

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

SUBJECT: Approval of 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship
Enhancement Act Annual Report

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship
Enhancement Act Annual Report

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement Act of 2006 created a number of programs important to the State University System, most notably the Centers of Excellence program. In 2007 the statute was amended to include the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program. Per statutory requirement, an annual report is to be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31st of each year. The Board of Governors earlier approved a set of quantitative accountability measures for the Centers of Excellence.

Last year's World Class Scholars program, also created by the Act, was successfully completed, and resulted in the hiring of a number of nationally known scholars in scientific disciplines. The Commercialization Assistance Grant Program is being implemented and will not be included in the 2007 Annual Report, which will concentrate on the Centers of Excellence created last year and those created in 2002.

The body of the annual report is included with this agenda item. Committee members will be provided with the substantial appendices associated with Center of Excellence annual reporting at the time of the meeting. Due to the need to submit the report on time, it is recommended that the Committee and the Board approve the annual report for transmission while delving more deeply into the activities, goals, accomplishments, and milestones of the Centers of Excellence in the context of its 2008 meetings.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Body of Annual Report

Facilitators / Presenters:

R. E. LeMon