



EXHIBIT "C"

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Item 5.3.2

PRESENT TO BOARD: AUGUST 26, 2020

TO: SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THOMAS C. LEITZEL 

SUBJECT: NURSING AFFILIATION AGREEMENT – HIGHLANDS REGIONAL MEDICAL
CENTER

Approval is requested to **renew** an affiliation agreement between Highlands Regional Medical Center and South Florida State College for the purpose of providing clinical rotations in the Nursing program. This contract renews annually.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to approve the renewal of the agreement between Highlands Regional Medical Center and South Florida State College as presented.

SCHOOL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

THIS SCHOOL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made as of July 1, 2020 (the "Effective Date") by and between South Florida State College ("School") and Highlands Regional Medical Center ("Hospital"). School and Hospital may be referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, School enrolls students in an accredited degree program in the field of Nursing (the "Degree Program");

WHEREAS, Hospital operates a comprehensive acute-care medical-surgical hospital located at 3600 S. Highlands Ave, Sebring, FL 33870 (the "Facility");

WHEREAS, School desires to provide to 130 students per year enrolled in the Degree Program a clinical learning experience through the application of knowledge and skills in actual patient-centered treatment situations in a health care setting; and

WHEREAS, Hospital will make the Facility available to School for such clinical learning experience, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL.

- (a) **Clinical Program.** School will develop, implement and operate the clinical learning experience component of the Degree Program at the Facility in a form and format acceptable to Hospital ("Clinical Program"). School may modify the Clinical Program from time to time with Hospital's permission and will promptly incorporate reasonable changes to the Clinical Program requested by Hospital from time to time. With respect to the Clinical Program, School will:
 - (i) ensure the adequacy of Degree Program resources, including up-to-date reference materials, and the academic preparation of students enrolled in the Degree Program, including theoretical background, basic skills, professional ethics, and attitude and behavior, for participation in the Clinical Program and will assign to the Clinical Program only those students who have demonstrated the ability to successfully participate in the Clinical Program (each a "Participating Student");
 - (ii) advise each Program Participant (defined below) to attend training and orientation with respect to applicable Hospital policies and procedures prior to the commencement of each Clinical Program rotation during the Term (each a "Rotation");
 - (iii) provide training for Hospital's representatives who will support the Clinical Program regarding Clinical Program features and expectations, and Participating Student evaluations, as requested by Hospital from time to time;
 - (iv) identify to Hospital each Program Participant who will participate in a Rotation as soon as that information is reasonably available to School;
 - (v) require Program Participants to comply with applicable laws and Hospital policies and procedures when onsite at the Facility;

- (vi) require Program Participants to treat Hospital patients, staff and Clinical Program supervisors with courtesy and respect and do not disrupt Facility operations or the provision of health care services for Hospital's patients;
- (vii) timely prepare and update with input from Hospital rotation schedules for each Participating Student throughout each Rotation and coordinate the same with Hospital;
- (viii) require Participating Students to arrive early for each scheduled Rotation, except when a Participating Student is ill or attending to a personal emergency;
- (ix) provide continuing oral and written communication with Hospital regarding Participating Student Clinical Program performance and evaluation and other pertinent information;
- (x) participate and ensure that Program Participants participate in Hospital's Quality Assurance and related programs;
- (xi) participate and require Program Participants to participate in Hospital training as determined necessary by Hospital from time to time; and
- (xii) promptly perform additional duties to facilitate operation of the Clinical Program as may be deemed reasonable or necessary by Hospital from time to time.

(b) **Responsibility.**

- (i) School will retain ultimate responsibility for the appointment of faculty from the Degree Program to support the Clinical Program, for educating and supervising Participating Students and for evaluating Participating Students' performance with respect to the Clinical Program.
- (ii) Without limiting the foregoing, all Participating Students, Degree Program faculty and other School representatives onsite at the Facility (collectively "Program Participants") shall be accountable to the Hospital's Administrator while onsite at the Facility.
- (iii) School will address all Program Participant complaints, claims, requests and questions regarding the Clinical Program. If necessary, School's Program Representative will follow-up with Hospital's Program Representative to address unresolved issues.

(c) **Supervision of Students.** When Participating Students are supervised in their study at Hospital by professionals who are not employed by Hospital, School shall provide to Hospital an agreement between School and such appropriately-licensed supervising professionals that meets the satisfaction of Hospital prior to Participating Students beginning a rotation at Hospital.

(d) **Compliance with Program Requirements.** School acknowledges that compliance by School and each Program Participant with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and Hospital policies and procedures is a condition precedent to Program Participant access to the Facility. Non-compliance or partial compliance with any such requirement may result in an immediate denial of access or re-access to the Facility.

(e) **Dress Code.** School will cause Program Participants to conform to reasonable personal appearance standards imposed by Hospital and wear ID badges as requested by Hospital from time to time. School will cause Program Participants to pay for their own meals at the Facility. School acknowledges and will regularly inform Program Participants that Hospital is not responsible for personal items lost or stolen at the Facility.

- (f) **Use of the Facility.** School will ensure that Program Participants use the Facility solely for the purpose of providing to Participating Students clinical learning experience pursuant to the Clinical Program.
- (g) **Records.** School will cause each Program Participant to timely complete and save in Hospital's systems as directed by Hospital accurate records of all services provided by the Program Participant to a Hospital patient ("Records"). All Records are and will remain the property of Hospital, subject to the rights of patients with respect to such records and to the terms of applicable law. Hospital will provide to School a copy of Records for all lawful purposes, including defense of liability claims.
- (h) **Program Participants.** School will provide to Hospital information regarding each Program Participant, including health examination and immunization records, documentation attesting to the competency of Degree Program faculty (e.g., state licensure, board certification in the relevant Specialty, etc.) and background checks and drug screens as determined reasonably necessary in Hospital's discretion from time to time.
- (i) **Program Participant Statements.** School shall require each Program Participant to sign a Statement of Responsibility, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and a Statement of Confidentiality and Security, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B prior to each non-consecutive Rotation.
- (j) **Liability Insurance.** School shall obtain and maintain occurrence-type general and professional liability insurance coverage in amounts not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence and three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) annual aggregate per Program Participant, with insurance carriers or self insurance programs approved by Hospital and covering the acts and omissions of Program Participants. If such coverage is provided on a claims-made basis, then such insurance shall continue throughout the Term and upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement, School shall purchase tail coverage for a period of three years after the termination or expiration of this Agreement (said tail coverage shall be in amounts and type equivalent to the claims-made coverage). School shall further, at its expense, obtain and maintain for the Term workers' compensation insurance and unemployment insurance for School-employed Program Participants. School will notify Hospital at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance of any cancellation or modification of insurance coverage required hereunder and shall promptly provide to Hospital, upon request, certificates of insurance evidencing the above coverage.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the School is a public entity entitled to governmental immunity protections under applicable state law, then the School shall provide occurrence-based liability coverage in accordance with any limitations associated with the applicable law; but the School shall provide such insurance with limits of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 annual aggregate in the event governmental immunity protections are determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to not apply. Nothing in this agreement is intended to be construed or interpreted as (1) denying either School or Hospital any remedy or defense available to it under state laws; (2) the consent of the State where School is located or any of its agents and agencies to be sued; or (3) a waiver of sovereign immunity of the State or the School beyond any waiver explicitly stated in state statutes.

- (k) **Health of Program Participants.** School will advise Program Participants that no Program Participant will be permitted to attend the Clinical Program until he or she submits to a medical examination acceptable to Hospital.

School will require each Program Participant to maintain health insurance and provide proof of health insurance to the School prior to participating in the Clinical Program. School will cause Program Participants to provide to Hospital proof of health insurance as requested by Hospital from time to time.

In the event a Program Student is exposed to an infectious or environmental hazard or other occupational injury while at the Hospital, the Hospital, upon notice of such incident from the Participating Student, will provide such emergency care as is provided its employees. School acknowledges that Hospital is not and will not be financially responsible for a Program Participant's medical care or treatment regardless of the Program Participant's condition or injury or cause of injury whether occurring at the Facility or otherwise and regardless of fault or cause of injury.

School will ensure that each Participating Student furnishes to Hospital prior to each non-consecutive Rotation a complete copy of the following health records (Participating Students will not be allowed to access the Facility until all records are provided):

- (i) Tuberculin skin test performed within the past twelve (12) months or documentation as a previous positive reactor;
 - (ii) Proof of Rubella and Rubeola immunity by positive antibody titers or two (2) doses of MMR;
 - (iii) Proof of Varicella immunity, by positive history of chickenpox or Varicella immunization;
 - (iv) Proof of Influenza vaccination during the flu season, October 1 to March 31, (or dates defined by CDC). If the Program Participant declines the Influenza vaccination, he/she will not be permitted on the Facility's premises during the designated flu season period; and
 - (v) Proof of Hepatitis B immunization or declination of vaccine, if patient contact is anticipated.
- (l) **Performance.** All faculty provided by School to support the Clinical Program shall be faculty members of the Degree Program, duly licensed, certified or otherwise qualified to support the Clinical Program in the capacity proposed by School. School and all Program Participants shall perform its and their duties and services hereunder in accordance with all relevant local, state, and federal laws and shall comply with the standards and guidelines of all applicable accrediting bodies and the bylaws, rules and regulations of Hospital and any non-conflicting rules and regulations of School as may be in effect from time to time. Neither School nor any Program Participant shall interfere with or adversely affect the operation of Hospital or the performance of services therein.
- (m) **Background Checks.**
- (i) School will ensure that each Program Participant obtains prior to each non-consecutive Rotation a background check acceptable to Hospital, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - A. Social Security Number Verification;
 - B. Criminal Search (7 years or up to 5 criminal searches);
 - C. Violent Sex Offender and Predator Registry Search;
 - D. HHS/OIG List of Excluded Individuals;
 - E. GSA List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs;

F. U.S. Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN); and

G. Applicable State Exclusion List, if available.

(ii) Background Checks for Program Faculty, if School provides Faculty on site, who will be treating patients in the Facility shall include all of the above, and the following:

A. Education verification (highest level);

B. Professional license verification;

C. Certifications & Designations check;

D. Professional Disciplinary Action search;

E. Department of Motor Vehicle Driving History, based on responsibilities; and

F. Consumer Credit Report, based on responsibilities.

(iii) School shall provide to Hospital an *Attestation of Satisfactory Background Investigation* in the form attached hereto as Exhibit C prior to each non-consecutive Rotation. If the background check discloses adverse information about a Participating Student, School shall immediately remove the student from the Clinical Program. School further agrees to an annual compliance audit of background checks, if requested by Hospital and approved by any Program Participant pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

(n) **Drug Testing.** School will ensure that each Program Participant obtains prior to each non-consecutive Rotation a drug test acceptable to Hospital, including, at a minimum, the following:

(i) Substances tested prior to placement at the Hospital must at a minimum include amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, opiates, fentanyl analogues, methadone, marijuana, meperidine, and cocaine.

(ii) A Program Participant may be required to undergo additional drug and alcohol testing upon reasonable suspicion that the Program Participant has violated Hospital's policies, and after any incident that involves injury or property damage.

Hospital shall not bear the cost of any such tests. Should the testing disclose adverse information as to any Program Participant, Hospital shall have no obligation to accept that Program Participant at the Hospital. To the extent that any Program Participant violates the policy for drug or alcohol abuse after placement at the Facility, or refuses to cooperate with the requirement for a search or reasonable suspicion and reportable accident testing, then the Facility may immediately remove the Program Participant from participation in the Program at the Facility.

(o) **Student Documentation.** School will maintain all documentation required to evidence compliance by each Program Participant with the terms and conditions of Subsections 1(g)-(m) of this Agreement during the Term and for at least ten (10) years following expiration or termination of this Agreement.

- (p) **Access to Resources.** The School shall ensure that its department heads have authority to ensure faculty and Participating Student access to appropriate resources for the Participating Students' education.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOSPITAL.

- (a) Hospital will make Facility access reasonably available to Program Participants and reasonably cooperate with School's orientation of all Program Participants to the Facility. Hospital shall provide Program Participants with access to appropriate clinical experience resources for the Clinical Program. Hospital shall provide reasonable opportunities for Participating Students to observe and assist in various aspects of patient care to the extent permitted by applicable law and without disruption of patient care or Hospital operations. Hospital shall at all times retain ultimate control of the Hospital and responsibility for patient care and quality standards.
- (b) Upon the request of School, Hospital shall assist School in the evaluation of each Participating Student's performance in the Clinical Program. Any such evaluations shall be returned to School in a timely manner. However, School shall at all times remain solely responsible for the evaluation and education of Participating Students.
- (c) Hospital will ensure that the Facility complies with applicable state and federal workplace safety laws and regulations. In the event a Participating Student is exposed to an infectious or environmental hazard or other occupational injury (i.e., needle stick) while at the Facility, it shall provide, upon notice of such incident from the Participating Student, such emergency care as is provided its employees, including, where applicable: examination and evaluation by Facility's emergency department or other appropriate facility as soon as possible after the injury; emergency medical care immediately following the injury as necessary; initiation of the HBV, Hepatitis C (HCV), and/or HIV protocol as necessary; and HIV counseling and appropriate testing as necessary. In the event that the Facility does not have the resources to provide such emergency care, Facility will refer such student to the nearest emergency facility.
- (d) To the extent Hospital generates or maintains educational records for Participating Students that are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Hospital will comply with applicable FERPA requirements. For purposes of this Agreement, School shall designate Hospital as a school official with a legitimate educational interest in the educational records of Participating Students to the extent that access to School's records is required by Hospital to carry out the Clinical Program.
- (e) Upon reasonable request, Hospital will provide proof to School that Hospital maintains liability insurance in an amount that is commercially reasonable.
- (f) Hospital will provide written notification to School if a claim arises involving a Program Participant. Both Hospital and School agree to share such information in a manner that protects such disclosures from discovery to the extent possible under applicable federal and state peer review and joint defense laws.
- (g) Hospital will resolve any situation in favor of its patients' welfare and may restrict a Participating Student to the role of observer when necessary in Hospital's discretion. Hospital will notify School's Program Representative (defined below) when such action has occurred.
- (h) Upon reasonable notice from School, Hospital will make the Facility reasonably available for inspection during normal business hours by organizations that provide or may provide

academic accreditation for the Degree Program. Such inspections must be accompanied at all times by a Hospital representative and are contingent upon receipt by Hospital of executed agreements that Hospital believes are reasonably necessary or convenient to protect the confidentiality and security of Hospital's information. School will promptly reimburse Hospital for all direct costs incurred by Hospital in connection with such accreditation inspections.

- (i) Hospital shall provide Program Participants with access to and Participating Students with required training in the proper use of electronic medical records or paper charts, as applicable.
 - (j) Hospital shall provide student security badges or other means of secure access to Facility patient care areas.
 - (k) Hospital shall provide Program Participants with computer access, and access to call rooms, if necessary.
 - (l) Hospital shall provide secure storage space for Participating Students' personal items when at the Facility.
 - (m) Hospital shall provide qualified and competent staff members in adequate number for the instruction and supervision of students using the Facility.
3. **MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Parties shall cooperate to fulfill the following mutual responsibilities:
- (a) Each Party will identify to the other Party a Clinical Program representative (each a "Program Representative") on or before the execution of this Agreement. School's Program Representative shall be a faculty member who will be responsible for Participating Student teaching and assessment provided pursuant to this Agreement. Each Party will maintain a Program Representative for the Term and will promptly appoint a replacement Program Representative if necessary to comply with this Agreement. Each Party will ensure that its Program Representative is reasonably available to the other Party's Program Representative.
 - (b) School will provide qualified and competent Degree Program faculty in adequate number for the instruction, assessment and supervision of Participating Students at the Facility.
 - (c) Both School and Hospital will work together to maintain a Clinical Program emphasis on high quality patient care. At the request of either Party, a meeting or conference will promptly be held between the Parties' respective Program Representatives to resolve any problems in the operation of the Clinical Program.
 - (d) School acknowledges, and will inform Participating Students that Participating Students are trainees in the Clinical Program and have no expectation of receiving compensation or future employment from Hospital or School. Participating Students are not to replace Hospital staff and are not to render unsupervised patient care and/or services. Hospital and its staff will provide such supervision of the educational and clinical activities as is reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances and to the Participating Student's level of training.
 - (e) Any courtesy appointments to faculty or staff by either School or Hospital shall be without entitlement of the individual to compensation or benefits for the appointed party.
 - (f) Both School and Hospital will work together to create and maintain an appropriate learning environment for the Participating Students.
 - (g) The School, including its faculty, staff and residents, and the Hospital share responsibility for creating an appropriate learning environment that includes both formal learning activities and

the attitudes, values, and informal "lessons" conveyed by individuals who interact with the Participating Student. The parties will cooperate to evaluate the learning environment (which may include on-site visits) to identify positive and negative influences on the maintenance of professional standards, and to conduct and develop appropriate strategies to enhance the positive and mitigate the negative influences.

4. WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS. Hospital may immediately remove a Participating Student from the Facility when in Hospital's discretion his or her clinical performance is unsatisfactory or his or her behavior is disruptive or detrimental to Hospital operations and/or Hospital's patients. In such event, School will immediately remove the Participating Student from the Clinical Program. It is understood that only School can dismiss the Participating Student from the Clinical Program. School may terminate a Participating Student's participating in the Clinical Program when it determines, in its sole discretion, that further participation by the student would no longer be appropriate.

5. FEES. All fees generated by or in connection with services provided by Program Participants to Hospital patients belong to Hospital. School on behalf of itself and each Program Participant hereby assigns to Hospital all right, title and interest (if any) in and to such fees. If School or any Program Participant receives any fees or other reimbursement for services provided by Program Participants to Hospital patients, School will and will cause Program Participants to immediately deliver and endorse over to Hospital all such amounts. School will and will cause Program Participants not to bill Hospital patients for services provided. School will and will cause Program Participants to take all actions and execute all documents reasonably requested by Hospital in order for Hospital to collect fees and payments for health care services provided by Program Participants.

6. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR; NO OTHER BENEFICIARIES; EMPLOYMENT DISCLAIMER.

- (a) The Parties hereby acknowledge that they are independent contractors, and neither School nor any of its agents, representatives, Program Participants, or employees shall be considered agents, representatives, or employees of Hospital. In no event shall this Agreement be construed as establishing a partnership or joint venture or similar relationship between the Parties. School shall be liable for its own debts, obligations, acts and omissions, including the payment of all required withholding, social security and other taxes or benefits. No Program Participant shall look to Hospital for any salaries, insurance or other benefits. No Program Participant or other third person is entitled to, and shall not, receive any rights under this Agreement. Neither Party shall have the right or authority nor hold itself out to have the right or authority to bind the other Party and neither shall either Party be responsible for the acts or omissions of the other except as provided specifically to the contrary herein.
- (b) Each Party acknowledges Participating Students will not be considered employees or agents of Hospital or School for any purpose. Participating Students will not be entitled to receive any compensation from Hospital or School or any benefits of employment from Hospital or School, including health care or workers' compensation benefits, vacation, sick time, or other direct or indirect benefit of employment.
- (c) School acknowledges that Hospital has not and is not obligated to implement or maintain insurance coverage for the benefit or protection of School or Program Participants.

7. NON-DISCRIMINATION. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, veteran status, or handicap in either the selection of Participating Students, or as to any aspect of the Clinical Program; provided, however, that with respect to handicap, the handicap must not be such as would, even with reasonable accommodation, in and of itself preclude the Program Participant's effective participation in the Clinical Program.

8. INDEMNIFICATION. To the extent permitted by applicable law and without waiving any defenses, School shall indemnify and hold harmless Hospital and Hospital's officers, directors, trustees, medical and nursing staff, representatives and employees from and against all third-party liabilities, claims,

damages and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, relating to or arising out of any act or omission of School or any of its Program Participants, agents, representatives or employees in connection with this Agreement, including, but not limited to, claims for personal injury, professional liability, or with respect to the failure to make proper payment of required taxes, withholding, employee benefits or statutory or other entitlements.

9. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** School will and will advise Program Participants to keep strictly confidential and hold in trust all non-public information of Hospital, including all patient information, and refrain from disclosing such confidential information to any third party without the express prior written consent of Hospital, provided that the minimum necessary confidential information may be disclosed pursuant to valid legal process after Hospital is permitted an opportunity to minimize the potential harmful affects of such disclosure. School shall not disclose the terms of this Agreement to any person who is not a party to this Agreement, except as required by law or as authorized by Hospital. These confidentiality requirements survive the termination or expiration of the Agreement. In addition to the requirements set forth in this Section, Program Participants shall abide by the terms of Exhibit B.

10. TERM; TERMINATION.

- (a) The term of this Agreement will commence on the Effective Date and will continue for two (2) years unless terminated as provided below (the "Term").
- (b) Either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time without cause upon at least sixty (60) calendar days prior written notice to the other Party, provided that all Participating Students participating in the Program at the time of notice of termination or who are already scheduled to train at the Facility shall be given the opportunity to complete the then-current Program rotation or previously scheduled clinical assignment.
- (c) The Parties may terminate this Agreement at any time by mutual written agreement.
- (d) Hospital may immediately terminate this Agreement at any time upon notice to School in the event of a breach of Section 11 of this Agreement.

11. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.

- (a) School hereby represents to Hospital as of the Effective Date and warrants to Hospital for the Term that:
 - (i) School and its Program Participants: (A) are not excluded, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in the Federal health care programs as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 1320a-7b(f) (the "Federal health care programs"); (B) are not convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of health care items or services but has not yet been excluded, debarred or otherwise declared ineligible to participate in the Federal health care programs, and (C) are not under investigation or otherwise aware of any circumstances which may result in the School, or a Program Participant being excluded from participation in the Federal health care programs; and
 - (ii) in the aggregate, School and all of School's affiliates compensate all physician employees and physician contractors (if any) (A) in an amount that is consistent with fair market value for actual services provided, and (B) in a manner that does not vary with or take into account the volume or value of patient referrals to, or other business generated for, Hospital or any of Hospital's affiliates. Furthermore, all of School's and its affiliates' compensation arrangements with physician employees and physician contractors are memorialized in a signed written agreement or other satisfy an exception to the Stark Law physician referral prohibitions provided in 42 U.S.C. § 1395nn(a)(1).

(b) The representation and warranty set forth above is an ongoing representation and warranty for the Term of this Agreement. School will immediately notify Hospital in writing of any change in status of the representation and warranty set forth in this section.

12. **TRAVEL EXPENSES.** No expense of School or of a Program Participant will be paid or reimbursed by Hospital unless that expense is approved by Hospital in writing in advance and is incurred and documented in accordance with applicable Hospital travel and expense policies.

13. **USE OF NAME OR LOGO.** School will not, and will cause Program Participants not to use names, logos or marks associated with Hospital without the express written consent of Hospital in each case.

14. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement and its Exhibits set forth the entire Agreement with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, oral or written, and all other communications between the Parties relating to such subject matter. This Agreement may not be amended or modified except by mutual written agreement of the Parties. All continuing covenants, duties and obligations herein shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

15. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with its terms disregarding such unenforceable or invalid provision.

16. **CAPTIONS.** The captions contained herein are used solely for convenience and shall not be deemed to define or limit the provisions of this Agreement.

17. **NO WAIVER.** Delay or failure to exercise any right or remedy hereunder will not impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver thereof. Any single or partial exercise of any right or remedy will not preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right or remedy.

18. **GOVERNING LAW.** This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the state in which Hospital is located. Venue for all disputes arising in connection with this Agreement will be in the federal or state courts with jurisdiction for the area where the Hospital is located.

19. **ASSIGNMENT; BINDING EFFECT.** School may not assign or transfer any of its rights, duties or obligations under this Agreement, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Hospital. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the Parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

20. **NOTICES.** All notices hereunder by either Party to the other shall be in writing, delivered personally, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, or by overnight courier, and shall be deemed to have been duly given when delivered personally or when deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

If to Hospital: Highlands Regional Medical Center
3600 S. Highlands Ave
Sebring, FL 33870
Attention: Chief Executive Officer

Copy to: HCA
One Park Plaza, Bldg. 1, 2-East
Nashville, TN 37203
Attention: Operations Counsel

If to School: South Florida State College
600 West College Drive
Avon Park, FL 33825
Attention: Dr. Michele Heston, Dean of Health Sciences

Attention: Associate Dean of Student Affairs

or to such other person or place as either Party may from time to time designate by written notice to the other Party.

21. **COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in multiple parts (by facsimile transmission or otherwise) and each counterpart shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute but one agreement. Electronic signatures will be considered originals.

22. **HIPAA REQUIREMENTS.** To the extent applicable to this Agreement, School agrees to comply with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (the "HITECH ACT"), the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as codified at 42 USC § 1320d through d-8 ("HIPAA") and any current and future regulations promulgated under either the HITECH Act or HIPAA including without limitation the federal privacy regulations contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164 (the "Federal Privacy Regulations"), the federal security standards contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160, 162 and 164 (the "Federal Security Regulations") and the federal standards for electronic transactions, all as may be amended from time to time, and all collectively referred to herein as "HIPAA Requirements". School further agrees not to use or disclose any Protected Health Information (as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 164.501) or Individually Identifiable Health Information (as defined in 42 USC § 1320d), other than as permitted by HIPAA Requirements and the terms of this Agreement. School will and will cause Program Participants to enter into any further agreements as necessary to facilitate compliance with HIPAA Requirements.

23. **NO REQUIREMENT TO REFER.** Nothing in this Agreement requires or obligates School to cause the admittance of a patient to Hospital or to use Hospital's services. None of the benefits granted pursuant to this Agreement are conditioned on any requirement or expectation that the Parties make referrals to, be in a position to make or influence referrals to, or otherwise generate business for the other Party. Neither Party is restricted from referring any services to, or otherwise generating any business for, any other entity of their choosing.

24. **NO PAYMENTS.** Except as provided in Section 5, no payments will be made between the Parties or to the Program Participants in connection with this Agreement.

25. **RECITALS.** The Recitals to this Agreement shall be an enforceable part of this Agreement, binding on the Parties as if fully set forth herein.

26. **EQUITABLE REMEDIES.** School acknowledges that the injury which might be suffered by Hospital in the event of any breach by School or non-compliance by Program Participants with the terms and conditions of this Agreement would be of a nature which could not be fully compensated for solely by a recovery of monetary damages, and accordingly agrees that in the event of any such breach or threatened breach, in addition to and not in lieu of any damages sustained by Hospital and any other remedies which Hospital may pursue hereunder or under applicable law, Hospital shall have the right to equitable relief, including issuance of a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction and/or permanent injunction by any court of competent jurisdiction, against the commission or continuation of such breach or threatened breach, without the necessity of proving any actual damages or the posting of any bond.

WHEREFORE, authorized representatives of each Party hereby execute this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

SCHOOL

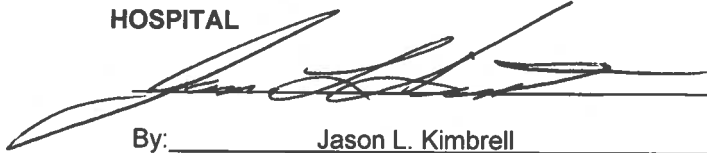


By: Thomas C. Leitzel, Ph.D.

Title: President

Date: 8-26-20

HOSPITAL



By: Jason L. Kimbrell

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: 5-27-20