Eight state universities win grants to help bring research products and innovations to the marketplace

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Technology, Research and Scholarship Board today announced that eight universities have been selected to receive awards in Phase I and Phase II of the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program.

The grant program was established by the Florida Legislature to promote the commercialization of university research products for the purpose of enhancing Florida’s economy and Florida’s public universities.

“Our universities do research every day in pursuit of new developments and new products,” said Chancellor Mark B. Rosenberg. “These grants will help our institutions take these research innovations from the lab to the marketplace, where they can help Florida further develop its 21st century economy.”

Dr. Rosenberg thanked the Legislature for supporting the commercialization of university research. “Florida’s lawmakers are making an investment that is important to the economy of this state, an investment that will pay off in many ways for the citizens of Florida,” Rosenberg said. “Senator Jeremy Ring, who proposed this program, and his colleagues in the Legislature are right to recognize the role Florida’s state universities play in securing a foothold in the knowledge-based economy of the future.”

Senator Ring said the grants are designed to help the state economy take advantage of the many innovations coming out of Florida’s research universities. “This is a first important step toward transitioning our world-class research and developments into world-class jobs,” Ring said.

The Phase I grants are designed to assist with early market research, independent evaluation, consultation and development of a business model for a university research project that has marketplace potential.

The Phase II grants are available to help develop a complete business plan for a university research product.

The Florida Technology, Research and Scholarship Board reviewed 26 Phase I and Phase II proposals and selected 19 to receive support, representing funding of $793,155 ($543,155 for Phase I; $250,000 for Phase II).
Winning awards are:

- **Florida A&M University** – one Phase I grant.
- **Florida International University** – one Phase I grant.
- **Florida State University** – one Phase I grant; one Phase II grant.
- **University of Central Florida** – three Phase I grants; one Phase II grant.
- **University of Florida** – six Phase I grants; one Phase II grant.
- **University of North Florida** – one Phase I grant.
- **University of South Florida** – one Phase I grant; one Phase II grant.
- **University of West Florida** – one Phase I grant.

Disbursement of the grants is pending negotiation and execution of agreements between the recipients and the Florida Technology, Research and Scholarship Board, approval of those agreements by the board, and verification by the Board of Governors that the agreements have been executed.

At its April 9-10 meeting at the University of South Florida’s Traditions Hall, the Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board will consider Phase III grant applications, which are available for the implementation and execution of a completed business plan for a university research product.

The Florida Technology, Research and Scholarship Board is charged with responsibility for several programs under the Florida Technology, Research and Scholarship Enhancement Act, including the Centers of Excellence Program, the World Class Scholars Program, the State University System Research and Economic Development Investment Program and the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program.

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