

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
January 26, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Think Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For information

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As part of the *Think Florida: A Higher Degree for Business* campaign, Board members regularly have the opportunity to hear from universities and the business community about the latest synergies regarding talent, research and partnerships. Today's panel includes UF Vice President of Research, Dr. David Norton, as well as Ms. Helena Cowley and Ms. Sue Washer, both CEOs of successful health-care start-ups located in Gainesville. Dr. Norton oversees UF's Office of Research, which provides support services for researchers and helps them work with industry partners to bring products to market. Ms. Cowley's company, Captozyme, develops therapies to treat a number of medical conditions. The company was named a 2017 Florida Company to Watch by Grow Florida and has 16 employees. Ms. Sue Washer is CEO of AGTC, which develops therapies to transform the lives of patients with severe diseases caused by broken genes. She is an experienced entrepreneur with a background in large companies as well as start-ups. AGTC currently has 12 employees.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** None

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Chair Thomas G. Kuntz