



## STRATEGIC PURPOSE & FOUNDATIONAL DIRECTION



- Position Hernando County students & residents for meaningful careers in Florida's expanding space economy.
- Partner with Space Florida, industry leaders, & government to build aligned K-12 and postsecondary pathways.
- Respond proactively to Space Florida's K-20 workforce development goals, recognizing Hernando's unique community potential & strategic location.
- Foster high-skill, high-wage career opportunities for Hernando County residents.

# SPACE HERNANDO

### KEY MILESTONES & RECOGNITIONS

- Collaboration between local government, school district, & industry to form goals & initiatives.
- First class of 2025 Space Academy Program graduates recognized by Space Florida, alongside congratulatory video messages received from NASA, Blue Origin, Lockheed Martin, & Space Florida.
- Hernando Schools' Career & Technical Education was formally recognized in the Congressional Record by Congressman Gus Bilirakis.

### INITIATIVES & NEAR-TERM OBJECTIVES

- From over 550 credentials on the MCL, Space Industry leaders met to identify 360 Industry Certification Exams that were relevant & aligned to their needs.
- Collaborate with Space Florida on teacher engagement sessions to support program development and K-12 instructional enhancement.
- Coordinate with Hernando County Government and Economic Development to strategically plan goals, initiatives, feasibility, collaborations, etc.
- Explore funding options including grants, partnerships, appropriations, conduit financing.

### LONG-RANGE DIRECTION & FOCUS

- Develop shared K-12 and Wilton Simpson Technical College pathways to meet future space industry workforce needs.
- Expand partnerships to include local businesses and encourage participation in Florida's growing space economy.
- Secure sustainable funding through grants, appropriations, and conduit financing to support long-range space-focused education initiatives.
- Develop a new building to house these initiatives.