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House Memorial

A memorial to notify the Federal Government of colleges and universities in this state which are authorized to operate educational programs beyond the secondary level.

WHEREAS, On October 29, 2010, the United States Department of Education issued its Final Rule on Program Integrity Issues, 75 Federal Register 66832 et seq., which includes amendments to regulations at 34 Code of Federal Regulations s. 600.9(a)(1)(i)(A) requiring that educational institutions not created by the state be "established by name as an educational institution by a State through a charter, statute, constitutional provision, or other action..." and be "authorized to operate educational programs beyond secondary level, including programs leading to a degree or certificate," and

WHEREAS, the Legislature chose to exempt from the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education "any institution that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program and that is a nonprofit independent college or university located and chartered in this state and accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to grant baccalaureate degrees," pursuant to s. 1005.06(1)(c), Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, all institutions exempted from the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education through accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern

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Association of Colleges and Schools must meet state reporting requirements, including reporting on fair consumer practices under s. 1005.04, Florida Statutes, reporting on hazing policies and rules under s. 1006.63, Florida Statutes, reporting on campus crime statistics under s. 1005.04 (1)(g), Florida Statutes, and reporting on physical plant safety under s. 1013.11, Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, all institutions that are exempt from the jurisdiction or purview of the Commission for Independent Education under s. 1005.06(1)(c), Florida Statutes, may participate in one or more state-funded student financial aid programs subject to audit by the Florida Department of Education, including, but not limited to, the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program pursuant to s. 1009.51, Florida Statutes, the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program pursuant to s. 1009.53, Florida Statutes, and the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant Program pursuant to s. 1009.89, Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the institutions that are eligible to participate in Florida's student financial aid programs include: Ave Maria University, Barry University, Beacon College, Bethune-Cookman University, Clearwater Christian College, Eckerd College, Edward Waters College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Flagler College, Florida College, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Memorial University, Florida Southern College, Hodges University, Jacksonville University, Lynn University, Nova Southeastern University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Ringling College of

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Art and Design, Rollins College, Saint Leo University, Southeastern University, St. Thomas University, Stetson University, University of Miami, University of Tampa, Warner University, Webber International University, Keiser University, and Everglades University, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the 2011 Florida Legislature respectfully informs the United States Department of Education that the colleges and universities named in this memorial have met the conditions in 34 Code of Federal Regulations s. 600.9 and are authorized to operate educational programs beyond the secondary level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to each college and university named in this memorial, to the United States Secretary of Education, to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.