Chancellor Brogan, Chair McDevitt release details of New Florida plan to transform Florida’s economy

*Initiative includes accountability tools to track progress on graduates, research grants, other measures of success*

TAMPA – Chancellor Frank T. Brogan and Board of Governors Chair Sheila M. McDevitt today released details of the New Florida initiative, a strategic plan to use the resources of the State University System to transform the Florida economy.

Governor Charlie Crist today endorsed New Florida and announced that his 2010-11 budget included $100 million in new recurring funding, the first step in this long-term economic plan. Governor Crist offered his support in remarks to the Board of Governors during its meeting at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

A backgrounder on New Florida is attached. It is also available on the Board of Governors’ Web site at [www.flbog.edu](http://www.flbog.edu).

Brogan said New Florida’s long-term investment in the state universities would slingshot Florida out of the recession and jumpstart the job-rich knowledge economy.

“Our economy is in transition,” Brogan said, “and this creates an opportunity for rapid advancement if we act decisively and invest wisely. We need to push for the right kind of change, a transition from an economy based solely on tourism, agriculture and growth to an economy that includes a new sector based on knowledge and innovation.”

Brogan said New Florida included an array of powerful Web-based accountability tools available to the public. “We want the citizens of our state to use these clear, understandable accountability measures to track our progress toward important goals,” Brogan said. “We want the people of Florida to have confidence in their investment in the future.”

McDevitt said New Florida provides the talent needed for competition in research and innovation. “With the New Florida initiative, we are prepared to generate thousands of additional graduates, the kind of horsepower our state needs to power its new bioscience and innovation future,” McDevitt said. “And we are prepared as well to expand our research efforts to create new breakthroughs in medicine and science. With wise and sustained
investment in our universities, in science, technology, engineering and medicine, the citizens of Florida can guide our state economy into a new era rich in opportunity and prosperity."

*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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