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Complete Florida Welcomes Polk State College to Statewide Education Partnership

Online learning and personal coaches help Floridians finish college and earn a degree

Pensacola, Fla. – April 15, 2016 – Complete Florida, a statewide initiative administered by the University of West Florida Innovation Institute, recently announced the addition of Polk State College, a multi-campus institution serving more than 20,000 students in Central Florida. The partnership strives to enroll and graduate Floridians who started college but never obtained a degree.

“We are proud to welcome Polk State College to Complete Florida,” said Dr. Pam Northrup, senior associate provost and chief executive officer for the UWF Innovation Institute. “Polk State College is committed to student success, which is the central organizing principle of Complete Florida. We want students to graduate with a degree that helps them get a better job with a higher income and greater economic security.”

Complete Florida offers more than 70 online degree programs at colleges and universities across the state. Polk State College will offer six new degrees, including three associate’s degrees and three bachelor’s degrees.

The two-year associate’s degree programs will include business administration and criminal justice in addition to an Associate of Arts that prepares graduates to transfer seamlessly to a public college or university. The four-year bachelor’s degree programs will include supervision and management, as well as an RN to BSN nursing degree and a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice.

“Success is our biggest priority,” said Eileen Holden, president of Polk State College. “With Complete Florida, we will be able to help adults come back to college and earn their degree.”

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About [Complete Florida](#): Complete Florida is a state of Florida initiative to recruit and retain the state's 2.8 million adults who have some college but no degree. Partnering with public and private higher education institutions in Florida, Complete Florida provides one-on-one planning, support and coaching for students with adult responsibilities. Dedicated coaches work alongside students as personal advocates, counselors and advisors while participants complete college courses 100 percent online. For more information, visit completeflorida.org.

About the [UWF Innovation Institute](#): The Innovation Institute is a division of the University of West Florida. The Innovation team, founded around the principles of extreme collaboration, high energy, deep research and innovative thinking are focused on solving significant educational challenges. One of the cornerstones of the Institute is its focus on being a “Thought Leader” in education -- creating and implementing innovative tools, programs and resources to the advancement of education and learning.

About [Polk State College](#): Polk State College, established in 1964, is a multi-campus institution serving over 20,000 students with Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science, Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees, as well as a wide range of certificate and workforce training options.