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Chancellor’s Message

From designing toy cars that help disabled children to studying the impacts of the BP Oil Spill on the Gulf of Mexico, the State University System has a diverse portfolio of research and development ventures. Florida universities invest $1.9 billion in research funds annually on exciting education and research initiatives and register more patents than any other entity in the state. Yet we have enormous untapped potential, which is why Board of Governors Chair Tom Kuntz has identified raising the System’s research profile as a key priority. Thank you for your role in supporting your university’s research and development goals and for helping our System meet the evolving and highly competitive needs of our state.

Sincerely,

Marshall M. Criser III

Save the Date

- June 21
  Trustee Orientation
  University of Central Florida
  Orlando, Florida

- June 21-23
  Board of Governors Meeting
  University of Central Florida
  Orlando, 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

Bill Signing Ceremony for House Bill 7019

Governor Rick Scott held a bill signing ceremony on May 23 for House Bill 7019 on Access and Affordability at Florida Atlantic University. Joined by Board of Governors Chair Tom Kuntz, Board of Governors Member Wendy Link, Chancellor Marshall M. Criser III, Chancellor Madeline Pumariega and Florida Atlantic University Trustees Anthony Barbar, Daniel Cane, Abdol Moabery, Mary Beth McDonald, Malcolm Dorman and Christopher Beetle, the event highlighted the new law, which holds the line on graduate school costs and helps students by making textbook costs more affordable.
Governor Rick Scott’s Degrees to Jobs Summit

Governor Rick Scott hosted a Degrees to Jobs Summit in Orlando last week, bringing together top state officials, business executives and higher education leaders for a two-day discussion on how to fuel Florida’s economic growth. The Summit included a wide array of breakout sessions focusing on college affordability, leadership accountability and how business leaders and education officials can better connect Florida graduates with meaningful jobs.

In addition to Governor Scott, presenters included Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, Senate President Andy Gardiner, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, Board of Governors Chair Tom Kuntz, Board of Governors Vice Chair Ned Lautenbach, Board of Governors Member Alan Levine, State University System Chancellor Marshall M. Criser III, Florida College System Chancellor Madeline Pumarięga, and a variety of high-profile statewide business leaders. University trustee panelists and speakers included Abdol Moabery (FAU), Dave Walsh (UCF), Mori Hosseini (UF), Dudley Goodlette (FGCU), Marcos Marchena (UCF), Nicole Washington (FAMU) and Scott Hopes (USF).

At the Summit, Governor Scott announced his “Finish in Four, Save More” challenge to encourage universities and colleges to help full-time students graduate with an affordable degree in four years to avoid additional fees and costs. Although the number is on the rise due to performance funding, only 44 percent of undergraduate students at state universities graduate with bachelor’s degrees within four years and 71 percent graduate within six years.

Florida Chamber Foundation Learners to Earners Education Summit

The Florida Chamber Foundation recently held the 2016 Learners to Earners Education Summit, bringing together education and business leaders from throughout Florida. The Summit, held in conjunction with the Florida Department of Education Commissioner’s Business Recognition Award program and presented by Wells Fargo, included discussions on strengthening Florida’s talent pipeline, partnering business and education, and adapting to changes in the workplace. Speakers included Chancellor Marshall M. Criser III, State University System of Florida; Commissioner Pam Stewart, Florida Department of Education; Cissy Proctor, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; Chris Hart, president of CareerSource Florida; and various other education stakeholders and business leaders.

The Summit allowed the 225+ participants from education, philanthropy and the business community to gain perspectives from industry experts on a wide range of topics. The discussion centered on how Florida’s education system and workplace is expected to change over the next 15 years; the greatest challenges facing Florida’s future from early learning to workforce; strategies for strengthening career pathways, inspiring innovation and putting valuable career information into the hands of learners; changing the conversation to focus on learner outcomes; and narrowing gaps to ensure prosperity for all. The Summit also featured small group sessions to develop strategies for fortifying Florida’s talent pipeline.
University Highlight: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s Proposal to Governor Scott’s “Ready, Set, Work” Challenge

This month’s “Ready, Set, Work” challenge highlights the activities of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). While FAMU is laser-focused to ensure graduates in their two most popular degree programs are employed, President Mangum and Provost David have also challenged the University’s deans to strengthen existing programs and create new ones to enhance campus-wide efforts to make students workforce ready.

At the School of Business and Industry, the “Ready, Set, Work” challenge is being used to underscore the business program’s long-standing goal of equipping its graduates with the technical and behavioral skills necessary to secure lucrative, full-time employment upon graduation. To accomplish its ultimate goal, the School requires students to complete internships and a Professional Leadership Development Program prior to graduation. Moreover, the FAMU Career Center is working closely with the School of Business and Industry and the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the top two most popular degree programs, to advertise employment opportunities to students to directly address the Governor’s challenge.

Boosting student participation in internships and keeping students informed about job opportunities are two underlying themes for deans beyond the top degree programs when tackling the Governor’s challenge. For instance, in the School of Allied Health Sciences, all students are required to complete internships in hospitals, clinics, community agencies, nursing homes, extended care facilities or rehabilitation centers, to provide real workforce experience. The School of Architecture and Engineering Technology holds programs and activities throughout the year to introduce students to employers. Additionally, the School uses a text messaging system and social media to promote employment and internship opportunities to students. Internships have also been added to the graduate curriculum, such as the School’s facilities management program, which requires 100 percent of the students in the program to participate in internships. The University’s colleges and schools embraced the Governor’s Challenge so students gain the knowledge and skills that will best prepare them for success in the workforce. More of FAMU “Ready, Set, Work” initiatives can be found here.

FIO Keel Laying Ceremony

On June 1, the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) and the University of South Florida System hosted the “Keel Laying Ceremony” for the replacement research vessel for the soon-to-be-retiring R/V Bellows. The ceremony, which was similar to a groundbreaking ceremony, took place at Duckworth Steel Boats, a Tarpon Springs shipyard that is constructing the new vessel.

The vessel, funded with $3 million from the PECO Trust Fund, and $3.3 million in matching funds raised from FIO member institutions and the City of St. Petersburg, will house two state-of-the-art laboratories. It will be housed at USF’s College of Marine Science in downtown St. Petersburg and available for use by students, professors and researcher partners across the state. The new vessel will replace the 46-year-old R/V Bellows, one of the Institute’s two major research vessels that provides a unique platform for shallow water research. The R/V Bellows will soon be decommissioned due to mounting safety concerns.

University of North Florida’s Adaptive Toy Project

Mechanical and electrical engineering students as well as graduate and doctorate of physical therapy students at the University of North Florida (UNF) are creating toy cars for children suffering from a variety of genetic conditions with the aim to help them cope with their disability. Since 2014, UNF’s Adaptive Toy Project, under the direction of electrical engineering professor Dr. Juan Aceros and Dr. Mary Lundy, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, has provided custom-built battery-powered cars for disabled children based on their needs. The toy cars are produced at no cost to the families. With the help of an $85,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, this program can continue to expand to reach even more children in the community with developmental disabilities.
Welcome, New Trustees!

⇒ On May 12, 2016, the Board of Governors announced the appointment of Mr. Harold Mills to the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees.

Florida Polytechnic Students to Gain Real-World Experience this Summer

Florida Polytechnic University students will engage in hands-on, real-world experience as they begin their internships this summer. Below is a list of students and their respective internship opportunities.

⇒ Michelle Culbert – Lockheed Martin
⇒ Jonathan Babin – Medtronics
⇒ Logan Chambers – Port of Tampa Bay
⇒ Chris Dowdy – Port of Tampa Bay
⇒ Collin Heodtke – Port of Tampa Bay
⇒ Chloe Sweeney – Florida’s Natural
⇒ Drew Davis – Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas
⇒ Tyler Allen – Northrop Grumman
⇒ David Rentos – Northrop Grumman
⇒ Karla Martinez – Y Lakeland
⇒ Andrew Weidner – Motorola
⇒ James Tuggle – Publix

Welcome, New Board Members!

⇒ On April 15, 2016, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Ms. Darlene Jordan to the Board of Governors of the State University System.
⇒ On May 21, 2016, Mr. Jacob Hebert was elected as the new Florida Student Association Chair for the 2016-17 academic year. Additionally, Mr. Hebert currently serves as the Student Body President at the University of West Florida.