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## Levy County issues proclamation to honor CF's 60th Anniversary



**CF President Dr. James D. Henningsen (left) stands at the microphone joined by CF Manager of College Relations Danielle Doty (center) and CF Vice President of Regional Campuses Vernon Lawter.**

**Story and Photos © Sept. 19, 2017 at 10:37 p.m.**

**BRONSON** -- Members of the Levy County Commission on Tuesday morning (Sept. 19) voted 5-0 to adopt a proclamation to recognize the 60th anniversary of the College of Central Florida.

The unanimous vote came after a motion by Levy County Commissioner Rock Meeks was seconded by Commissioner Lilly Rooks.

CF President Dr. James D. Henningsen opened his presentation by speaking about Hurricane Irma.

He applauded Levy County for its efforts in preparing for the storm.

Dr. Henningsen said he is thankful for the efforts of people in the Emergency Operations Centers in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties, as well as the first responders, linemen and others who helped the residents and visitors prepare for the pending hurricane, safely get through the storm and now to recover from it.

“Great actions and the human spirit come forth when we are faced with a challenging tragedy like this,” Henningsen said. “We like to have that spirit every single day. And I think we have it here in Levy County. I am proud to be part of this community.”

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**CF Director of Marketing and Public Relations Lois Brauckmuller reviews a photograph from the event.**

He mentioned that students he spoke with the day before (Monday, Sept. 18) were still without electric power.'

"We're doing whatever we can at the college to help them out," President Henningsen said.

CF leaders chose to wait until Monday to restart classes, because even though all of the campuses were ready, there were students who could not make it due to obstacles in roads, downed trees and a lack of electricity at their homes.

Dr. Henningsen and other administrators also helped pick up limbs and the like at all three campuses after the hurricane, as well as providing food to the grounds crew – many of whom did not have electricity at their homes while they cleaned up the campuses.

The college president said the entire staff at CF work as one team.

The event on Tuesday morning was to celebrate the successes of the college during the past 60 years.

Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks read the proclamation.

It covered the progress of the college during the past six decades.

It started as Central Florida Junior College (CFJC) in 1957 to serve the education needs of students in Marion, Citrus and Levy counties.

Hampton Junior College, one of the first black junior colleges, was founded in 1958. In 1966, CFJC merged with Hampton Junior College to become the Central Florida Community College (CFCC).

A free-standing CFCC campus opened in 1996 in Citrus County.

The Bronson Center of CFCC opened in 1982, and classes were relocated to the Levy Center of CFCC in 1993.

In 2010, CFCC became the College of Central Florida at the same time it began offering baccalaureate degrees.

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The college made history with the opening of the first permanent higher education facility in Levy County when it opened the Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus last month, the proclamation noted.

“Whereas, the college has never lost sight of its mission through name changes and mergers to provide high quality education programs to the community; and

“Whereas the college has been responsive to the needs of the community, adjusting its programming to meet the needs of a dynamic workforce; and

“Whereas, the college is focused on providing educational opportunities that lead to high-skill, high-wage careers;” the proclamation noted in part.

The proclamation noted this year is the 60th anniversary of the college, and the County Commission notes it is fitting to honor the college for providing higher education to the people of Levy County.”