



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government, *Chair*
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Health and
Human Services
Governmental Oversight and Accountability
Regulated Industries
Rules

SELECT COMMITTEE:

Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

JOINT COMMITTEES:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee,
Alternating Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR JASON BRODEUR

President Pro Tempore
10th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2026

Contact: Zoe Duncan

850-487-5010

MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Jason Brodeur to Highlight Key Funding for the Florida Debate Initiative and Seminole State College

As President Pro Tempore, Senator Brodeur secured \$13 million for local workforce projects and Florida's statewide student debate initiative

Seminole County, FL- Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford), President Pro Tempore of the Florida Senate, will join local leaders to highlight key appropriations secured in Florida's 2026–2027 balanced state budget to support education, workforce development and civic engagement in Seminole County and throughout Florida. Senator Brodeur will meet with representatives of Seminole State College and the Florida Debate Initiative to present ceremonial checks and discuss the impact of state funding for these important initiatives.

PRESS CONFERENCE: Friday, August 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Location: The Atrium at Seminole State College's Heathrow Campus, 1055 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746

The Florida Debate Initiative received \$2.4 million to expand speech and debate instruction, civic literacy education and competitive debate opportunities statewide. The initiative serves students in all 67 school districts, including ESOL, rural, high-need and justice-involved students, and will offer debate camps, leadership and civics immersion experiences, teacher and coach training, and rehabilitative debate programming for youth in Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. These opportunities will help students strengthen their communication, critical thinking, leadership and civic-engagement skills.

FDI also directly invests in the educators who make these programs possible. During the 2025–2026 school year, the initiative distributed \$323,000 in stipends to speech and debate coaches throughout Florida in recognition of the additional time and commitment required to lead competitive programs. Those stipend payments were recently mailed to participating educators statewide, including \$79,750 associated with schools and teams participating in FDI's Central Florida region. During Friday's event, a Florida debate coach will accept a ceremonial check representing the full \$323,000 statewide investment in educators who coach speech and debate programs.

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 110 Timberlachen Circle, Suite 1012, Lake Mary, Florida (407) 333-1802
- ☐ 416 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5010

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore

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Seminole State College received \$600,000 for AMplify @ SSC, an initiative that will expand college-credit and non-credit programming in advanced manufacturing. The funding will support training in high-demand disciplines, including robotics and automation, artificial intelligence, networking and connectivity, additive manufacturing and 3D printing, and welding.

Additionally, Seminole State College received \$10 million toward the construction of Workforce Building B, a new 108,136-square-foot facility featuring workforce classrooms and laboratories. The facility is designed to double the number of students served from approximately 4,500 to 9,000 while addressing critical regional and statewide workforce shortages, particularly in nursing and other health sciences. Through expanded access to specialized education and hands-on training, the project will prepare more highly skilled professionals for careers in Florida's high-demand healthcare fields.

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