



# Cross College Alliance

Rethinking education. Together.

[crosscollegealliance.org](http://crosscollegealliance.org)

About the Alliance:

## 1. What is the Cross College Alliance?

The Alliance is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement executed by the five members. The Board is comprised of each institution's chief executive. The leaders agree on projects and budgets annually. There are standing committees across the campuses led by Chief Academic Officers, Chief Business Officers, Chief Student Life Officers, and Communication and Marketing Directors.

An Alliance Manager oversees the Alliance but the majority of work is shared among the institutional staffs. The Ringling College of Art and Design is the fiscal sponsor and employs or contracts for the Alliance staff.

## 2. Where is the Cross College Alliance located?

The five members are located in Sarasota and Manatee counties with main campuses no more than a few miles from each other on Florida's West Coast.

## 3. How did the Cross College Alliance get started?

Leaders from New College of Florida, Ringling College of Art and Design, State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota, The Ringling/FSU and University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee began meeting in 2014 with the support of our local Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The working group formed as the Consortium of Colleges on the Creative Coast or C4. As the group developed a mission

and goals and adopted a formal agreement, the name changed to Cross College Alliance.

#### 4. What's the mission of the Cross College Alliance?

Rethinking education together to broaden educational experiences through unique but complementary programs, services and philosophies, to cultivate the pursuit of knowledge and to establish our region as a destination for academic excellence.

#### 5. Who governs the Alliance?

Each member is represented by its senior executive:

Dr. Donal O'Shea, President, New College of Florida

Dr. Larry Thompson, President, Ringling College of Art and Design

Dr. Carol Probstfeld, President, State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota

Mr. Steven High, Executive Director, The Ringling

Dr. Karen Holbrook, Regional Chancellor, University of South Florida Sarasota Manatee

#### 6. How is the Cross College Alliance funded?

The majority of resources come through member institution staffing for project development, planning and implementation. Together, the Alliance seeks grants from foundations and government that either expedite results or go beyond available institutional resources.

Our local foundations created a Foundation Partnership to fund the Alliance's start-up activities and initial projects. Partnership members include Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Gulf Coast Community Foundation and the Manatee Community Foundation.

#### 7. What motivates these institutions to band together?

Alliance members include a comprehensive regional university, a state college with extensive workforce certificates and degrees, a four-year liberal art colleges, an art and design college and a world-class museum

with university programs. Four institutions are public and one is private. Together, we cover a broad higher education spectrum. We have unique programs; we don't compete but complement each other. We are smaller institutions but together we have some 16,200 students, 400 faculty, 154 degrees and certificates and more than 1,500 full-time employees.

#### 8. What are the best opportunities for rethinking education together?

We've identified five broad areas of opportunity:

- Shared programs, services, curriculum and social events that help attract and retain students
- Shared research projects and connections among faculty that enhance grant access and benefit the region
- Create a culture of collaboration and cooperation among Alliance faculty, staff and students that attracts and retains this talent
- Leverage complementary resources to maximize efficiencies and impact
- Build awareness as an innovative higher education destination for college, communities and employers

#### 9. What are the Cross College Alliance's current initiatives?

a. Cross registration: New College of Florida, Ringling College of Art and Design, State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota and University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee launched a pilot program in fall 2016. A Cross Registration Council made up of Registrars manages the program. The program broadens educational opportunities by allowing qualified students to take courses across the colleges on a space available basis.

b. Faculty collaborations: New College of Florida leads the Mellon Foundation funded five-year project in the arts and humanities. Faculty collaborations are funded at NCF and across the colleges. New faculty events have helped make connections for grant development and discipline collaborations. An Alliance searchable database will be developed as part of our website to make it easier for faculty to connect. Cross college grants are being explored and developed with the chief academic officers.

c. Co-Branding: We are building awareness of the region as a higher education destination. Students and faculty from Ringling School of Art and Design worked with the member institutions' communication and marketing officers to create our branding and visual identity components. The new brand was launched in summer 2017 the initial webpage is [crosscollegealliance.org](http://crosscollegealliance.org).

d. Career Services: We are all facing increased interest and demands to improve career placements of our graduates. All of our colleges have or are in the process of changing career services models and increasing investments; we are leveraging our work. This includes planning effective student - employer events as well as developing a talent connector tool accessible on the Alliance website. Key partners include the Gulf Coast CEO Forum, the Bradenton EDC, the Sarasota County EDC, area Chambers and others.

e. Student Life: Student surveys informed co-branding and several project areas. Students identified shared events as important to improving their college town experience. The chief student life officers are coordinating some joint fall 2017 welcome events. Ringling/FSU promotes its monthly Underground events to Alliance students; the museum and these events are free to all our students with valid identification.

f. Leveraging resources and efficiencies: The chief business officers have worked on emergency management issues and training. Several are developing a business continuation plan especially to address hurricane-type events; four campuses are essentially on bayfronts. They also have identified shared training areas in finance, information technology and human resources.

10. How do I learn more about the Cross College Alliance?

Go to [www.crosscollegealliance.org](http://www.crosscollegealliance.org) or contact

Dr. Laurey T. Stryker, Alliance Manager. She can be reached at [ltstryker.crosscollege@gmail.com](mailto:ltstryker.crosscollege@gmail.com) and 941-302-0407.

February 5, 2018

