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Chancellor’s Message

As we move into the full swing of summer, it’s a good time of year to review our accomplishments as well as plan for the future. At our recent Board meeting, members heard from universities on their 2016-2017 Work Plans, which demonstrate the System’s commitment to each university’s distinctive mission as well as to the success of our students. Moving forward, we’re excited to watch the universities meet their goals while also using new tools — such as online education and our newly published Baccalaureate Follow-Up Study — to produce better outcomes for our students. Thank you for all you do to advance Florida’s universities.

Sincerely,
Marshall M. Criser III

Save the Date

- **September 21-22**
  - Board of Governors Meeting
  - New College of Florida
  - Sarasota, Florida

- **September 28-30**
  - Florida Chamber of Commerce Future of Florida Forum
  - Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
  - Orlando, Florida

- **October 25**
  - Florida Center for Cybersecurity 3rd Annual Conference
  - Tampa Convention Center
  - Tampa, Florida

- **November 2-3**
  - 2016 Trustee Summit and Board of Governors Meeting
  - Florida Atlantic University
  - Boca Raton, Florida

- **November 15-17**
  - 18th Annual HHS SBIR/STTR Conference
  - University of Central Florida
  - Orlando, Florida

Florida Shines a Light on Business Innovation

Small businesses and academic researchers in the life science sector can learn about new opportunities for collaboration and how to access more than $870 million in federal funding during a conference to be held on November 15-17 in Orlando. The 18th Annual HHS SBIR/STTR Conference, titled Shining a Light on Small Business Innovation, will be co-hosted by the State University System of Florida and the University of Central Florida and is expected to attract nearly 800 participants from around the country. The conference is hosted in a different location around the country every year, and this year is being promoted through the Think Florida: A Higher Degree for Business campaign, a statewide initiative to promote synergies between universities and the business community in the areas of talent, research and partnerships. For more information and to register, click here.
University Highlight: University of West Florida’s Response to Governor Rick Scott’s “Ready, Set, Work” Challenge

The University of West Florida has accepted Governor Rick Scott’s “Ready, Set, Work” Challenge and is continuing to focus on strategic efforts to retain and graduate more students in four years. Through these efforts, UWF will produce more individuals equipped with the necessary skills to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

UWF developed its “Splash Forw4rd” campaign to change the campus culture by encouraging students to graduate in four years. Splash Forw4rd includes tools that strengthen the classroom connection, set the expectation to stay the course and graduate in four years, motivate and inspire students to persevere, and generate excitement for future careers.

As part of the campaign, UWF launched an online graduation dashboard that empowers students, faculty and staff to closely monitor degree progression. The dashboard is designed for undergraduate students, with features such as a color-coded “time to degree” progress bar, as well as excess hours, financial aid and academic status indicators that note when students need to seek assistance from an advisor.

By changing the culture and providing students with the tools and resources needed to graduate in four years, UWF is preparing future leaders to enter the workforce fully equipped to succeed both personally and professionally.

Think Florida: A Higher Degree for Business

The State University System is working to enhance Florida’s research stature by putting together a plan to recruit nationally renowned faculty, offer state-of-the art facilities, and work together, rather than competitively, on federal grants.

That’s the outcome of a recent discussion between all 12 universities and the Board of Governors on how to raise the State University System’s research profile. Expanding university research is a priority for Board of Governors’ Chair Tom Kuntz and will yield big benefits for Floridians, including the development of new products and spin-off companies that could help solve some of the greatest challenges of our time. The initiative will also boost Florida’s economy as university researchers work together to attract additional external research funding into the state.

Also under the Think Florida banner, Board of Governors’ members had the opportunity during the June Board meeting to hear from Lockheed Martin Director of Talent Acquisition, Danielle Frank, regarding the company’s strategy to attract, develop and cultivate partnerships with universities and organizations in Florida.

Lockheed Martin has a robust internship program, giving students hands-on experience in the fields of aerospace, defense, security, information technology and more. The company hires around 2,500 System graduates each year, who help maintain Lockheed Martin’s position as a global leader in security and scientific discovery.

For more information on the Think Florida campaign, visit the website here.

Danielle Frank presented during the June Board meeting.
Congratulations, New Leadership!

Congratulations to Florida A&M University Trustee Kelvin Lawson for being elected as chair and Kimberly Moore for being elected as vice chair; Florida Polytechnic University Trustee Frank Martin for being elected as chair, and Trustee Don Wilson as vice chair; and University of Florida Trustee Bill Heavener, for being elected chair, and Trustee Mori Hosseini as vice chair. We look forward to working closely together in the coming months.

Additionally, thank you to Florida Polytechnic University Trustee Mark Bostick and University of Florida Trustee Steven Scott for your hard work and service as past chairs. Both provided great leadership, wisdom, and guidance during their tenures.

Governor Rick Scott’s “Finish in Four, Save More” Challenge

Governor Rick Scott, during his Degrees to Jobs Summit in Orlando, issued the “Finish in Four, Save More” Challenge to encourage universities and colleges to help full-time students avoid additional costs and fees by graduating on time. The Board of Governors and the State University System accepted the challenge to keep education affordable and to build strategies that help our students graduate in four years.

The State University System and Board of Governors’ response to the challenge include:

- Increased counseling opportunities for dual-enrolled students, as well as prioritizing the Finish in Four, Save More message for students at the beginning of their college careers;
- Join the Governor in support of reinstating summer Bright Futures;
- Partner with the College System to identify strategies and communicate the pathways for a post-secondary education;
- Promote internships and make students aware they can receive credit for experience in their fields; and
- Improve and maintain the quality of online education while being conscientious of affordability.

USF Student Veteran Awarded Tillman Military Scholarship

University of South Florida student and Bronze Star Medal recipient Jeffrey Sargent is among the 60 U.S. military service veterans and military spouses from throughout the nation recently named 2016 Tillman Military Scholars by the Pat Tillman Foundation. Jeffrey, who is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in health sciences, has been awarded a $15,000 scholarship for the 2016-17 academic year. The Pat Tillman Foundation recognizes individuals for “their military service, leadership and academic excellence.” This year’s recipients will receive over $1.8 million in scholarships to pursue higher education and continue their service in the fields of medicine, law, business, policy, technology, education and the arts.

Jeffrey intends to become an occupational therapist with a focus on mental health and the daily living struggles veterans with post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury face. With a degree in health sciences from the University of South Florida, he will focus his education and training on helping veterans overcome mental health challenges.

FIU’s Aquarius Reef Base

The Aquarius Reef Base, the world’s only permanent undersea lab, is operated by Florida International University. The lab is not only used by FIU, but also NASA, the U.S. Navy and researchers and educators from around the world. The base is used as part of the FIU Marine Education and Research Initiative, aiming to enhance the scope and impact of FIU on research, educational outreach, technology development and professional training.

Deployed 60 feet beneath the surface in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Aquarius is a globally significant asset that provides unparalleled means to study the ocean, test and develop state-of-the-art undersea technology, train specialized divers and astronauts, and engage the world’s imagination. Aquarius is a complex diving system that consists of the lab below the ocean; a life support buoy on the surface that houses power generators, air compressors and data connections; and a mission control center. Using a technique known as saturation diving, Aquarius residents can spend days to weeks under water conducting research that cannot be accomplished anywhere else on the planet.
The Board published the results of its second annual Baccalaureate Follow-Up Study, which answers key questions about how many graduates get jobs and in what fields. The study answers the following questions about the 52,431 graduates that were found one year after graduating.

**Class of 2014**

1. **Do graduates get jobs?**
   - 93% of baccalaureate graduates found worked within one year after graduation
   - 2/3 worked full-time (of those who worked)

2. **Are graduates pursuing additional education?**
   - 30% of the graduates found pursued more education within one year
3. Do graduates work while pursuing additional education?

23% of graduates found worked while enrolled in further education

4. What are the starting salaries of graduates?

The estimated median annual wages for graduates who worked full-time one year after graduation was approximately

$36,300

more than working full-time at minimum wage

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Full Report: flbog.edu/forstudents/gfs/