

**RESOLUTION 2019-\_\_\_\_**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF PALM COAST**

**A RESOLUTION OF FLAGLER COUNTY RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PRESENCE WITHIN THE CITY OF PALM COAST; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Palm Coast was established on September 21, 1999 through a citizen referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has nearly tripled in size since then, and during this period of growth it was declared by the U.S. Census Bureau to be the “fastest growing metropolitan area” in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to sustain such growth and a high quality of life, it is critical that higher education opportunities be readily available to the City’s residents and the residents in surrounding areas; and

**WHEREAS**, a citizenry trained in high-demand fields will contribute to a strong employment market in the region, and such an outcome requires close collaboration between employers, educators and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, employers and educators have identified the medical field as a fast-growing and critically important market sector for the entire Northeast and Northcentral Florida region; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet regional workforce needs and train the graduates of the future, the University of North Florida (UNF) is undertaking a bold initiative called “MedNEX,” the nation’s first comprehensive, university-based medical nexus; and

**WHEREAS**, a major component of the UNF MedNex initiative involves the establishment of a presence in the City of Palm Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Palm Coast desires to work closely with UNF and a host of other public and private-sector stakeholders to bring world-class, industry-relevant educational opportunities to its residents and individuals throughout Flagler County and adjacent counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governments of Flagler County, Flagler County School District, Town of Beverly Beach, City of Bunnell, City of Flager Beach, Town of Marineland and

the City of Palm Coast have come together in recognition that the UNF MedNex initiative elevates the entire Northeast and Northcentral Florida Region, Flagler County and our Cities and Towns and this initiative is supported as a unified legislative priority.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** Flagler County hereby strongly endorses the founding of a State University System presence in the City of Palm Coast, commends the University of North Florida for its desire to serve as an educational partner for the region and its leadership in helping satisfy regional workforce needs through the MedNEX initiative, and urges the Florida State University System Board of Governors, Florida Legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis to support the establishment of such programs as may be necessary to further such goals.

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County, Florida, on this \_\_\_ day of November 2019.