

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 21, 2016**

SUBJECT: Funding for Summer Bright Futures Scholarships

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information and discussion

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a result of increased Bright Futures eligibility requirements for students, funding for the Fall and Spring terms has declined during the past few years. In July 2016, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) projected that \$5.5 million appropriated funds for Bright Futures would not be needed in 2016-17 as a result of the increase in student eligibility requirements. The estimated available funding could be used for summer term enrollment awards to eligible students as authorized in Subsection 1009.53(9), Florida Statutes, which states, "A student may use an award for summer term enrollment if funds are available." Pursuant to this section of law and recent history, only two state budget cycles have contained funding for students during the summer semester.

The purpose of the request is to begin the conversation to support funding for the Bright Futures Scholarship for the entire calendar year. Allocating funds to summer term awards will provide students with an opportunity to decrease their time-to-degree and enter into the state's workforce more rapidly. Summer Bright Futures awards would also help to reduce student debt and allow for more efficient classroom utilization across the State University System.

Supporting Documentation Included: Legislative Budget Request Form I

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Jan Ignash