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LSSC AMONG TOP 150 COMMUNITY COLLEGE ELIGIBLE FOR 2017 ASPEN PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE

Leesburg, FL. – Lake-Sumter State College is among the top 150 community colleges across the nation eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million dollars in prize funds. Every two years the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program highlights the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges by recognizing institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

In a press release issued by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, Executive Director Josh Wyner said, "There are exceptional community colleges across our country providing students with a high-quality, affordable education that leads to good careers and strong economic opportunity. Through this competition, we're working to inspire community colleges and help them understand how to ensure that more students succeed."

In 2013, the Aspen Institute ranked Lake-Sumter State College among the top ten percent of community colleges in the United States. President Stanley Sidor said it is a great honor for LSSC to once again compete for this prestigious national award. "This puts LSSC in the good company of top-notch, innovative community colleges across the nation that are making significant strides in improving student success," said Dr. Sidor.

A full list of the selected colleges and details on the selection process are available at www.aspeninstitute.org

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About Lake-Sumter State College

As a member of the Florida College System, Lake-Sumter State College has offered quality education to the communities of Lake and Sumter Counties for more than half a century. LSSC serves more than 6,000 students annually at its three-campuses: Leesburg, South Lake (Clermont) and Sumterville. LSSC offers technical certificates and associate degrees in: business, computer information technology, criminal justice environmental science, education, electrical distribution technology, engineering technology, health information technology, nursing and office administration. LSSC also offers a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Organizational Management. Through a unique linkage program with the University of Central Florida, Associate in Arts graduates are guaranteed admission to UCF.