



**Florida Resident Access Grant Background
Lee County Delegation Meeting**

December 3, 2013

- The Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) provides tuition assistance to Florida undergraduate students attending an eligible private, nonprofit Florida College or University.
- Eligible institutions include the 31 members of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF). In addition to being private and nonprofit, these schools must be chartered in Florida and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). This accreditation requirement ensures that the quality of education delivered at the private schools is equivalent to that at the public schools and universities which are also accredited by SACSCOC.
- In order for students to be eligible to receive FRAG, they must be attending an eligible institution on a full-time basis, be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, be a resident of Florida for at least one year, and not have previously earned a bachelor's degree or higher.
- The FRAG provides the opportunity for students to stay in Florida to complete their education rather than leave the state if the state schools are at capacity. It also saves the taxpayers money by not having to build another state school to address access issues.
- The FRAG contributes to the overall Florida economy because students who attend private colleges in Florida usually stay in Florida and contribute to Florida's workforce.
- The FRAG is important to students who attend Hodges University because it allows students to afford to go full time, thus completing their degree in a shorter period of time than if they were to attend part time. Most of the students who attend Hodges University are adult learners and are therefore self-supporting, so grant funds assist them in financing their education.
- The FRAG is currently at \$2500 per student per academic year. The original proposal for the FRAG was \$3000 per student. The last time the FRAG was at the \$3000 level was for the 2007-2008 academic year. Hodges University and the other ICUF schools would like to see the FRAG increased to the \$3000 level.