BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
March 25, 2009

SUBJECT: Economic Development Plenary

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information and discussion

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

"Florida's research universities are the heart of our technology innovation. Talented scientists are developing high-quality research that results in real-world applications, and collaboration can advance the work being done in Florida and around the world."

--- Governor Charlie Crist

The critical importance of the State University System (SUS) to Florida's global competitive advantage and to its transformation to a 21st Century Innovation Economy has now become axiomatic. In a knowledge economy, graduates and research of the SUS command a premium in the marketplace and bring attention, resources, and transformation both to our universities and to their regional economies.

The first years of the 21st Century saw Florida's commitment to attracting several world-class research centers from outside the State. As laudable and important as this importation has been, it is equally critical to recognize that, without a similar commitment to the research in its own universities, Florida's economic multiplier effect will be stifled. The maximum value of Scripps, Torrey Pines, SRI, and Burnham will be realized when they interact and bond with the cutting-edge research, development, business incubation, and commercialization on SUS campuses to create engines of economic development, large and small, that will deliver a better future to Florida.

The Economic Development Plenary is intended to provide information and to afford members the opportunity to ask what the Board of Governors can and should be doing to enhance SUS research and development capacity.

Supporting Documentation Included:	"A Practitioner's Guide for Effective Alignment of Regional Development and Higher Education"
Facilitators / Presenters:	Governor Frank Martin Dr. R.E. LeMon