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**COVER LETTER**

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Department of State  
Division of Corporations  
P. O. Box 6327  
Tallahassee, FL 32314

**SUBJECT:** The HOFE Institute, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one(1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for :

☐ \$70.00  
Filing Fee

☐ \$78.75  
Filing Fee &  
Certificate of  
Status

☒ \$78.75  
Filing Fee  
& Certified Copy

☐ \$87.50  
Filing Fee,  
Certified Copy  
& Certificate

**ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED**

**FROM:** Steven T. Welch

Name (Printed or typed)

4400 E Hwy 20 Ste 304

Address

Niceville, FL 32578

City, State & Zip

(850) 279-6886

Daytime Telephone number

**NOTE:** Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.

**Articles Of Incorporation  
In Compliance with Chapter 617 F.S.  
(Not-For-Profit)**

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I, the Incorporator, a natural person at least eighteen (18) years of age, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of forming a not-for-profit corporation pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Not-For-Profit Corporation Act, Sections 607.11011 *et seq.*

**Article One  
Name**

The name of the not-for-profit corporation is: The HOFE Institute, Inc.

**Article Two  
Principal Place of Business and Mailing Address**

The principal place of business and mailing address of the not-for-profit corporation are:

The HOFE Institute, Inc.  
4400 E Highway 20 Ste 305  
Niceville, FL 32578

**Article Three  
Registered Agent and Office**

The name of the initial registered agent and registered office in the State of Florida are:

Steven T. Welch  
The Welch Group, LLC  
4400 E Highway 20 Ste 304  
Niceville, FL 32578

**Article Four  
Name and Address of the Incorporator**

The name and address of the incorporator are:

Bart C. Swan  
4400 E Highway 20 Ste 305  
Niceville, FL 32578

## **Article Five Duration**

The not-for-profit corporation's period of duration is perpetual.

## **Article Six Purposes**

The not-for-profit corporation is organized and will be operated exclusively for those general charitable purposes set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Notwithstanding the general charitable purposes of the not-for-profit corporation, the not-for-profit corporation shall otherwise accomplish its charitable purposes by engaging in charitable activities reasonably calculated to educate the community on matters pertaining to home ownership and personal finance in an effort to create and enhance financial understanding and financial independence.

## **Article Seven Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the not-for-profit corporation, the Board of Directors of the non-for-profit corporation will, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Corporation, distribute all Corporation assets to one or more organizations organized and operated exclusively for general charitable purposes consistent with the provisions of Article Six hereof that are, at that time, qualified as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If any assets are not distributed as provided in the preceding paragraph, a court of competent jurisdiction for the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, will dispose of those assets exclusively for general charitable purposes or to one or more organizations that are, at that time, qualified as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as the Court shall determine.

## **Article Eight Restrictions**

No part of the net earnings or assets of the not-for-profit corporation will inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, the members of its Board of Directors, its officers or any

other private persons. The not-for-profit corporation may, however, pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these Articles of Incorporation.

No part of the activities of the not-for-profit corporation may include the carrying on of propaganda or be used to influence legislation as defined in Section 4945 of the Internal Revenue Code. The not-for-profit corporation may not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributions of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

The not-for-profit corporation may not exercise any power or engage directly or indirectly in any activity that would invalidate its status as a corporation exempt from federal income taxation:

As a corporation exempt from federal tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As a corporation the contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida.

The not-for-profit corporation must distribute its income for each tax year at a time and in a manner as not to become subject to the tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code. Furthermore, the not-for-profit corporation must not:

Engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Make any investments in a manner that would subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Make any taxable expenditure as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **Article Nine**

### **The Board of Directors**

The not-for-profit corporation is organized on a non-stock basis and will have no members. The Board of Directors will have authority for all affairs of the not-for-profit corporation and may exercise all powers of the not-for-profit corporation as permitted by federal law, state law, these Articles of Incorporation, and the Bylaws of the not-for-profit corporation as in effect from time to time.

The directors constituting the initial Board of Directors shall be appointed by the Incorporator as set forth below in this Article Nine. Additional directors shall be elected by the vote of the directors then in office; and those persons who receive the highest number of votes at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be deemed to have been elected.

The number of Directors to constitute the initial Board of Directors is three (3). After this initial Board of Directors is organized, it may change the number of Directors in the manner provided in the Bylaws of the not-for-profit corporation and consistent with the laws of the State of Florida.

The initial members of the Board of Directors are:

<i>NAME</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>
Bart C. Swan	238 Karen Ct Niceville, FL 32578
B. Steven Schutt	121 Elderberry Ln Niceville, FL 32578
Steven T. Welch	1501 N Partin Dr #127 Niceville, FL 32578

In furtherance and not in limitation of the powers conferred upon the Board of Directors by law, the Board of Directors shall adopt, amend and repeal from time to time, the Bylaws of the not-for-profit corporation.

## **Article Ten Amendments**

The not-for-profit corporation may amend these Articles of Incorporation in the manner provided by the laws of the State of Florida. But no amendment may authorize the Board of Directors to conduct the affairs of the not-for-profit corporation in any manner or for any purpose contrary to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or amend or modify the specific purposes of the not-for-profit corporation as provided in Article Six.

The specific purposes of the not-for-profit corporation as contained in Article Six of these Articles of Incorporation may be amended only by a unanimous vote of all Directors then serving in office.

## Article Eleven Effective Date


The effective date of these Articles of Incorporation shall be the date upon which the Secretary of State of the State of Florida accepts them for filing.

## Article Twelve Miscellaneous

All general or specific references to the Internal Revenue Code are to refer to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as now in force or later amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States revenue law. Similarly, any general or specific references to the laws of the State of Florida are to the laws of the State of Florida as now in force or as hereafter amended.

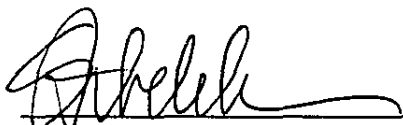
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, these Articles of Incorporation are signed on this  
JUL 03 2007.

"Incorporator"

  
Bart C. Swan

*Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above-stated not-for-profit corporation at the place designated in these Articles of Incorporation, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity on behalf of the not-for-profit corporation.*

"Registered Agent"

  
Steven T. Welch

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