

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
Research and Economic Development Committee
December 6, 2007**

SUBJECT: Introduction to Florida ExpertNet

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution, Section 1001.705

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Discussions began in 1999 to explore the benefits of having a single Web-based access point to expertise and intellectual capital available in Florida's universities. Such an access point would potentially facilitate the identification of expertise, promote and increase collaborative opportunities, encourage industry-government and public relations linkages to universities, promote leading edge research capabilities, promote licensing opportunities available for commercialization, and be a catalyst to procure more contracts for the universities. Initial discussions led to the creation of Florida ExpertNet, a Web-based platform for accessing SUS expertise housed at the Clearinghouse for Applied Research and Public Service. Working with BOG staff, Clearinghouse staff substantially revised the Florida ExpertNet Web site in 2006 with an expanded emphasis on economic development. Florida ExpertNet received more than 20,000 visitors to its site last year, and it has been copied by university systems of entire nations.

Ms. Rebecca Augustyniak, a member of the Clearinghouse for Applied Research and Public Service, will demonstrate the more salient features of Florida ExpertNet. The Clearinghouse stands ready to be considered as an official activity of the SUS, and the BOG may consider whether it wishes to explore such an option.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitators / Presenters:

R. E. LeMon

Ms. Rebecca Augustyniak