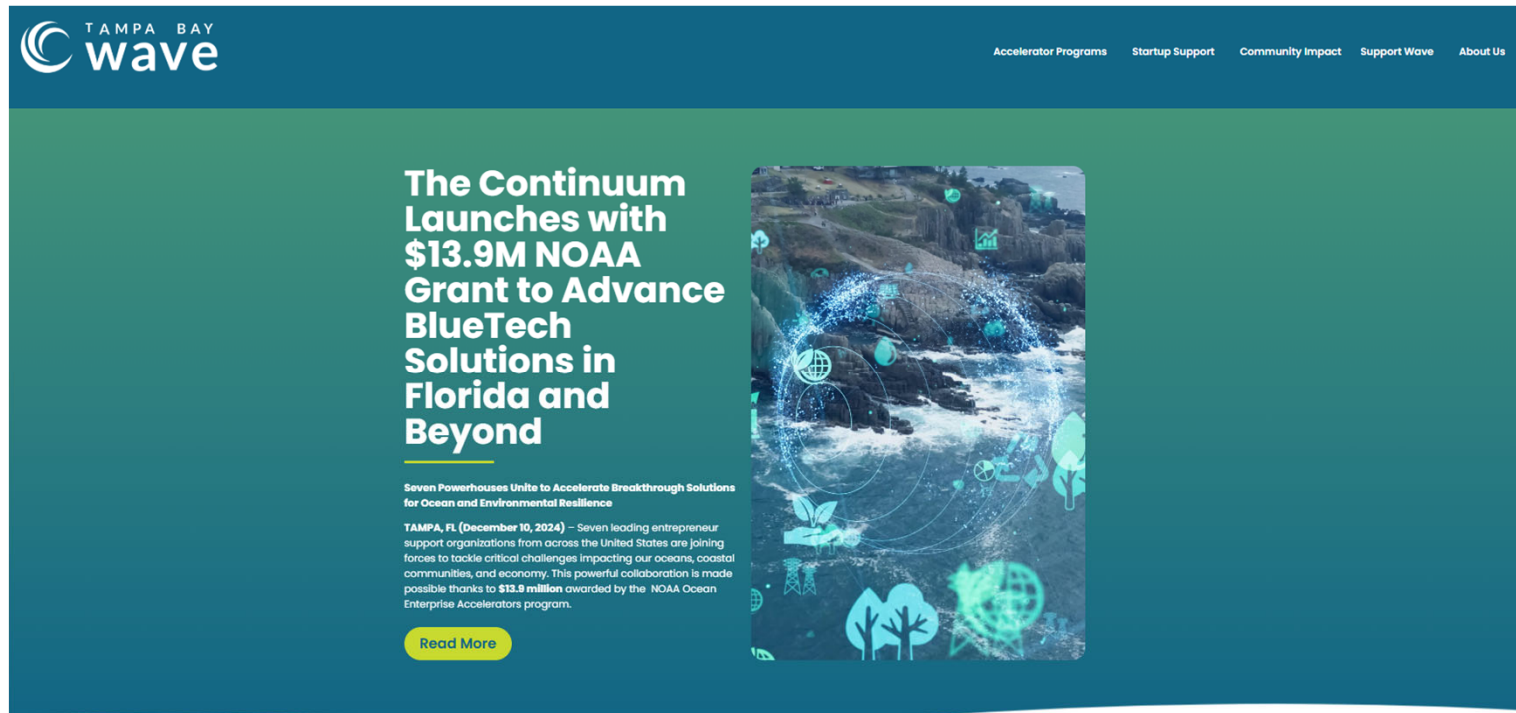
## Miami 'climate tech hub' gets \$19.5 million from feds. Focus will be reinforcing coast

By Ashley Miznazi

Updated July 02, 2024 7:01 AM | 



# U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.: *Ocean Enterprise Accelerators*



The screenshot shows the Tampa Bay Wave website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Accelerator Programs, Startup Support, Community Impact, Support Wave, and About Us. The main content area features a green background with a white text box on the left and a blue image on the right. The text box contains the headline 'The Continuum Launches with \$13.9M NOAA Grant to Advance BlueTech Solutions in Florida and Beyond', a sub-headline 'Seven Powerhouses Unite to Accelerate Breakthrough Solutions for Ocean and Environmental Resilience', a paragraph of text, and a 'Read More' button. The image on the right shows a coastal scene with various blue icons representing technology and nature.

**TAMPA BAY wave**

Accelerator Programs Startup Support Community Impact Support Wave About Us

## The Continuum Launches with \$13.9M NOAA Grant to Advance BlueTech Solutions in Florida and Beyond

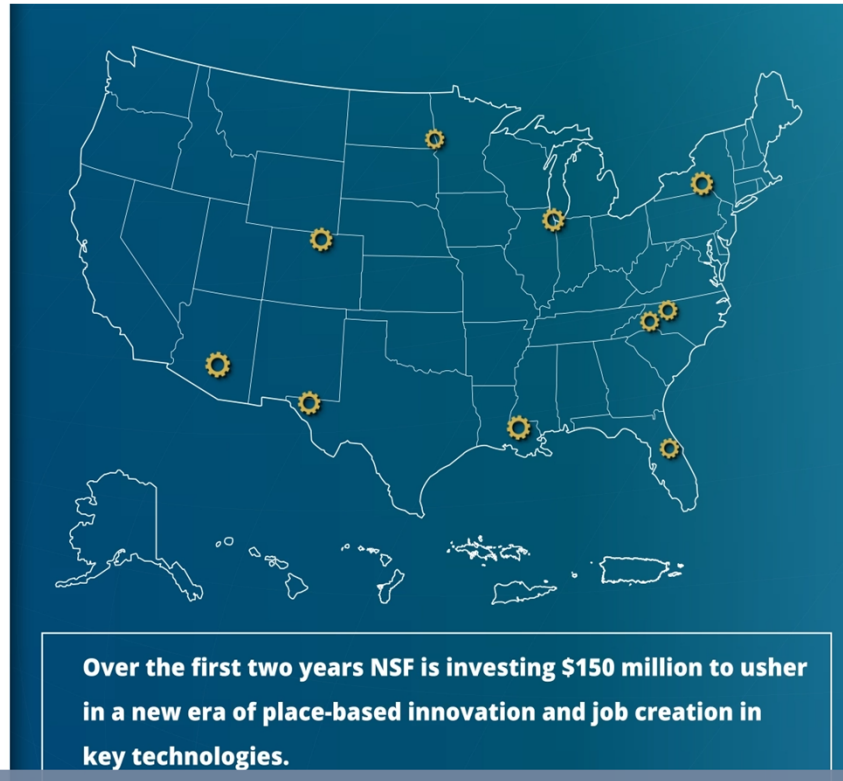
**Seven Powerhouses Unite to Accelerate Breakthrough Solutions for Ocean and Environmental Resilience**

**TAMPA, FL (December 10, 2024)** – Seven leading entrepreneur support organizations from across the United States are joining forces to tackle critical challenges impacting our oceans, coastal communities, and economy. This powerful collaboration is made possible thanks to **\$13.9 million** awarded by the NOAA Ocean Enterprise Accelerators program.

[Read More](#)

# U.S. National Science Foundation: *Regional Innovation Engines*

-  **Up To \$1.6 Billion  
Over A Decade**
-  **450+ Partners  
Across Sectors**
-  **18 States  
Across 10 Regions**
-  **2:1 Matched  
Investment  
From Public &  
Private Sectors**

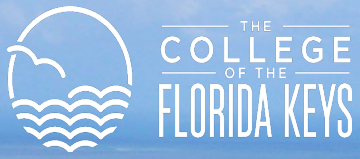


**Thank you for launching  
Florida's Office of the Ocean Economy.  
Questions?**

[cpolsky@fau.edu](mailto:cpolsky@fau.edu)





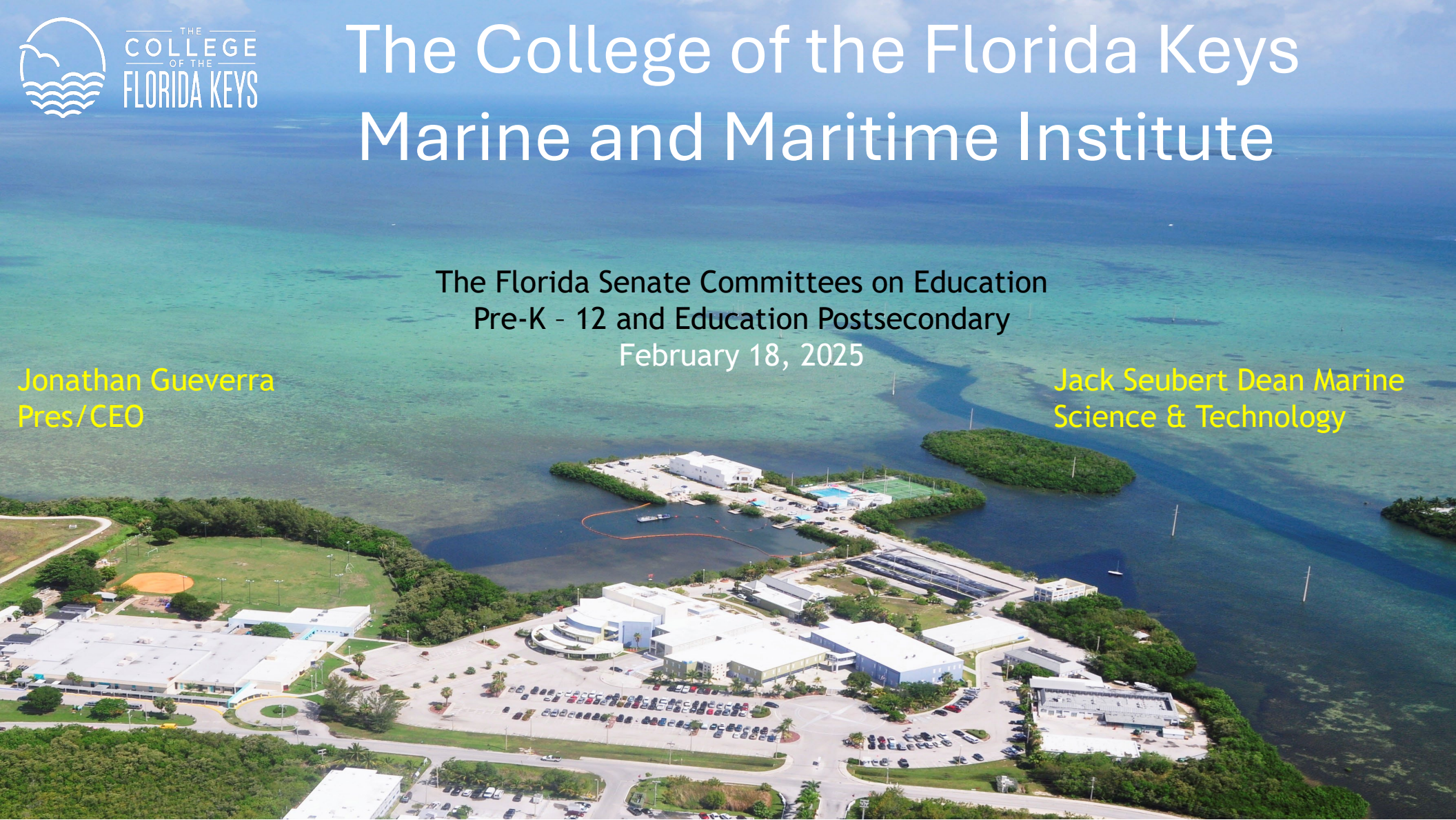


# The College of the Florida Keys Marine and Maritime Institute

The Florida Senate Committees on Education  
Pre-K - 12 and Education Postsecondary  
February 18, 2025

Jonathan Gueverra  
Pres/CEO

Jack Seubert Dean Marine  
Science & Technology





# The Missing Link

There is a gap in the workforce training necessary to support the maritime and marine industries associated with 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs.

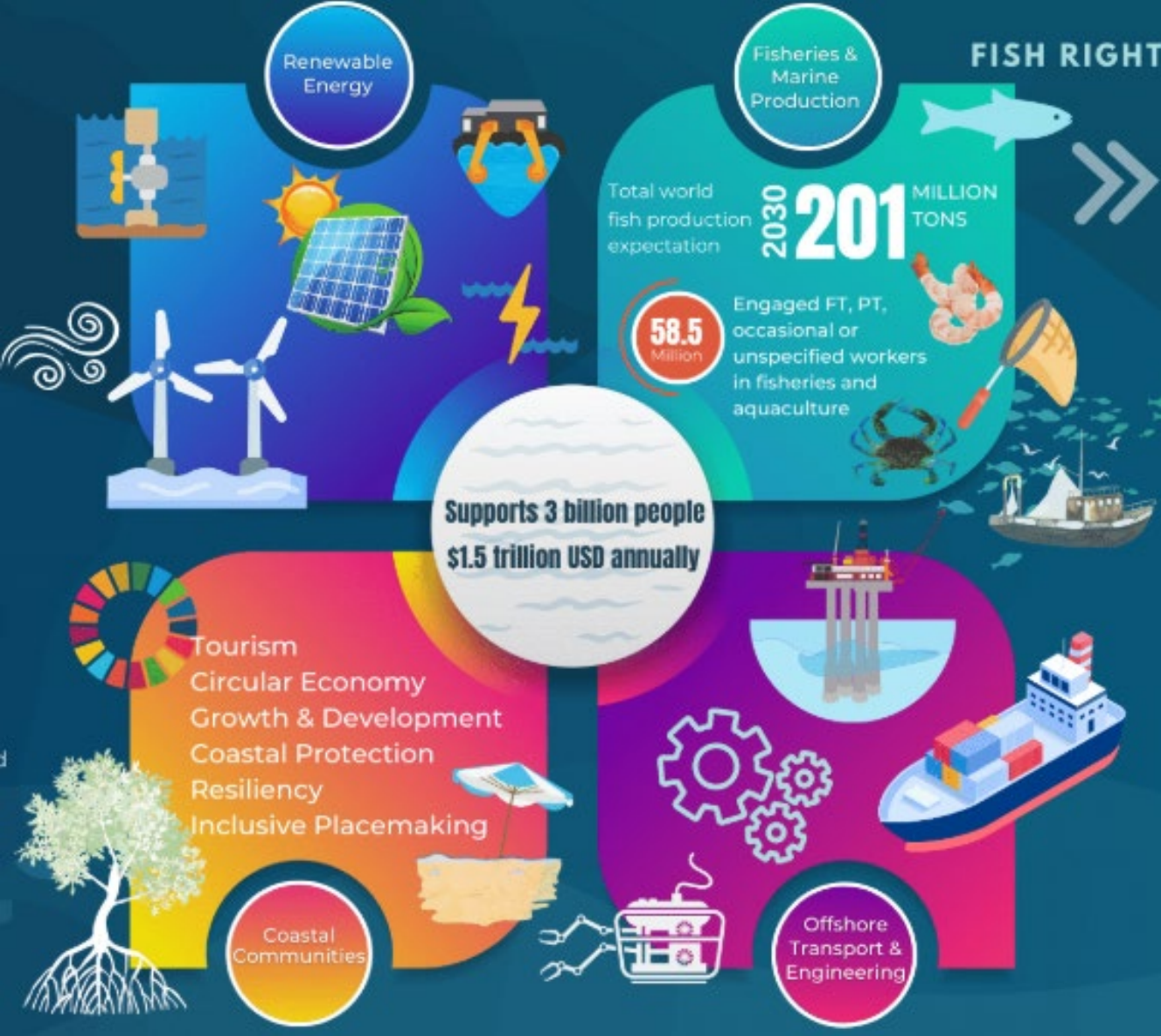
- ▶ Blue Economy
- ▶ Fisheries & Aquaculture
- ▶ Maritime Industries
- ▶ Marine Support Industries

<https://oceanogami.com/unlocking-the-sustainable-blue-economy-how-businesses-can-make-a-positive-impact-on-the-environment/>



# The Background

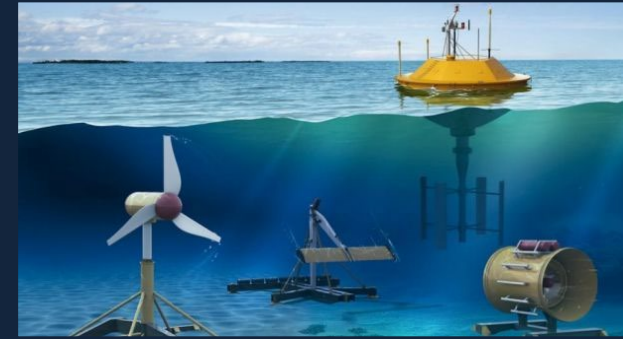
- ▶ Maritime Education and Training
- ▶ Center of Excellence in Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education
- ▶ Jobs & the Blue Economy





# The Jobs

- ▶ Marine Energy
- ▶ Fisheries and Aquaculture
- ▶ Maritime Industries
- ▶ Marine Support Industries





# CFK Supports Workforce Demands

## Division of Marine Science & Technology

- ▶ Seven College Credit Certificates
- ▶ Two AAS Degrees
  - ▶ Diving Business and Technology
  - ▶ Marine Engineering Management and Seamanship
- ▶ Two AS Degree
  - ▶ Engineering Technology – Renewable Energy Technician
  - ▶ Marine Environmental Technology
- ▶ BS Degree
  - ▶ Marine Resource Management



# MEMS Supports the Florida Workforce



## Boat Captain

\$11,500      \$101,500

Avg. \$53,531



## Marine Technician

\$16,440      \$59,410

Avg. \$41,574



## Welders

\$22,045      \$48,575

Avg. \$34,601





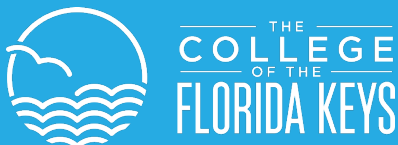
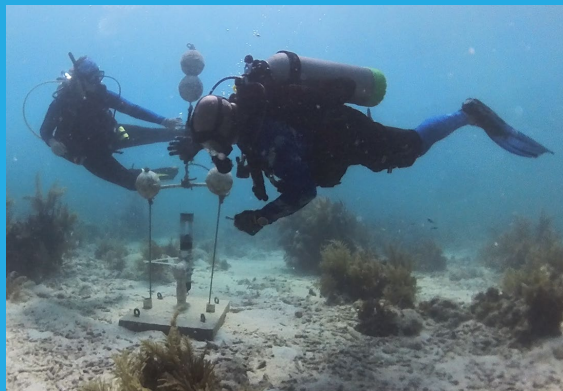
# MET Supports the Florida Workforce



## Environmental Tech.

\$26,500      \$72,500

Avg. \$45,760



## Coral Restoration

\$24,000      \$51,000

Avg. \$38,090



## Aquaculture Tech.

\$23,000      \$67,000

Avg. \$39,013



Ziprecruiter.com

# DBT Supports the Florida Workforce



## Underwater Photographer

\$20,000      \$77,000



Avg. \$42,345

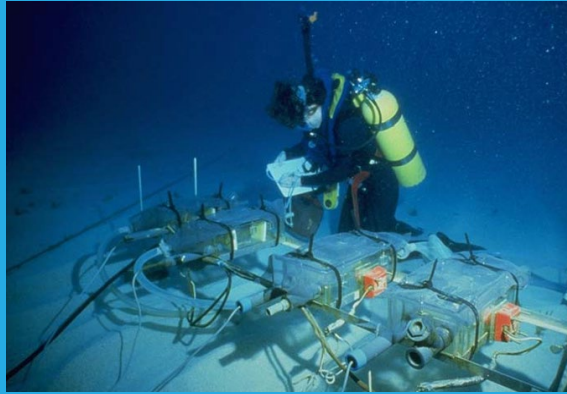


## Scientific Diving

\$29,000      \$109,000



Avg. \$65,743



## Technical Diver

\$97,500      \$163,500



Avg. \$125,316



# ET-RET Supports the Florida Workforce



## Wind Turbine Tech.

\$34,000      \$79,000

Avg. \$54,230



## Solar Energy Tech.

\$34,000      \$87,000

Avg. \$57,650



## Renewable Energy Tech.

\$24,000      \$117,500

Avg. \$61,641



# CFK Prepares Technicians and Professionals

- ▶ Marine Resource Manager
- ▶ Environmental Specialist
- ▶ Natural Resource Manager
- ▶ Environmental Consultant
- ▶ Professional Dive Instructor
- ▶ Aquaculture Manager



THE  
COLLEGE  
OF THE  
FLORIDA KEYS

# Florida's Economic Future A Moonshot

Yamaha

Professional Welder

Marine Resource Management

Project ACCESS



THE  
COLLEGE  
OF THE  
FLORIDA KEYS



# STAR Center

Florida Senate  
Committee on  
Education  
Postsecondary

18 February 2025

Graeme Holman





# STAR Center

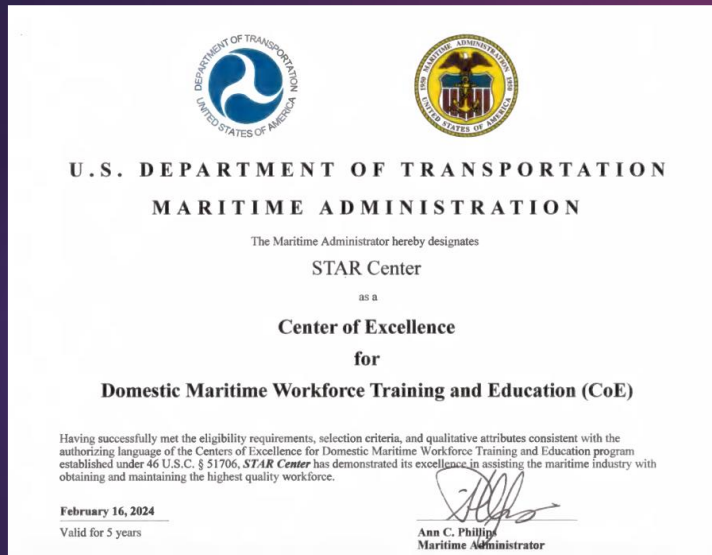
## Not-for-profit 501 (c)3

- Private Entity
- Overseen by DoL
- ~3,000 actively sailing AMO Officers
- ~60% sail under MSC contract supporting US military worldwide



# MARAD COE

- ▶ 1 of 27 centers originally designated
- ▶ 1 of 32 (re)designated in 2024
- ▶ STAR Center to host a MARAD Center of Excellence Conference April 8-9, 2025



# TECH Program

- ▶ Inaugural class 2014
  - ▶ 17 classes started
  - ▶ 55 licensed officers
    - ▶ 20 of 55 from Florida
- ▶ Analysis underway to increase class size
- ▶ Need to increase the applicant pool
- ▶ Program achieving overall goals
- ▶ High School Counselors



# Domestic Workforce Development: OICEW Program

- ▶ Program started in 2023
- ▶ 22 completed
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> group of 6 started Feb '25
- ▶ “Pipeline” to feed OICEW program established-assisting 6+



# STAR Center



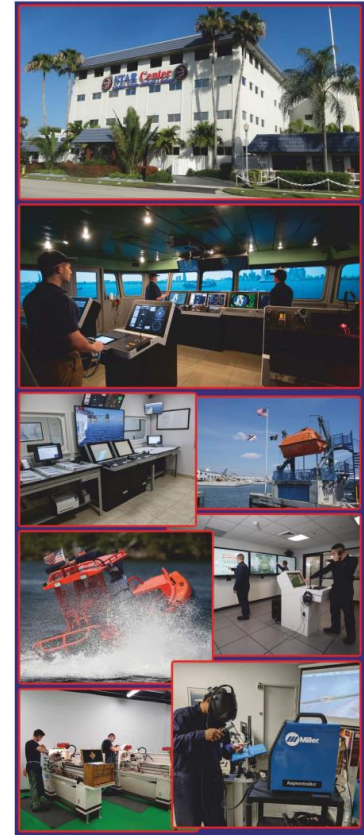


QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

**STAR Center**

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The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

MARINE + MARITIME  
INSTITUTE @ CFK  
Bill Number or Topic

02/19/2025  
Meeting Date  
EDUCATION  
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name JACK SEUBERT Phone 301-526-5243  
Address 31018 AVENUE J Street  
Big Pine Key FL 33043 City State Zip  
Email jack.seubert@CFK.edu

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- ☒ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.
- ☐ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:
- ☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/18/25

Meeting Date

EDUCATION POSTSECONDARY

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

GRAEME HOLMAN

Phone

954-868-7842

Address

13745 NW 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET

Email

gholman@star-center.com

Street

SUNRISE

City

FL

State

33323

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For

☐ Against

☒ Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support

☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against



Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

02/18/2025

Meeting Date

SEN EDUCATION POST SEC

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

JONATHAN GUEVERRA

Phone

305 809 3203

Address

5901 COLLEGE ROAD

Street

Email

JONATHAN.GUEVERRA@CFE.EDU

KEY WEST FL 33040

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** SB 301  
**Caption:** Senate Committee on Postsecondary Education

**Type:**  
**Judge:**

**Started:** 2/18/2025 8:32:57 AM  
**Ends:** 2/18/2025 9:39:22 AM  
**Length:** 01:06:26

8:32:57 AM Chair Calatayud calls meeting to order  
8:33:00 AM Roll call  
8:33:13 AM Chair Calatayud makes opening remarks  
8:33:29 AM Tab 1, Presentation from Florida Atlantic University, the College of the Florida Keys, and STAR Center on Florida's maritime industry and workforce development  
8:34:05 AM Dr. Colin Polsky, Florida Atlantic University  
8:48:42 AM Questions:  
8:48:49 AM Chair Calatayud thanks Dr. Colin Polsky  
8:49:15 AM Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, President of the College of the Florida Keys  
8:50:02 AM Jack Seubert, Dean for Marine Sciences and Technology  
8:50:06 AM Dr. Jonathan Gueverra  
8:52:52 AM Jack Seubert  
8:54:47 AM Dr. Jonathan Gueverra  
8:57:22 AM Jack Seubert  
9:00:00 AM Dr. Jonathan Gueverra  
9:00:32 AM Jack Seubert  
9:02:38 AM Dr. Jonathan Gueverra  
9:06:19 AM Jack Seubert  
9:08:49 AM Dr. Jonathan Gueverra  
9:09:45 AM Questions:  
9:09:52 AM Chair Calatayud thanks Dr. Jonathan Gueverra and Jack Seubert  
9:10:06 AM Graeme Holman, STAR Center  
9:24:08 AM Questions:  
9:24:13 AM Chair Calatayud thanks Graeme Holman  
9:24:18 AM Tab 3, SB 312 by Gaetz, Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc.  
9:24:30 AM Senator Gaetz explains the bill  
9:26:03 AM Amendment #633286 by Senator Fine  
9:26:18 AM Senator Fine explains the amendment  
9:28:40 AM Questions on the amendment:  
9:28:48 AM Debate on the amendment:  
9:28:51 AM Senator Berman  
9:29:28 AM Senator Gaetz  
9:29:34 AM Senator Fine closes on amendment  
9:30:07 AM Amendment adopted  
9:30:11 AM Back on the bill as amended  
9:30:15 AM Questions on bill as amended:  
9:30:18 AM Senator Berman  
9:30:30 AM Senator Gaetz  
9:30:43 AM Senator Berman  
9:31:08 AM Senator Gaetz  
9:31:26 AM Senator Gaetz moves to TP the bill  
9:31:45 AM Tab 2, SB 270 by Burgess, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program  
9:31:52 AM Senator Burgess explains the bill  
9:33:01 AM Questions:  
9:33:13 AM Amendment #159858 by Senator Fine  
9:33:20 AM Senator Fine explains the amendment  
9:34:33 AM Questions on the amendment:  
9:34:42 AM Debate on amendment:  
9:34:48 AM Senator Harrell  
9:35:23 AM Senator Burgess  
9:35:40 AM Senator Fine closes on the amendment  
9:36:34 AM Amendment adopted

<b>9:36:37 AM</b>	Back on the bill as amended
<b>9:36:40 AM</b>	Questions on bill as amended:
<b>9:36:43 AM</b>	Senator Harrell
<b>9:37:06 AM</b>	Senator Burgess
<b>9:37:21 AM</b>	Chair Calatayud recognizes public appearances
<b>9:37:31 AM</b>	Debate on bill as amended:
<b>9:37:34 AM</b>	Senator Harrell
<b>9:38:15 AM</b>	Senator Burgess closes on bill as amended
<b>9:38:39 AM</b>	Roll call
<b>9:39:02 AM</b>	Chair Calatayud makes closing remarks
<b>9:39:08 AM</b>	Senator Fine moves to adjourn
<b>9:39:09 AM</b>	Meeting adjourned



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Rules, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education  
Community Affairs  
Education Postsecondary  
Finance and Tax  
Fiscal Policy  
Transportation

**SENATOR SHEVRIN D. "SHEV" JONES**  
34th District

February 17, 2025

**The Honorable Senator Alexis Calatayud**  
Chairwoman, Education Postsecondary Committee  
305 Senate Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairwoman Calatayud,

I respectfully request an excused absence from the Tuesday, February 18, 2025, Education Postsecondary Committee at 8:30 a.m. due to the snowstorms in New York, which have canceled my flight home.

Thank you in advance for considering this request. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shev", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Shevrin D. "Shev" Jones  
Florida State Senator – Senate District 34

### REPLY TO:

- ☐ 606 NW 183rd Street, Miami Gardens, Florida 33169 (305) 493-6022
- ☐ 214 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5034

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**BEN ALBRITTON JASON BRODEUR**  
President of the Senate President Pro Tempore



The Florida Senate

## Committee Agenda Request

**To:** Senator Alexis Calatayud, Chair  
Committee on Education Postsecondary


**Subject:** Committee Agenda Request

**Date:** February 4, 2025

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I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #312**, relating to Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, be placed on the:

- ☒ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- ☐ next committee agenda.



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Senator Don Gaetz  
Florida Senate, District 1