

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 06-05 (EDUCATION)

WHEREAS, between 1999-2000 and 2004-2005, the number of degrees awarded at all levels by state universities to African-Americans rose by 34 percent and to Hispanics by 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, between 1999-2000 and 2004-2005, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded by state universities to African-Americans rose by 33 percent and to Hispanics by 39 percent; and

WHEREAS, between Fall 1998 and Fall 2005, minority enrollment at all levels in the state university system increased by roughly 39 percent from an estimated 34 percent to 37 percent of total enrollment (excluding non-resident aliens and non-reporting students); and

WHEREAS, between Fall 2000 and Fall 2005, undergraduate African-American enrollment in the state university system rose by 19 percent and Hispanic enrollment by 43 percent, but decreased slightly among out-of-state African-American students during the same period; and

WHEREAS, funding for need-based aid to attend state universities has not kept pace with merit-based aid or student need related to rising state university tuition and housing expenses; and

WHEREAS, the *A+ Plan* has contributed to significant improvements in student performance, especially among minorities, and, together with the *Governor's Mentoring*

Initiative, College Board Partnership, and College Reach Out Program, has contributed to increased preparation and demand for access to the state university system and Florida's independent colleges and universities by disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Office of the Governor, Board of Governors and university boards of trustees have identified as a strategic objective increased access by traditionally underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students to the state university system and prioritized increasing need-based aid for such students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEB BUSH, as Governor of Florida, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. I hereby create the Governor's Access and Diversity Commission (hereinafter the "Commission").

A. Members of the Commission and its Chairperson shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Commission shall include up to two members of the Board of Governors; two members of the Florida Legislature, including one from the Florida Senate and one from the Florida House of Representatives; two presidents of state universities; one member of a state university board of trustees; one representative of a Florida independent college or university; one financial aid officer from a state university; two admissions officers from state universities; two student representatives serving student government in the state university system; one representative of K-12 public education; one representative of organizations that engage in mentoring; and two private citizens.

B. The Commission shall meet in conjunction with the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors and shall be a forum for the identification, discussion, and recommendation of enhanced enrollment strategies for disadvantaged and traditionally underrepresented students. The Commission shall evaluate, advocate and make recommendations concerning the following:

1. Specific accountability and performance measures regarding traditionally underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students for the Board of Governors and state universities to include in their strategic plans or performance evaluations; and

2. Enhanced public and private need-based aid and financial assistance and, specifically, increased funding for Florida Student Assistance Grants; and

3. Additional funding for the *College Board Partnership* to improve student college readiness, especially for disadvantaged and at-risk students, by providing AP, PSAT and SAT teacher training, college admission test preparation, SAT preparation, tutoring programs to help students transition into college, and family information on colleges; and

4. Enhanced funding for the *Stanley Tate Scholarship Tuition for At-Risk Students (STARS) Program*, which provides prepaid scholarships for at-risk, low-income students who remain drug and crime-free, stay in school, and work with a mentor; and

5. Increased funding for the *College Reach Out Program (CROP)* to provide additional after-school and weekend counseling and tutorial services, to increase participation in AP classes, to provide transportation to classes for dually enrolled

students, and to purchase computers to provide increased access to the Florida Virtual School; and

6. Establishment of a new *First Generation Matching Grant Program* to provide scholarships to Florida residents who are first generation students admitted into a state university and who demonstrate financial need; and

7. Expanded mentoring, consistent with the President's *Focus on Achievement Mentoring Partnership*, targeting low income middle school students and matching them with local campus compact mentors trained by Volunteer Florida Foundation to encourage economically disadvantaged and traditionally underrepresented students to pursue postsecondary goals and prepare these students for state university enrollment.

Section 2. The members of the Commission shall not receive compensation, but shall be entitled to per diem and travel expenses incurred attending meetings of the Commission from their respective agencies or, if not employed by a state agency, from the Board of Governors to the extent permitted by law and in accordance with agency rules.

Section 3. The Board of Governors shall, as appropriate, arrange for technical assistance and administrative support for the Commission and be responsible, together with state universities, for payment of any operational, administrative or organizational expenses incurred by the Commission.

Section 4. All agencies under the control of the Governor are directed, and all other agencies and local governments are requested, to render assistance to, and cooperate with, the Commission.

Section 5. The Commission shall meet at times and places designated by the Chairperson with the first meeting to occur no later than January 26, 2006. Any vacancy occurring on the Commission shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

Section 6. The Commission shall present a Final Report of its findings and recommendations no later than June 30, 2006, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Board of Governors.

Section 7. The Commission shall cease to exist upon submission of its Final Report.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 11th day of January, 2006.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE