Update from Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor
October 1, 2010

Let me just say that competing on-stage with FSU’s quarterback, Christian Ponder, is no easy task… but somebody had to do it!

Before I talk about that, I want to thank and truly applaud the five state universities that were able to participate in the Florida Department of Education’s first-ever College & Career Day, which was held last week in Tallahassee. Staff from FAMU, FSU, UF, UNF, and USF manned admissions booths and spoke with more than 300 eager and excited eighth-graders from Leon, Wakulla and Gadsden counties. Private universities and technical training entities were involved as well.

After Christian Ponder’s rallying cry — he was truly holding court with the rapt youngsters – I offered these words of advice to the gathering: “Whatever you choose to pursue in your work life, be the 'best one' they have ever had. Right now, work hard at school, not just because you have to, but because you are building your future.”

The diversity and broad career opportunities presented at this event were impressive. I recognize that there are many similar localized events that take place around the state and that continuing outreach is extremely valuable, as it is very often a tipping point in the decision process of a prospective student. As with this event, we appreciate and thank the talented army of individuals - the college recruiters, financial aid experts and those who provide online advising tools and coursework expectations – who are dedicated year-round to assist tomorrow’s state university students.

More Great Events from Far and Wide …
I joined Governor Charlie Crist, FAMU Board Chair Bill Jennings, President James Ammons, FAMU Student Body President and Board of Governors member Gallop Franklin and a host of community and business leaders who gathered for the ground-breaking ceremony for Phase II of FAMU's College of Pharmacy facility. I was also honored to be a part of the grand re-opening of Tucker Hall, which has undergone an extensive renovation. (Click HERE to view more about these events.) These facility enhancements stand as shining examples of how we are investing state funds to provide the classrooms, laboratories and interactive spaces necessary to educate Florida’s next generation.

Later in the week, I was the keynote speaker at an awards ceremony sponsored by the Business Development Board of Martin County, where more than 300 local business, community and government leaders gathered, including Representatives Adam Fetterman, D-Port St. Lucie, and Will Snyder, R-Stuart. Among other topics, I focused on
the importance of our New Florida Initiative and how it will reshape Florida’s economy by leveraging the genius of our State University System.

Last but not least, I traveled to Central Florida to join new department chairs from across the System who took part in the Institute for Academic Leadership weekend. These educators have taken on critical leadership positions within their colleges at our universities, and, thus, are often at the forefront of policy development and implementation. They ensure we sustain and grow our national reputation and are pivotal to providing an excellent experience for our students, faculty and researchers. I commend them for their dedication to the System.

Finally, I would like to offer a word of thanks for a smooth System-wide start to the beginning of the fall semester. As a former state university president, I recall those opening days as some of the busiest and most demanding of the year – for everyone on our teams. I salute everyone who played a part.

Thank you for all you do for our universities.