



PRFSC Feb 2020 Meeting Minutes

On Thursday Feb 13, 2020 PRFSC hosted Valencia College Poinciana to provide a community update session. Valencia College originally looked to open a campus in Poinciana for the purpose of increasing the percentage of Osceola County/Poinciana students going on to higher education past the high school level. Prior to opening of the Poinciana campus this area had one of the lowest percentages of students seeking education beyond high school in Florida. Since the campus opened that percentage has improved significantly.

Poinciana is a community made up of many minority race population families. The student demographics enrolment chart below shows reflects these facts.

Student Demographics

Gender	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019
Female	54.5%	57.9%	57.4%
Male	43.6%	39.8%	39.7%
Race/Ethnicity			
African American	19.0%	17.4%	17.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.3%	2.8%	3.4%
Caucasian	10.9%	9.1%	10.6%
Hispanic	54.4%	55.7%	57.8%
Native American	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Other	13.0%	14.6%	10.6%
Status			
Part-time	46.5%	53.8%	56.6%
Full-time	53.5%	46.2%	43.4%
Degree Type			
Associate of Arts	76.9%	74.1%	69.9%
Associate of Science	15.0%	13.1%	14.3%

In addition to locating Valencia Poinciana Campus more closely to the large population in the Poinciana area one of the more attractive aspects of Valencia College is the total cost for a student to attend and graduate from Valencia. Valencia is rated as one of the top 5 least expensive colleges to attend in the State of Florida.

The chart below shows the comparison of costs to attend Valencia compared to the costs to attend other colleges in the State of Florida. It was stated that the average cost for tuition at Valencia is \$1200 for tuition, plus an additional \$1300 in student fees and another \$1200 for books for a total of \$3700 per semester or \$14,800 total cost to obtain a two year degree.

Enrollment: Tuition and Fees

Cost of Attendance Per Credit Hour

	Valencia College	Public University*	Private Two-Year	Private University
Florida Resident	\$103.06	\$198	\$504	\$599
Non-Florida resident	\$390.96	\$688	\$504 OR MORE	\$599 OR MORE
International	\$390.96	\$696		
Bachelor's Florida Resident	\$112.19	\$198		
Bachelor's Non-Florida Resident	\$427.59	\$688		
Bachelor's International	\$427.59	\$688		

In order to help Poinciana students to pay for the cost of a Valencia college degree there are a number of types of financial assistance available. One of the most popular forms of assistance are grants which do not have to be paid back. Federal Pell grants are available based on the student's family level of income. Pell grants can offer as much as \$6,000 plus per year down to as little as \$320 per year depending on family income level. Surprisingly only 52.8% of students enrolled at Valencia Poinciana campus received Pell Grants for the current calendar year.

Another program very popular among Poinciana Campus students is the Federal Work-Study Program. This program offers students part time jobs on campus paying \$10 per hour up to a max of \$20 hours per week.

Valencia Poinciana campus faces some unique challenges because it draws students from a local community who do not reside on campus. Valencia believes that in addition to classroom activities creating a campus social environment for the students is an important part of their education. In addition to student government functions Valencia encourages student volunteer activities where students become involved in community activities such as Disney Wilderness Preserve, Give Kids the World and many others. There are also a variety of clubs where students having interests in similar activities and cultural activities can meet together. The college encourages student participation in out of the classroom activities to allow students from different backgrounds to interact and share with each other as part of the college experience.

Another key part of the Valencia experience is the student retention programs. While it is important to reach out to the community to bring students into the college an important part of their offerings is to keep the students on track to passing their

courses and to gaining their degrees. In order to do this the college works with each classroom professor to have them report during the middle of the semester students who are falling behind so that the college can reach out to those students to get them the additional help that they need to get back on track and to finish each course with a passing grade. These early alert programs also provide feedback to the college administration about the course material and individual professors so that the college can constantly improve their materials and offerings.

Since the college has been opened the early alert and retention programs has allowed Valencia to significantly improve the percentage of students who were able to graduate from the college gaining their desired degrees but also the amount of time required to gain the credit hours needed to obtain their degrees.

In Summary Valencia's Poinciana campus hopes to exceed the growth rate for Poinciana over the next few years. Anticipated enrollment for next year is expected to increase 20% to 2200 students for the fall semester. Dual enrollment where Poinciana High School kids can take college credit course hours at Valencia while still attending Poinciana High Schools is increasing. While the increase in enrollment is significant the goal is to increase the graduation rate percentage even faster percentage rate than the enrollment. In order to accomplish this the plan is to increase focus on their early alerts so that they can continue to improve their graduation rate.

They are also placing more focus on math outreach programs. In fact they just hired a new full time math professor.

While they have actually achieved the original goal that they set for themselves to increase the percentage of Poinciana area kids going on to college they have increased their objective trying to achieve a new goal of having Poinciana send a higher percentage of high school kids going to college after graduation than the rest of the state.

The Valencia College Poinciana Campus was an exciting and significant addition to the Poinciana Community. It is nice to hear that they are being so successful. PRFSC greatly appreciates them providing the update that they did and hope that they will continue the fine work into the future.