Chancellor’s Message

Trustees,

We all spend countless hours establishing and implementing the policies and partnerships that better our State University System, but our most important job is to keep our eye on student success. That’s why our May newsletter highlights students from across the System, engaging in internships, earning prestigious Frost Scholarships, and participating in competitions designed to hone workforce skills. As the school year comes to a close, I look forward to working with you to enhance the quality of our universities and the opportunities for our students.

Marshall M. Criser III

Save the Date

May 12
Board of Governors Meeting
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fort Myers, Florida

May 25-26
Governor Rick Scott’s Degrees to Jobs Summit
Universal Studios
Orlando, Florida

June 2
Florida Chamber Foundation Learners to Earners Education Summit
Omni Orlando Resort
ChampionsGate, Florida

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 Grant 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
Senator Negron’s Education Tour

Joined by senators and Board of Governors members from across the state, Senate President-Designate Joe Negron visited all 12 of Florida’s public universities during a four-day Listening Tour. The purpose was to hear from students, faculty and administrators on university strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. Each visit covered a variety of topics, from performance funding to need-based financial aid. Common themes included the importance of raising each institution’s graduation rate, the role of academic counseling in ensuring student success, and the expansion of the Benacquisto Scholarships, which are designed to keep National Merit Scholars in-state.

Each meeting consisted of: (1) a tour of a program or college that signifies a distinguished area of higher education or a center of academic or career placement excellence at each public university; (2) an interactive discussion with presidents and university representatives on specific goals and how the Legislature can help achieve those goals; and (3) a discussion with students about their public university experience. During his designation speech, President-Designate Negron recognized the value of the State University System in providing opportunities for Floridians and fueling the economy. His aim is to make Florida’s good universities great.

Governor Rick Scott’s Degrees to Jobs Summit

Bringing together stakeholders in Florida’s higher education sectors, Governor Rick Scott is hosting a Degrees to Jobs Summit May 25-26 at Universal Studios in Orlando. Many job creators who are responsible for the state’s economic growth will be in attendance and the Summit will provide an excellent opportunity to engage in dialogue with the business community.

The state’s economy will continue to grow if we produce graduates who are ready for entry into high-skilled, high-wage jobs. The Summit provides the ideal forum for exchange of ideas and information on staying abreast of the changing needs of Florida businesses. Also, ensuring that Florida businesses are equally aware of the caliber and competencies of our students ensures that collectively we can make Florida a leader in job growth and productivity. The schedule of events can be found here.

Florida Chamber Foundation Learners to Earmers Education Summit

Education and business leaders from throughout Florida will come together in Orlando on Thursday, June 2, for the Florida Chamber Foundation’s 2016 Learners to Earmers Education Summit. Designed to ensure the education and business communities are working hand-in-hand to secure Florida’s future, the Summit includes discussions on engaging businesses in education, strengthening Florida’s talent pipeline and adapting to future changes in the workplace. Speakers include Chancellor Marshall Criser III, State University System of Florida; Commissioner Pam Stewart, Florida Department of Education; Chris Hart, CareerSource Florida; Dr. Brittany Birken, Florida Children’s Council; Charles Hokanson, Helios Education Foundation; Jennifer Grove, Gulf Power Company; and Maureen Wilt, Florida Power and Light Company. The Summit will be held in conjunction with the Florida Department of Education Commissioner’s Business Recognition Award program, presented by Wells Fargo.

Board of Governors Chair Tom Kuntz, Senator Audrey Gibson, UNF President John Delaney, Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Senate President-Designate Joe Negron, Senator Rob Bradley, Senator Anitere Flores, Senator Travis Hutson, and Senator Aaron Bean joined by UNF students.
University Highlight: University of South Florida’s Proposal to Governor Scott’s “Ready, Set, Work” Challenge

Ensuring students gain the knowledge and skills that will best prepare them for success in the global economy is a top priority for the University of South Florida System. For this reason, USF is proud to accept the “Ready, Set, Work” university challenge, and will be this month’s highlighted university. USF has created a robust plan to tackle the goal of assisting 100 percent of graduates in their top two degree programs to obtain full-time employment within a year of graduation.

The university’s “Ready, Set, Work” plan targets two primary fronts. The first is to encourage more students to pursue degree offerings that match the top workforce needs of Tampa Bay. To do this, the university has developed a Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Partnership — a collaboration designed to enhance the region’s economic competitiveness and prosperity. This committee will work to connect workforce needs and academic offerings. In addition to the committee, USF is gathering data on which majors are most highly demanded by employers and those specific skillsets that employers value the most.

The second initiative is to increase career-preparation efforts, particularly those in areas of strategic emphasis identified by the Board of Governors and through USF’s workforce study. USF Career Services is adding more personalized career counseling and advising, as well as requiring career counselors to work one-on-one with students from the very beginning of their college careers. Additionally, USF is working to increase access to internships and/or field experiences for the majority of undergraduate students to provide them with essential workforce skills.

University of Florida’s Case Competition

Students from around the world showcased their skills at solving business-related problems and thinking on their feet during the inaugural Heavener International Case Competition at the University of Florida. The event was hosted by the Heavener School of Business, the undergraduate division of the Warrington College of Business. The competition included 20 teams from countries including Australia, Singapore and Canada. Underscoring the Heavener School’s commitment to globalization and economic development, its students routinely compete in international Case competitions and perform exceptionally well.

The construction of Heavener Hall, a 57,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building devoted to undergraduate business education, provided the premier environment for this international event. UF Trustee James W. “Bill” Heavener gave the lead gift toward the building’s construction, which combined with other private donations, will also establish an endowment for professional development, leadership and business ethics.

New College’s “Semester in Tallahassee” Program

A group of students from New College of Florida are participating in “Semester in Tallahassee”, a program where students work in various positions in Florida’s capital while taking a NCF seminar and classes at Florida State University. Students have the opportunity to meet with a variety of professionals including current and past state legislators, lobbyists, political consultants, campaign directors, among others. The students gain a firsthand look at how to become involved in the political process, as well as early career moves a person should make to get started in public service.

The students had lunch with Chancellor Criser, which provided them the opportunity to learn more about the State University System and ask questions.
Welcome, New Trustees!

On April 15, 2016, Governor Rick Scott announced one new appointment and two reappointments to the Florida State University Board of Trustees.

New Appointees
⇒ Maximo Alvarez

Reappointments
⇒ Emily “June” Duda
⇒ Joseph Gruters

Congratulations, Frost Scholarship Recipients!

The Frost Scholarship Program, supported by the Phillip and Patricia Frost Philanthropic Foundation, funds current students of the State University System of Florida to study master’s courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the University of Oxford for a full term. Below are the students who have earned the prestigious award for 2016.

⇒ Nicholas Abboud, NCF, MSc Mathematical & Theoretical Physics
⇒ Maie Khalil, USF, MSc Medical Anthropology
⇒ Daniel Aldridge, UF, MSc Integrated Immunology at Hertford College, University of Oxford
⇒ Ricci Allen, USF, MSc Clinical Embryology
⇒ Barbara Dietrick, FSU, MSc Clinical Embryology at St. Hugh’s College, University of Oxford
⇒ Eleni Jaecklein, FSU, MSc Integrated Immunology
⇒ Furtuna Tewolde, UNF, MSc Psychological Research
⇒ Shan Wong, FIU, MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Management
⇒ Nicholas Pasternack, UF, MSc Neuroscience

For the second year in a row, the State University System of Florida is ranked 1st of the country’s 10 largest public university systems in six-year graduation rates for full-time, first-time in college, public 4-year universities. Since 2011, Florida’s six-year graduation rate has improved from 61.4 to 66.3 percent, and the Board of Governors’ performance-based funding model is expected to help drive the rate to 70 percent by 2025 - in line with the Board’s Strategic Plan.

Did You Know?

Juliana Linton, a 10-year-old cheerleader, recently received a 3-D printed bionic arm from Limbitless Solutions, a nonprofit student group at the University of Central Florida. Since 2014, Limbitless Solutions has provided custom-made 3-D printed arms to 14 other children at no cost to the families with the goal of showing others that there are no limits.

For the second year in a row, FIU has made the “America’s Best Employers” list by Forbes magazine. FIU is the second best ranked Florida employer after Publix and the 34th best employer in the nation, moving up 30 spots from last year’s ranking. Forbes’ 500 private- and public-sector employers were chosen based on an independent survey by Statista.com of 30,000 American employees working for U.S. companies and institutions with more than 5,000 employees.