



EXHIBIT "B"

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Item 5.2.1

PRESENT TO BOARD: OCTOBER 29, 2025

TO: SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: FRED HAWKINS 

SUBJECT: AFFILIATION AGREEMENT – STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, HIGHLANDS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Approval is requested to **renew** the clinical affiliation agreement between State of Florida Department of Health, Highlands County Health Department and South Florida State College. This is an updated affiliation agreement for the Health Science program.

This agreement will continue to provide SFSC's Health Science students with a clinical learning experience at the named agency. Unless terminated earlier per stated terms, this agreement shall be effective from September 1, 2025, or the latest date of signature by the parties, whichever is later, through September 1, 2028.

<u>SUGGESTED MOTION:</u>

Move to approve the agreement between State of Florida Department of Health, Highlands County Health Department and South Florida State College as presented.
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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HIGHLANDS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AND
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**

The purpose of this affiliation agreement is to guide and direct a working relationship between the State of Florida, Department of Health Highlands County Health Department, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPARTMENT", and South Florida State College, an institution providing health care profession education, hereinafter referred to as the "SCHOOL", for the provision of learning opportunities for SCHOOL's students.

RECITALS

The SCHOOL agrees:

1. To provide competent faculty for the planning and implementation of instruction, teaching, guidance, supervision, and evaluation of health care profession students, and to be responsible for the education program, academic affairs, and assessment of the students.
2. To require its students to work in accordance with all DEPARTMENT procedures, policies, protocols, rules, and regulations in carrying out the relationship described herein and in making plans for the observation of and/or practice in health care at DEPARTMENT facilities.
3. To provide or assure that students have the necessary, required, and appropriate books, periodicals and teaching materials for SCHOOL's educational program.
4. To submit to the DEPARTMENT a schedule indicating the number and names of students who will be participating in an internship under this agreement and the names of the faculty members who will be (indirectly or academically) supervising students during the students' rotation at DEPARTMENT facilities.
5. To plan student assignments in consultation with a representative of the DEPARTMENT.
6. To designate a contact person for evaluation and scheduling of student rotations and facilitation of communication between the parties.
7. To provide direct supervision of students whenever students are at DEPARTMENT facilities or indirect academic supervision of students engaged in a mutually agreeable practicum experience with a preceptor at the DEPARTMENT.
8. To initiate and/or participate in group conferences, as requested by DEPARTMENT at mutually agreed upon times, with a designee of the DEPARTMENT for the purpose of discussing objectives of the learning experiences and student performance in caring for patients.
9. To ensure that general and professional liability insurance insuring the SCHOOL, its employees, and its students who will be participating under this agreement, with limits of liability coverage in the amount of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) per claimant

and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) per occurrence, is obtained and maintained throughout the term of this agreement and any renewal thereof.

10. It is a material term of this agreement and necessary that the SCHOOL, its employees, and its students who will be participating under this agreement are covered under a general and professional liability policy with the abovementioned limits. However, it is not necessary that the SCHOOL, its employees, and its students who will be participating under this agreement are all covered under the same policy. As evidence of such coverage, the SCHOOL shall furnish to the DEPARTMENT applicable certificates of insurance sufficient to demonstrate full satisfaction of the requirements of this paragraph prior to students beginning their internship under this agreement and upon request thereafter. SCHOOL shall immediately inform DEPARTMENT of any lapses or changes to coverages that would bring SCHOOL out of compliance with this paragraph. Failure of the SCHOOL to ensure that such coverage is obtained and maintained shall be grounds for immediate termination of this agreement. If the SCHOOL is a public college or university in Florida, the SCHOOL may be self-insured through the State Risk Management Trust Fund, established pursuant to section 284.30, Florida Statutes, and administered by the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services, or may be otherwise insured pursuant to the provisions of section 1004.24, Florida Statutes.

11. To be fully responsible for its acts of negligence, or its agents'/students' acts of negligence when acting within the scope of their employment, education, or agency in connection with this Agreement, and agrees to be liable for any damages resulting from said negligence.

12. Unless SCHOOL is a state agency or subdivision under section 768.28, Florida Statutes, or otherwise protected by sovereign immunity under its respective state law, to be liable for and indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the DEPARTMENT and all of its officers, agents, and employees from all claims, suits, judgments, or damages, consequential or otherwise and including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, arising out of any negligent act, actions, neglect, or omissions by the SCHOOL, its agents, students, or employees during the performance or operation of this Agreement or any subsequent modifications thereof, whether direct or indirect, and whether to any person or tangible or intangible property. Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by any school to whom sovereign immunity may be applicable nor consent by a state agency or political subdivision of the State of Florida to be sued by third parties in any matter arising out of any contract.

13. To require that students maintain confidentiality of all data, files, and client records related to the services provided pursuant to this agreement and comply with state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, section 456.057, Florida Statutes, and 45 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 160, 162 and 164. The SCHOOL will require students' compliance with any applicable professional standards of practice with respect to patient confidentiality. Procedures will be implemented by the SCHOOL to require students to comply with the protection and confidentiality requirements outlined in the Department of Health Information Security Policies, Protocols, and Procedures, as amended, and Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which are incorporated herein by reference. The SCHOOL will require that, prior to beginning their internship at the Department, students be trained in all aspects of ethical standards pertaining to confidentiality issues and privacy rights including federal Privacy Rules and applicable state confidentiality laws. Solely for the purpose of defining students' roles in relation to the use and disclosure of the DEPARTMENT'S protected health information, the students are defined as members of the DEPARTMENT'S workforce, as that term is defined by 45 CFR 160.103, when engaged in activities pursuant to this agreement. However,

students are not and shall not be considered employees of the DEPARTMENT. This paragraph is not applicable to any students who do not access any confidential information.

14. To keep and maintain public records in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, including all public records required by the DEPARTMENT to perform the services entailed in this agreement, and to provide the public with access to such public records on the same terms and conditions that the DEPARTMENT would provide the records and at a cost that does not exceed that provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise provided by law; to ensure that public records that are exempt or that are confidential and exempt from public record requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the term of the agreement, including all renewals, and following completion of the agreement if SCHOOL does not transfer the records to DEPARTMENT; to meet all requirements for retaining public records as set forth in law and DEPARTMENT's retention schedules; and, upon completion of the contract, to transfer to the DEPARTMENT, at no cost to DEPARTMENT, all public records in possession of the SCHOOL and to destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. All records stored electronically must be provided to the DEPARTMENT in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the DEPARTMENT.

If the SCHOOL has questions regarding the application of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, to the SCHOOL's duty to provide public records relating to this contract, contact the custodian of public records at (850)245-4005, PublicRecordsRequest@flhealth.gov or 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A02, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

15. To assure that all students are background screened and meet the Level 2 screening requirements of section 435.04, Florida Statutes, prior to students beginning their internship at the DEPARTMENT. The SCHOOL agrees take steps to assure that students, and any SCHOOL personnel that accompany students or have access to DEPARTMENT's confidential records, inform the DEPARTMENT's designated contact person immediately if an arrest is made or a court disposition is entered for any disqualifying offense while participating in this internship. The DEPARTMENT will immediately remove the student from the internship program, or the personnel from further involvement in the program or access to records, if DEPARTMENT determines, in its sole discretion, that continued involvement of that student or personnel would violate the requirements of section 435.04, Florida Statutes, or would otherwise pose a risk to health or safety of any individual(s) or the public. The DEPARTMENT shall not be responsible for any costs associated with this paragraph.

The DEPARTMENT agrees:

1. To provide health care profession students accepted into this internship program access to a planned supervised program of internship experience for the area(s) of practice/study mutually agreed upon by the parties.
2. To provide designated staff members as internship supervisors for students. For clinical experiences, such staff members shall be duly licensed, qualified, and experienced with no less than one year of clinical experience in their designated field and possess sufficient experience to

safely and effectively supervise students participating in the rotation. The DEPARTMENT's provision of such supervisors will not substitute for or diminish the requirement that SCHOOL provide faculty supervision as set forth in Paragraph 7 above.

3. To designate a contact person for evaluation and scheduling of student rotations and facilitation of communication between the parties.

4. To make available to the students of the SCHOOL the DEPARTMENT facilities as agreed upon by both designated contact persons.

5. To retain overall responsibility for the quantity and quality of patient care in DEPARTMENT facilities.

6. To give SCHOOL five days' notice prior to removing from the internship program any students not comporting themselves in accordance with the procedures, protocols, regulations, rules, or statutes governing the DEPARTMENT unless DEPARTMENT deems immediate removal necessary, which such removal and determination of immediate necessity shall be at the sole discretion of the DEPARTMENT.

7. To provide as available the physical facilities, equipment, supplies, and patients to supplement an educational program in accordance with the objective of providing an internship experience to health care profession students. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the DEPARTMENT may, at its discretion, temporarily remove access to facilities, equipment, supplies, and patients in the interest of the health or safety of patients, employees, students, or other interns.

8. The DEPARTMENT, a state agency or subdivision, is self-insured through the State Risk Management Trust Fund established pursuant to section 284.30, Florida Statutes, and administered by the State of Florida, Department of Financial Services. The DEPARTMENT certifies that it maintains and agrees to continue to maintain during the term of this agreement, general and professional liability protection coverage through the State Risk Management Trust Fund, and that this protection extends to the Department of Health, its officers, employees, and agents, and covers statutory liability exposure to the limitations described in section 768.28, Florida Statutes. Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by any party to whom sovereign immunity may be applicable. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by a state agency or subdivision of the State of Florida to be sued by third parties. The DEPARTMENT cannot insure or indemnify the SCHOOL, its officers, employees, students, and agents, or any third parties.

9. For student rotations designated by the SCHOOL as non-clinical, students will not participate in patient care or any other clinical activities while at the DEPARTMENT.

General Terms:

1. Independent Contractor: No relationship of employer/employee, principal/agent, or other association shall be created by this agreement between the parties or their directors, officers, agents, students, or employees. Students shall, at all times, be considered "independent" and shall, under no circumstances, be considered employees of the DEPARTMENT. The parties agree that they will never act or represent that they are acting as an agent of the other or incur any obligations on the part of the other party.

2. Remedies; Limitations of Liability: Neither party shall be liable to the other for punitive, exemplary, special, indirect, or consequential damages, including without limitation, lost profits, each party's aggregate liability being limited to the other party's direct damages, and other costs set forth herein. This paragraph may only be interpreted as further limitation of the SCHOOL's and DEPARTMENT'S exposure; it shall not be interpreted as a waiver of sovereign immunity beyond that stated in section 768.28, Florida Statutes. In addition to the foregoing, the DEPARTMENT shall not be liable to students, faculty, or SCHOOL in the event of exposure to an infectious, environmental, occupational, or other hazard not caused by the willful or negligent conduct of the DEPARTMENT.

3. Notice: When either party to this Agreement desires to give notice to the other, such notice must be in writing, and delivered by (i) United States certified or registered mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested, (ii) a nationally recognized overnight delivery service, (iii) personal delivery with a written receipt obtained, or (iv) email transmission with confirmation of receipt provided by the recipient via returned email, at the addresses set forth below. Notices shall be effective upon receipt. Presently, the parties designate the following as the respective places for giving notice:

For DEPARTMENT

Name: Ahylia Ramnarain
Title: Administrative Assistant/Personnel Liaison
Address: 7205 S. George Blvd
Sebring, FL 33875
Telephone: 863-382-7261
E-mail: Ahylia.Ramnarain@flhealth.gov

For SCHOOL

Name: Kathleen Cappel
Title: Dean, Health Sciences
School Name: South Florida State College
Address: 600 W. College Dr
Avon Park, FL 33825
Telephone: 863-784-7227
Email: Kathleen.Cappel@southflorida.edu

4. Term and Renewal: Unless terminated earlier as provided herein, the term of this agreement shall be from September 1, 2025, or the latest date of signature by the parties, whichever is later, through September 1, 2028. This agreement may be renewed on a yearly basis for no more than three years or the term of the original contract, whichever period is longer. Any renewal shall be in writing upon mutual agreement and subject to the same terms and conditions as set forth in this initial agreement.

5. Termination: This agreement may be terminated by either party upon no less than 30 calendar days' notice in writing to the other party, with or without cause, unless a lesser time is mutually agreed upon in writing by both parties. Such notice shall be delivered by certified mail,

return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery. The parties will thereafter work cooperatively to coordinate the termination of the services provided under this agreement and use their best efforts to schedule such termination on a date that allows internship rotation(s) already in progress to be completed where circumstances permit.

6. Entire Agreement and Modification: This agreement represents the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the matters covered herein and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements, representations, and discussion, whether oral or written. This agreement may only be altered, amended, or modified in a writing signed by both parties.

7. Jurisdiction and Venue. This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, without respect to its conflict of laws principles. With respect to any action arising out of this agreement, the parties accept the exclusive jurisdiction of the state courts in Florida and agree that venue shall lie exclusively in Highlands County, Florida.

8. Capacity: Each individual signing this agreement on behalf of either party individually warrants that he or she has the full legal power to execute this agreement on behalf of the party for whom he or she is signing and to bind and obligate such party with respect to all provisions contained in this agreement.

9. Counterparts: This agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same document.

10. Cooperation with the Inspector General: SCHOOL acknowledges and understands that it has a duty to and will cooperate with the Inspector General in any investigation, audit, inspection, review, or hearing, pursuant to section 20.055(5), Florida Statutes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties approve this agreement and have caused it to be executed by their undersigned officials who are duly authorized.

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HIGHLANDS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT


Signature


Signature

Name: Fred Hawkins

Name: Jennifer Hood

Title: President

Title: Administrator

Date: 11/16/25

Date: 11/13/2025