

*FIU Connect4Success*

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between**  
**Florida International University**  
**and**  
**The District Board of Trustees of Broward College, Florida**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into this 1st day of September 2020, by and between The Florida International University Board of Trustees, a public body corporate of the State of Florida (FIU), and The District Board of Trustees of Broward College, Florida (BC), a political subdivision of the State of Florida that is part of the Florida College System (FCS).

**WITNESSETH**

1. On March 1, 2017, the parties entered into an MOU establishing a collaboration as part of FIUs Connect4Success transfer pathway.
2. Based on the above, the parties hereby enter into this MOU to supersede the 2017 MOU.

**I. Background**

The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the admission and transfer of FIU Connect4Success (C4S) students from the BC Associate in Arts (AA) degree to FIU baccalaureate degrees. C4S has two overarching goals: (1) provide students with access to postsecondary educational opportunities, and (2) develop support mechanisms for timely degree completion, such as pre-transfer advising (promotes transfer readiness) and opportunities for engagement at FIU (promotes 4-year identity). These goals support and enhance the State of Florida's commitment to articulation between its colleges and universities, as well as positively impacting student success and degree completion.

**II. Student Eligibility**

As one of FIUs admissions pathways, C4S offers an access-rooted, affordable, guided pathway to students who earn the AA degree at BC and transition to FIU. C4S includes three points of entry in support of F.S. Rule 6A-10.024.<sup>1</sup>

1. Invitation: Student applies to FIU and does not meet admission requirements.
2. High School: Student applies to C4S from high school.
3. BC Student: Student applies to C4S prior to completing 45 credits at BC.

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<sup>1</sup> F.S. 6A-10.024: Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts.

(4) Each student in an associate in arts program at a Florida College System institution must indicate a baccalaureate degree program at an institution of interest by the time the student earns thirty (30) semester hours. If the student indicates a program at a public postsecondary institution, the Florida College System institution in which the student is enrolled must inform the student of the common program prerequisites, pursuant to Section 1007.23(3), F.S.



### **III. Program Benefits**

C4S offers students a set of incentives that support the timely completion of the AA and baccalaureate degrees.

#### **Benefits for C4S students while completing the AA degree at BC:**

- Annual Kickoff event with joint messaging of C4S program and benefits.
- Pre-transfer advising resources via FIU Bridge Advisors, BC Transfer Guides, and joint transition workshops.
- Issuance of an FIU One Card (student ID), which provides access to the FIU library, as well as academic, cultural, athletic, social, and C4S signature events at FIU.

#### **Benefits for C4S students upon completion of the AA at BC:**

- Guaranteed admission to FIU, excluding limited access programs, with the completion of the AA degree within three years. Students who exceed the three-year period may reapply to FIU by means of the regular transfer admission process; however, they may become ineligible for C4S scholarships.
- Fast-track enrollment to FIU with no need to reapply at the point of transition.
- C4S scholarships, pending available funding, for eligible students who complete the AA degree within three years and transition to FIU.

### **IV. Management**

- FIU will be responsible for generating the initial communication inviting students to participate in the C4S program.
- New First Time in College (FTIC) students at BC will participate in the general BC Orientations in which they will receive support on the admissions, registration, and advisement processes to ensure a smooth transition into college.
- Both institutions will participate in the C4S Kickoff event held at BC, which provides students and their families with information about the benefits of the C4S program to ensure that students' educational goals may be achieved in a timely manner.
- FIU and BC will track and monitor students to evaluate program outcomes and engage in continuous improvement.
- FIU and BC will develop and maintain standard protocols as they relate to data-sharing and reporting.
- Students' original admissions application to FIU will remain active for a three-year period. Students who have completed their AA degree within this three-year period will not be required to reapply to FIU.
- FIU and BC will co-lead a C4S workgroup that meets periodically to review all facets of the program, including outcomes. Recommendations are vetted and modifications made, as appropriate.

### **V. FIU Bridge Advisors**

FIU Bridge Advisors are housed at BC and offer pre-transfer advising (individual and group) and transition support to C4S students (financial aid, reactivation of application). FIU Bridge Advisors work closely with college advisors, each referring students to the other, as appropriate, and working collaboratively to support students' educational and career goals. Bridge Advisor Roles and Responsibilities were developed, and agreed upon, by both parties.

## **VI. Roles and Commitments**

Both BC and FIU agree to:

1. Collaborate in innovative ways to support the timely completion of the AA and baccalaureate degrees.
2. Commit to evolving C4S to meet the needs of students, including developing expanded pathways through articulated Associate in Science (AS) degrees to baccalaureate degrees.
3. Leverage technologies, as appropriate, to create an effective, efficient, and seamless transition process.
4. Commit to reviewing and sharing data, as appropriate, to evaluate student and program outcomes, subject to applicable federal and state laws and FIU and BC policies and procedures.
5. Comply with statutory, regulatory, and accrediting agencies' requirements, including but not limited to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.
6. Authorize the respective use of FIU and BC official institutional logos to communicate and promote (via promotional items) C4S and its benefits only with previous and express written consent from the respective party.

## **VII. Key Contacts**

The following serve as the primary contacts for C4S:

- BC Campus President, South Campus, or designee  
Dr. Jamonica Rolle  
[jrolle@broward.edu](mailto:jrolle@broward.edu)  
954-201-8817
- FIU Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management and Services, or designee  
Janie Valdés, Ed.D.  
[Janie.valdes@fiu.edu](mailto:Janie.valdes@fiu.edu)  
305-348-0265

## **VIII. Modifications**

Modifications to this MOU shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by the duly authorized officials, prior to undertaking any changes.

## **IX. Term**

The term of this MOU is for three (3) years commencing on the date this MOU is fully executed by the parties. It may be renewed by written agreement of the parties for two (2) additional three-year terms. This MOU may be terminated by either party with ninety (90) days prior written notice to the other party. Should a termination occur, the parties agree to offer collaborative support, as appropriate, to any C4S students enrolled at BC with the intention to transition to FIU.

## **X. Signatures**

The parties hereto have executed this MOU effective as of the last written date indicated by the duly authorized signatories below who represent that they have the requisite authority to bind their respective parties.



**The District Board of Trustees of Broward College**

DocuSigned by:

*Marielena DeSanctis*

10/5/2020

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Name: Marielena deSanctis

Date

Title: Provost & Sr. VP

**The Florida International University Board of Trustees**

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DocuSigned by:

*Elizabeth M. Bejar*

October 13, 2020

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Elizabeth M. Bejar, Ph.D.

Date

Senior Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs

DocuSigned by:

*J. Valdes*

October 8, 2020

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Janié Valdés, Ed.D.

Date

Assistant Vice President,  
Enrollment Management and Services

Approved as to form  
and legality

*[Signature]*  
F.I.U. Attorney

