



*World Class Faculty & Scholar  
Program Report*  
January 2019

*Pending Board of Governors Approval*



# SUMMARY OF STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM of FLORIDA WORLD CLASS FACULTY AND SCHOLAR PROGRAM REPORT January 2019

## INTRODUCTION

The Legislature established the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program to fund and support the efforts of the State University System (SUS) institutions to recruit and retain exemplary faculty and secure additional research funding. The intent of this Program is to elevate the national competitiveness of Florida's state universities through faculty and scholar recruitment and retention. Section 1004.6497, *Florida Statutes*, requires the Florida Board of Governors to summarize information from the SUS institutions on the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program. Statute requires that the report include information on program expenditures, success in recruiting research faculty, the four-year graduation rate, the number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer than 50 students, and the increase in national academic standing of targeted programs.

The Legislature provided funds to SUS institutions for the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19. However, section 1004.6497, *Florida Statutes*, which establishes the Program and the reporting requirements, was not signed into law until March of 2018. As a result, this initial report provides baseline information on how the SUS institutions spent or intend to spend funds. Recruiting faculty and/or research scholars can often take longer than a year, and the timing of hiring of individuals may depend on a variety of factors. In addition, unless individuals bring existing research contracts with them, it could take several years to realize the full potential of research dollars awarded to individuals who are recruited to the SUS through this Program. Other metrics such as four-year graduation rates and academic program rankings may take several years before any advancements related to this new program are realized.

The State University System continues to make great strides to elevate its national research profile to the very top echelon. With support from the Legislature and Governor, the State University System recently rose from 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in national research rankings and increased its research awards by 8% even as funding fell 5% nationwide. The World Class Faculty and Scholar Program is one mechanism that provides resources for the System to continue to elevate its research.

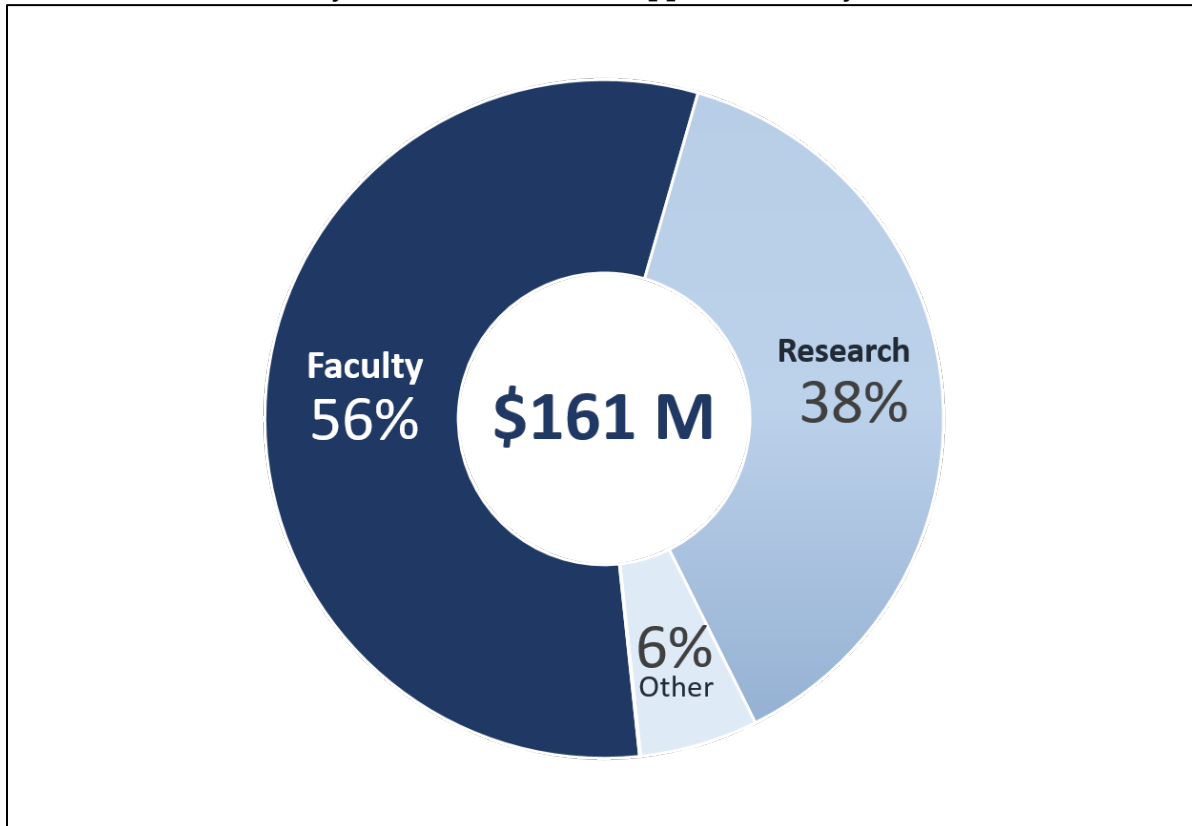


## EXPENDITURE INFORMATION

While expenditures of the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program varied in how these funds were utilized, most of the funds (94%) were used to recruit and retain faculty and increase research efforts. Over the last two years, the Legislature allocated \$161 million to the SUS institutions to support the Program. Some examples of faculty recruitment and retention efforts include: research centric cluster hires, awards for outstanding performance, professional development, and overall hiring/retention of faculty. Examples of research efforts include: commercialization efforts, instruction and research infrastructure enhancements, student research initiatives, and postdoctoral fellowships. Exhibit 1 provides an overview of how SUS institutions spent or allocated the funds for the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program in both FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19. Since FY 2018-19 does not end until June 30, institutions reported some funds as obligated in certain categories, rather than expended. For example, several institutions are still in the process of hiring and recruiting faculty, which can often take longer than a year.

### Exhibit 1

#### Most World Class Faculty and Scholar Funds Supported Faculty and Research



Source: Board staff analysis of SUS submissions on World Class Faculty and Scholar Program received fall 2018.  
Note: Approximately 0.1% of funds are not currently obligated for FY 2018-19.



In a short amount of time, this Program has enhanced and improved SUS institutions' efforts to recruit and retain faculty. As of fall 2018, institutions reported recruiting approximately 376 faculty (FTE). These faculty transferred approximately \$66.3 million in research funding to the institutions and have more than \$77 million in research proposals under development or review. If this trend continues, this Program will continue to increase the research profile and national ranking of the SUS. The System includes many universities that are relatively young in terms of research and that will only continue to grow over the next several years.

### **Elevating the National Competiveness of the State University System**

The intent of the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program is to elevate the overall national competitiveness of the System through faculty and scholar recruitment and retention. While it is still too early to see how this Program has impacted metrics such as a four-year graduation rate, the number of undergraduate courses offered with fewer than 50 students, and academic rankings, baseline information for each of these metrics is provided below.

- In the last five years, the system four-year graduation rate has improved from 44% to 49%. Exhibit 2 provides this detail by institution. It should be noted that the four-year graduation rate is not yet available for students who were enrolled at state universities when the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program funding was first received.
- Increasing the number of faculty should also help to reduce class size. Again, it is not yet known how hires from the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program have affected this metric. Using fall 2017 as a baseline year, 82% of undergraduate courses in the system had fewer than 50 students. Exhibit 2 provides this detail by institution.



**Exhibit 2**  
**Summary of Four-Year Graduation Rates and Undergraduate Courses with Fewer than 50 Students**

Institution	Four-Year Graduation Rate		% of Undergraduate Courses with fewer than 50 Students
	2012-16	2013-17	Fall 2017
FAMU	19.2	21.8	86%
FAU	25.3	27.1	82%
FGCU	21.6	22.9	85%
FIU	28.4	33.5	74%
Poly	n/a	n/a	100%
FSU	65.8	68.4	84%
NCF	52.5	53.6	99%
UCF	43.6	43.8	76%
UF	67.6	66.0	84%
UNF	32.9	33.7	89%
USF	52.0	57.3	84%*
UWF	22.0	25.2	92%
<b>System</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>82%</b>

\* This data only represents the USF-Tampa campus.

Source: Board of Governors, Office of Data Analytics, 2018 Accountability Plans and institutional responses to the 2017-18 Common Data Set (CDS) survey.

In national rankings, the System continues to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report for excellence in higher education. For the second year in a row, the publication recognized Florida as the best state for higher education. U.S. News & World Report also ranked five SUS institutions in the top 100, with University of Florida ranked 8<sup>th</sup> and Florida State University ranked 26<sup>th</sup> (September 2018). In addition, New College of Florida is ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> best public liberal arts institution in the country and Florida A&M is ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> best public historically black college and university in the country. Exhibit 3 provides a list of U.S. News & World Report national public university rankings for 2019.



### Exhibit 3 U.S. News & World Report Public University Rankings

SUS Institution	2019 U.S. News & World Report Ranking (Public)
UF	8
FSU	26
USF	58
UCF	87
FIU	100

Source: U.S. News & World Report National Universities, Top Public Schools, 2019

Specific to research, in addition to being the 4<sup>th</sup> largest public system in terms of research expenditures, the System has five institutions ranked in the top 100 for research. The System is also the leading producer of utility patents in the state and has the most universities ranked in the top 100 in the country for patents. In 2017, the Milken Institute ranked three SUS institutions in the Top 25 for technology transfer and commercialization -- the second most of any state.

### Conclusion

While the full effects of the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program are not yet known, the Program has enhanced the ability of SUS institutions to successfully recruit and retain high-quality faculty and support research efforts in a short amount of time. As a result, institutions have recruited more than 375 faculty who have transferred more than \$66 million in research funding to the State of Florida. These early successes put the System on a trajectory to increase national competitiveness relative to both quality postsecondary education and research.