



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CONTACT:**

Polk State College  
Madison Fantozzi  
Director of Communications  
E: [mfantozzi@polk.edu](mailto:mfantozzi@polk.edu)  
C: 954.594.9808

## **SUNCOAST CREDIT UNION DONATES \$25,000 TO POLK STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENTS CHALLENGED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

WINTER HAVEN and TAMPA, Fla. (May 6, 2020) – Suncoast Credit Union, Florida’s largest credit union, announced Monday that it will donate \$25,000 to the Polk State College Foundation with \$20,000 of the generous gift designated for scholarships. The remaining \$5,000 will assist students who are experiencing financial hardships because of the coronavirus public health emergency.

“This generous donation came in at a time when it’s needed most,” Polk State President Angela Garcia Falconetti said. “The Foundation’s emergency scholarships are in high demand because of COVID-19 and this contribution will allow us to continue to give students the hand up they need to stay on course of their dreams of obtaining college degrees.”

The Polk State College Foundation provides approximately \$1.5 million in student scholarships each year and, since 2007, has awarded more than \$946,000 in emergency scholarships to students who have encountered unexpected life circumstances that would have prevented the completion of their academic goals.

Suncoast Credit Union’s contribution to the Polk State College Foundation is a portion of Suncoast’s million-dollar donation to provide economic relief to those affected by COVID-19 in the communities the credit union serves. As an essential service provider, the credit union has been on the front lines interacting from a safe distance with employees and members who have also been affected. That unique window created the will to assess and assist with problems associated with the coronavirus.

“While we are focused on supporting our members financially, we feel a moral obligation to support other basic needs during this very challenging time. We admire and are inspired by other charitable organizations who are providing relief through private donations like ours,” said Suncoast Credit Union President & CEO Kevin Johnson. “People are struggling through no fault of their own and because of the support of our Board of Directors, Suncoast is committed to doing what we can to address these serious needs.”

Organizations have been selected due to need, viability, and sustainability and with consideration to the mission, vision, and core values of Suncoast Credit Union. After careful review, executives of the credit union made the decision to focus on three primary areas – healthcare, hunger, and education.

While Suncoast has been an active member of the communities it serves both as a community partner and through the funding of the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation, this donation is the first of its size during the credit union’s 86-year history.

In 1990, Suncoast Credit Union founded the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit

organization established to benefit sick children and their families and to support educational initiatives. The foundation is a vehicle for Suncoast to support the communities served and assist residents who live there. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised and donated over \$29 million to help provide a better future for the children of the communities Suncoast serves. In 2019, the Foundation donated \$3.5 million. This particular contribution is separate from and in addition to the Foundation giving.

#### **About Polk State College Foundation**

*The Polk State College Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt corporation whose purpose is to provide Polk State College with resources for the advancement of the College, its students, faculty, staff and other constituencies in fulfillment of the College's mission. The Foundation works in tandem with the College to help it meet its hallmarks and commitment to the community of access and affordability to higher education. Scholarships are a key way the Foundation accomplishes this and, as such, remains the Foundation's number one fundraising priority. The Polk State College Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of community leaders, as well as a strong management team to ensure that your donation is wisely managed and leveraged to maximize the benefit to the students. The Polk State College Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations to the Polk State College Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

#### **About Suncoast Credit Union**

*Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in the state of Florida, the ninth largest in the United States based on membership, and the 10th largest in the United States based on its \$11.4 billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast Credit Union currently operates 71 full-service branches and serves more than 884,000 members in the following 39 Florida counties: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter and Volusia. Since its founding in 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated more than \$29 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education and emotional well-being of children in the communities that the credit union serves. For more information, visit: [suncoastcreditunion.com](http://suncoastcreditunion.com) or follow us on social media at: [Facebook.com/SuncoastCreditUnion](https://www.facebook.com/SuncoastCreditUnion), [Linkedin.com/company/suncoastcreditunion](https://www.linkedin.com/company/suncoastcreditunion), [Twitter.com/SuncoastCU](https://twitter.com/SuncoastCU) or [Instagram.com/suncoastcreditunion](https://www.instagram.com/suncoastcreditunion).*

**###**