

Board of Governors
Type I Campus Proposal
University of Central Florida – UCF Downtown

Appendix D

UCF and Valencia College Support Letters

VALENCIA COLLEGE

January 28, 2015

John Hitt, Ph.D.
President
University of Central Florida

Dear John:

I would like to provide a brief update on Valencia's planning for the partnership campus in downtown Orlando.

First, we are delighted to be partnered with you in this important work and especially take to heart the responsibility to bring services to residents already in and near the proposed site.

We are planning with your team to provide a full complement of lower division and general education coursework and to collaborate, seamlessly, on the services that wrap around them. These courses will be available to students seeking Valencia A.S. degrees, A.A. degrees as a part of DirectConnect to UCF, and UCF students. In addition, we acknowledge that UCF will also offer a streamlined set of general education courses to insure that UCF first time in college students will have the choice to meet their general education requirements with UCF taught courses on the downtown campus.

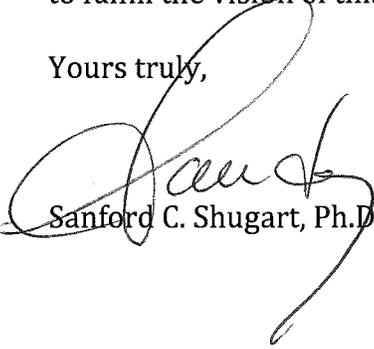
Signature programs in planning for relocation to the downtown site include computer graphics and interactive design and the Walt Disney World Center for Hospitality and Culinary arts, comprising a suite of majors related to hospitality management and, obviously, high level culinary training. Slightly more than 2,000 students are currently enrolled in these programs. Additionally, while not relocating them, we plan to expand programming in arts and entertainment to the site, including film technology, music recording technology, etc.

Our short- and long-term programmatic plans for the downtown site do not duplicate academic programs planned to be offered by UCF. We will continue our longstanding commitment to offer complementary programs that complete high-demand academic and workforce pathways in Central Florida and to extend residents a broader on ramp to high education.

All of these decisions have been vetted with Valencia's Board of Trustees, and the college already has approval for a downtown campus from the State Board of Education going back many years – the authority under which our Downtown Center operated on the corner of Orange Avenue and Church Street.

Please know that Valencia will continue to work vigorously in partnership with the university to fulfill the vision of this important investment in the future of Orlando.

Yours truly,



Sanford C. Shugart, Ph.D.



October 19, 2015

Dr. Sanford Shugart
President
Valencia College
P.O. BOX 3028
Orlando, Florida 32802

Re: Letter of Assurance regarding UCF Downtown Academic Building

Dear President Shugart:

The University of Central Florida in partnership with Valencia College is striving to develop a 21st-century campus in downtown Orlando. This full-service campus would be located on an approximately 15-acre site donated by the City of Orlando and include a new academic building, the renovation of an existing facility, student services, academic support, housing, parking, and recreation and health services.

Our combined efforts will result in a world-class, best-in-the-nation site for academic and research innovation, collaborative partnerships, and community and industry engagement. UCF hereby assures Valencia College that any funding provided toward the project will be used to construct the new academic building in the heart of the downtown campus.

The downtown campus expands UCF's long-standing partnership with Valencia, which would relocate complementary programming and offer non-duplicated coursework. In addition to UCF course offerings, this new academic building will provide learning and faculty office space to support the full complement of courses required to receive a Valencia College associate's degree.

We recognize the opportunity for both UCF and Valencia to enhance access to degree attainment and quality of education through our DirectConnect to UCF program, and look forward to collaborative and collegial interactions between the administration, faculty, staff, and students of both institutions at the downtown campus.

As part of this assurance, UCF and Valencia will work together to provide a shared lower-division strategy that eliminates course duplication. In addition, both institutions will create a common student experience that focuses on student success, working to further streamline the academic experience and transfer/transition process between institutions.

Valencia will offer the lower-division courses at the downtown campus. UCF will provide specific downtown program prerequisites not offered by Valencia, and all downtown students will have access to and benefit from these courses.

October 19, 2015
Letter of Assurance
page two

Academic leadership teams from UCF and Valencia are working together through an advisory committee to deliver this shared experience, including efforts to enhance curricula alignment and pedagogy across lower-division education for the betterment and success of our students.

This committee, along with UCF and Valencia's leadership, is committed to the success of this shared strategy, and agrees to an assurance of quality and evidence of preparedness for upper-division courses offered at the downtown campus.

This joint assurance will include evaluations of lower-division learning outcomes by UCF and Valencia representatives every three years once the downtown campus opens to ensure all students' success toward graduation.

I look forward to reviewing the details with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dale Whittaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

A. Dale Whittaker
Provost and Executive Vice President
University of Central Florida

ADW:cd