Board of Governors Chair Parker, Chancellor Brogan thank Governor and Legislature for new legislation

TALLAHASSEE – Ava L. Parker, the chair of the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida, today thanked Governor Charlie Crist for signing legislation that establishes a new system of cooperation on guiding Florida’s public universities.

“Governor Crist’s decision to sign SB 7237 completes an important agreement among the Board of Governors, the House and Senate leadership and the Governor’s Office,” Parker said. “This legislation clarifies a number of issues and further strengthens our new partnership with the Legislature.”

Parker announced in March that the agreement with legislative leaders would allow the Board of Governors to withdraw from a lawsuit over the issue of university governance.

Chancellor Frank T. Brogan said the legislation cements what he believes will be a long-lasting partnership among the citizens, the universities, the Legislature and the governor. “The State University System is critical to the future of Florida,” Brogan said. “It is vital that we all recognize our shared interest in the success of our universities and work together to make each institution stronger and better able to meet the needs of a dynamic state.”

Chair Parker and Chancellor Brogan thanked the Legislature for its support of the State University System in this year’s legislative session and for finding resources in a tough budget year to begin funding for the New Florida initiative, a long-term plan to change the Florida economy through investment in higher education.

“The Legislature’s 2010-11 budget includes $10 million for New Florida,” Brogan said. “That’s a strong endorsement of our plan for the future. The Legislature also provided almost $400 million for construction of university facilities – a key part of New Florida’s plan to use cutting-edge research and expanded degree-production to establish a knowledge-based, innovation sector of the Florida economy.”
Parker said the Legislature is making a wise investment with its spending plan. “We have a clear and comprehensive accountability system in place to ensure every New Florida dollar is put to work for the citizens of our great state,” Parker said. “I encourage Governor Crist to continue his support this investment in our future.”

The Board of Governors is the constitutional body created by voters in 2002 to guide the State University System of Florida.

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