



April 15, 2019

Edwin R. Massey, Ph.D., President
Indian River State College
3209 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Dear Dr. Massey:

Congratulations to Indian River State College (IRSC) for winning the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The City of Fort Pierce has been home to Indian River State College (IRSC) for six decades. We have always considered this institution to be an asset for our community. This year, IRSC winning the Aspen Prize showed the world what we already knew.

Since its inception, IRSC has been working towards improving our community and the four-county area which it serves. When you shepherded in the four-year degree programs, the benefit was enormous, because students, of all ages in the four counties of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie could easily further their education. The four-year degrees you offered were planned to coincide with the needs of our area.

IRSC then made a conscious decision to go one step further. Under your leadership, the college fostered a culture of making sure every student succeeds. IRSC recognized that some of its students were always on the edge of not completing their studies. You decided to make sure the bridge was in place, so that struggling students could identify a career pathway, cross the finish line, and be employable upon completion.

Not only do you make sure students are able to earn a living wage upon graduation, you also motivate the half-hearted student to consider more than he or she every dreamed in terms of educational attainment, and career accomplishment. Finally, you have made it possible for our children and grandchildren to be able to find work and career at home.

We are so very proud of IRSC and what you have accomplished. We recognize that in order to win the prize, you, your faculty, administrators and students had to use your combined imagination, innovation, dedication, and sheer hard work and perseverance to convince the judges that you are worthy of the top spot. Thank you for winning the Aspen Prize, and for making Fort Pierce a better place to live, learn, work and play. We are proud to be your community partner.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson
Mayor