# State University System
# Other University Collaborative Efforts

The following initiatives may be reviewed and discussed by the CAVP group at a subsequent meeting held by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee in the near future.

1. **Consortium of Metropolitan Research - $12 M**

   ➤ As part of this new partnership, FIU, UCF, and USF have been working closely together to share best practices, policies and programs to efficiently increase the number of graduates in high-demand areas and maximize career development opportunities.

   The consortium has developed four interrelated strategies to meet these goals: (a) enhanced predictive analytic tools to identify students who may need extra help toward degree completion; (b) high-tech tracking pathways that provide integrated academic monitoring; (c) targeted support through personalized academic advising and career coaching; and (d) shared career readiness programs, including common internship and job-search databases that will provide students opportunities in Miami, Orland and Tampa Bay.

   **Return on Investment**

   ➤ Through the investments requested by this Consortium, FIU, UCF and UCF project to collectively increase the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded by 12 percent, increase six-year graduation rates by 4 percentage points, increase the number of graduates employed in Florida by 3 percentage points and increase salaries of graduates by 10 percent by 2016.

2. **Center for Adaptation, Resilience, and Sustainability (FAU, FIU, UCF, USF, FSU) - $17.3 M**

   ➤ Florida CARES is the essential next phase to address key needs of industry and communities, identified through consultations with stakeholders and Florida Climate Institute member universities.

Florida CARES will bring together prominent universities across the State in partnership with state and regional agencies and the business community to create an economy more resilient to risks from hurricane damage, periodic droughts and floods, higher sea levels, and future climate trends. It will develop research and deliver education programs in support of Florida's major economic engines (e.g., urban centers, tourism, agriculture, trade, and coastal marine resources).

### Return on Investment

➢ Florida CARES will bring new revenue and jobs to Florida and will position our state as the global leader in risk management and resilient businesses and communities. Florida faces imminent and intensifying threats from rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, and extreme weather events. By proactively strengthening Florida's preparedness for these threats, economic benefits could be realized through increased public safety and the protection of a diverse economy with trillions of dollars in assets and infrastructure.

3. **Sunshine State Education and Research Computing Alliance (FAU, FIU, UCF, USF, FSU, UF) - $6.9 M**

➢ This issue is a new service to build a statewide infrastructure to support collaborative research in the age of big data in which only the most competitive efforts can obtain funding for new projects or for continuing existing projects. This infrastructure will make researchers in the SUS more competitive in their research activities and in obtaining external funding for their research projects. This issue addresses all three of the goals articulated in the Scholarship, Research, Innovation section of the 2012-2025 Board of Governors Strategic Plan.

The service will be provided by the Sunshine State Education and Research Computing Alliance (SSERCA) through the member institutions (UF, FSU, USF, UCF, FIU) and consists of the following components:

The one-time acquisition of data storage systems for $1,000,000 at each of the six institutions acting as part of the SSERCA organization (**non-recurring**), with $60,000 per year annual maintenance contracts at each of the six institutions (**recurring**);

Provide one expert person at each of the six institutions to support the use of the service for $91,000 per year (**recurring**).

There is an aligned budget request for consideration by the Legislature through the Department of Education from partner institution UM, also a

member institution of SSERCA. That request is for UM to provide the seventh component of the state-wide integrated storage system for $1,000,000 with $60,000 per year annual maintenance contract and a full time expert support staff at $91,000 per year.

### Return on Investment

➢ The "State University of Florida Board of Governors Strategic Plan 2012-2025" lists on pages 16 and 17 a number of goals that this issue is addressing in a direct way.

The opening paragraphs state that "…the Board of Governors will work to increase federal and private funding for collaborative research that targets STEM initiatives…" The proposed infrastructure will allow researchers at SUS systems to write competitive proposals to do exactly that.

The Plan continues with "…the Board of Governors will more sharply focus the research agenda of the State University System … by strengthening research collaboration among the universities." SSERCA is an organization that has the mission to foster and support collaboration on the computing infrastructure for education and research and the infrastructure proposed in this issue is a concrete, enabling, and cost effective step towards that objective.

The first Goal in the Plan is on Excellence and seeks to "…strengthen the quality and reputation of scholarship, research, and innovation." The proposed state-of-the-art infrastructure for collaborative research on Big Data Science and Engineering is an investment that will enable the highly talented researchers in the SUS to reach this goal.

The second Goal in the Plan is to increase productivity. By providing shared, professionally managed infrastructure, the researchers will be able to spend more time on their research and commercialization efforts than on dealing with infrastructure needed to do their work.

The third Goal in the Plan seeks to "increase collaboration and external support for research activity." Providing the faculty, the students, and research associates in the SUS institutions with the proper infrastructure will allow them to make this goal a reality.