



# INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Institutional Advancement Department

## IRSC RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING PREPARATION OF SKILLED WORKFORCE

*Nicole Orozco and Maximilian Clemons Named Siemens Technical Scholars*



FORT PIERCE, FL, March 1, 2017 – Indian River State College is filling the growing need for well-prepared nurses and getting national recognition for it! The Aspen Institute for College Excellence Program (CEP) and the Siemens Foundation have commended IRSC for outstanding preparation for in-demand jobs, naming Maximilian Clemons and Nicole Orozco as Siemens Technical Scholars for achievement in the Associate Degree in Nursing Program. Siemens Technical Scholars are chosen from colleges ranked as Top Ten Finalists for the Aspen Prize for College Excellence, a ranking achieved by IRSC in 2015 and 2017.



“Speaking with Siemens Technical Scholars and the educators who helped them learn makes clear that these exceptional students are benefiting from a first rate education,” said Joshua Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

Clemons, 27, of Fort Pierce, graduated in 2016 and is employed as an RN in intensive care at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center, while continuing his education in IRSC’s Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing program. Orozco, 21, of Port St. Lucie will graduate in May and is already employed with Martin Health System. Both students will be awarded \$3500 scholarships for continued education or loan payment.

“I feel really well prepared for my job. The teachers at IRSC were great and the program was affordable,” Clemons said.

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IRSC's nursing program was cited for high employment and earning rates, including 92% employment for students one year after graduation and \$51,724 annual earnings of graduates, higher than the median earnings in the region.

"IRSC maintains over 400 partnerships with health care facilities, business and industry to ensure that students receive the real-world training they need to qualify for high-demand jobs and to provide employers with a productive, highly-skilled workforce," said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC President. "We are very proud of Max and Nicole for their outstanding performance in our nursing program."

The Aspen Institute and Siemens Foundation awarded 51 current and recent students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields with more than \$200,000 in scholarships.

"These are fields that offer satisfying careers and immense earning opportunities and yet so many jobs are going unfilled," said David Etwiler, CEO of the Siemens Foundation. "We need to make sure that students, parents and college guidance counselors understand the value of STEM community college programs as a pathway to job security and financial success. Community colleges are essential to extending such opportunity to more students while meeting current and future employer demand."

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Indian River State College is a public comprehensive college serving Florida's Treasure Coast. Over 30,000 people enroll in IRSC courses each year, attracted by quality, convenience and affordable tuition. IRSC is a national Top Ten Finalist for the Aspen Prize and ranked as the 3rd Most Affordable College in the country by the U.S. Department of Education. Every aspect of IRSC is focused on helping students succeed with small classes, personal attention and convenient campuses in St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties. IRSC offers over 100 programs, including Associate in Arts degrees for the first two years of college, Associate in Science degrees for in-demand careers and short-term job training.

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