As the summer comes to a close and we prepare for our Board meeting six weeks from now, it has been a perfect time to review many of the Board's goals that we have addressed the past year. I took some time last Thursday to be with Chair Parker in Jacksonville to discuss some of these items. We both agreed, undoubtedly, this is one of the most exciting times in the System's history. From transforming the state's economic portfolio with New Florida to other important initiatives such as enhanced System accountability, coordinated distance learning, and more, we are taking advantage of new opportunities to assist those we serve.

This past week, our System also made national news with the designation of Florida Atlantic University as one of only three centers for ocean energy research and development in the nation. We distributed the following System statement:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2010

Statement from State University System Chancellor Frank Brogan regarding U.S. Department of Energy's designation of FAU as the nation's third center for ocean energy research and development

“The State University System of Florida has shown once again its leadership and progressive achievements in areas of national importance, including alternative energy research and development. This is stellar recognition from the federal government on the vital role that one of our state universities is contributing to alternative energy, specifically ocean energy. I know personally the hard work and exciting research over many years that Florida Atlantic University’s faculty, administrators and students have conducted at the Center, and I congratulate them on this pinnacle event.”

Background: Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Ocean Energy Technology in Dania Beach has been designated as the nation’s third center for ocean energy research and development by the U.S. Department on Energy. FAU now
has this designation along with national marine energy centers in the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii.

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Our friends in the media — particularly business publications — noted that this designation isn't simply a superb milestone. One publication correctly emphasized that there exists a strong tie-in to the fact that FAU "plans to develop a curriculum for education of a workforce in the new industry." I submit that this is a perfect and timely designation that also lands us in the bailiwick of our New Florida initiative in partnership with the Legislature.

Further, the national media covering environment-specific trade news pointed out that, in addition to U.S. Department of Energy funding, the new Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center at FAU also may be a candidate for funds from the Department of Defense. Ocean energy has caught the eye of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) — a federal group widely acclaimed as often responsible for incredible, game-changing technology research. As one national writer said, DARPA's past projects "include development of the Internet (yes, that Internet)."

All told, this designation for FAU is not only the System's most recent national recognition for alternative and clean energy innovation, but it stands as a shining example of the multiplier effect our universities have on both the state and national economies.

**Florida Senate's Tenant Broker Project Continues**

Back in the spring, you'll recall the Senate (Sen. J.D. Alexander) requested agencies and universities to select a tenant broker and then develop plans for savings on rental space, something each university completed. The Senator has requested follow-up information to the spring reports, in the form of steps taken, savings accrued, and co-location opportunities identifies. This request has been provided to the universities and is due back to our office on October 22. (The System's submission to the Senate is October 29.)

**State Launches Economic Development Web Site for Rural Communities**

I was pleased to see a new opportunity this past week that the System is poised to take advantage of in earnest. The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) — which is in the Governor’s Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development — has launched an updated web site dedicated to rural issues. The office provides technical assistance and referrals to regional, state and federal organizations. The web site (www.florida-redi.com) should better assist stakeholders in tracking and acting on many worthwhile efforts.

**Update on “Update”**
In order to expand our circle of communication from the System office, we have added new distribution groups to receive the “Chancellor’s Update,” which I intend to send weekly. In addition to the Board of Governors, Boards of Trustees, and University Presidents, this memo now will be sent to members of University leadership as well, such as Provosts, Vice Presidents, General Counsels, and Head Communications Officers.

Thank you for your leadership and for your support of the State University System.