Chancellor Brogan updates Board of Governors, Board of Trustees Chairs and University Presidents on Haiti Relief Efforts

The State University System of Florida is offering its resources to join America’s comprehensive efforts to help the people of Haiti. Our 11 institutions have experts in numerous fields – from medicine and nursing and public health to communications and engineering – that can be brought to bear to help Haiti in its time of need.

Today Board of Governors chair Sheila M. McDevitt and I spoke with the presidents of the 11 universities and the deans of the State University System medical schools to stress the need for a coordinated approach, along with our friends from the private colleges and universities in Florida. We want the aid we provide to be a help, not a hindrance or a burden on Haiti or on the larger U.S. effort.

The staff of the Board of Governors is working with others throughout the State University System to inventory the talents and expertise in our system that might be of greatest help to Haiti and to find individuals who could volunteer for an SUS relief team. We will share this inventory with Volunteer Florida, the Florida Department of Health and the appropriate federal agencies.

Our universities have strong connections to Haiti and its people. We have more than a 1,000 students and hundreds of employees from the island nation. Many of our students, faculty and staff have friends and family there. Our thoughts are with all of them as we seek ways to help.

Already a number of groups and organizations throughout our universities are organizing collection drives to help. I encourage everyone in the State University System to consider financial donations to support humanitarian relief.

The scope of the damage, the injury and the loss of life in Haiti is not fully measured at this time, but we know it is great by any and all counts. Like others in our state and nation, the students, faculty and staff of the State University System are committed to easing the pain and suffering of our neighbors. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people in need, and we make our resources available to make life better in any way we can.