

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
June 14, 2007**

SUBJECT: Recommendations to the Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board (FTRSB) Regarding the 21st Century Centers of Excellence Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the Recommendations Regarding the Centers of Excellence Program

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 2002 Legislature appropriated \$30 million to fund Centers of Excellence, resulting in three Centers of Excellence (at UF, UCF, and FAU), each funded at \$10 million.

The 2006 Legislature enacted the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement Act which, among other programs, created the 21st Century Centers of Excellence Program, and again appropriated \$30 million. Resulting from this legislation was the recommendation of the establishment of six Centers of Excellence, each receiving varying levels of funding ranging from \$4 million to \$8 million.

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$100 million specifically for what will be the third round of funding for Centers of Excellence. Given the magnitude of the appropriation and having benefited from two rounds of Centers of Excellence competition, it is a favorable time to build on past experiences to develop recommendations for enhancing the competitive process for Centers of Excellence.

Proposed recommendations were discussed with the State University System Council of Academic Vice Presidents and Council of Vice Presidents for Research. Pending approval, the recommendations will be forwarded to the FTRSB, in hopes of enhancing efforts to provide an efficient, focused, and accountable process that can result in the greatest return on investment for higher education in Florida.

Supporting Documentation Included: To Be Provided

Facilitators / Presenters: Governor Ann Duncan
Vice Chancellor R.E. LeMon