Trustees,

As you heard at the June Board of Governors meeting, the State University System continues to make great strides in metrics focused on increasing student success, decreasing students costs, and producing more degrees for in-demand fields. Cybersecurity is one of these critical high demand areas. This update spotlights the impact of UWF, working in collaboration with our other institutions, as they lead the way in cybersecurity workforce development. I also want to emphasize a few other universities' critical strategic priorities that target performance and productivity. I am proud of the hard work by the Board of Governors and our university leadership as we continue to demonstrate a commitment to accountability, student success, affordability, and degree attainment.

Ray Rodrigues
The four highest-scoring institutions in the System were FIU, FSU, UF, USF.

The System is graduating more Pell grant students in four years, with 7 institutions improving more than 10 percentage points in the last five years.

More African American & Hispanic students are receiving bachelor's degrees, with 9 institutions improving in the last year.

4-year graduation rates have increased 10% in the last five years with all 12 institutions improving.

Average cost of a bachelor's degree is $3,400 after factoring in the state's investment in Bright Futures and other financial aid.
This month, Chancellor Rodrigues visited the UWF Center for Cybersecurity to tour the facility and discuss continuing to advance the State University System of Florida as a leader in cybersecurity workforce development.

UWF's Center for Cybersecurity is a regional hub for cybersecurity education and research, including multidisciplinary programs and certificates, research opportunities, outreach activities, and industry partnerships. This June, UWF received the National Centers for Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community Outreach first place award at the 2023 NCAE-C Symposium in Seattle, Washington. UWF was designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity in 2016 and re-designated in 2022.

The Center also leads the National Cybersecurity Workforce Development Program, which has trained more than 1,700 transitioning military, first responders and veterans for cybersecurity jobs over the past three years, and serves as a scalable solution to address the national cybersecurity workforce gap.
UCF is partnering with two of Florida's leading healthcare systems and Florida's leading producer of nursing talent. Fueled by $10 million in combined commitments from AdventHealth and Orlando Health, the UCF College of Nursing has moved a major step closer to a new building at Lake Nona that will enable the college to graduate hundreds of additional nurses annually who will care for patients throughout the region and state. The new building also will expand the college’s capacity to educate future nursing faculty members who are needed to teach the nurses of tomorrow.

The UF Health Cancer Center has received a prestigious designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The designation signifies that the UF Health Cancer Center has met rigorous standards in its leading-edge cancer research programs, advanced scientific leadership, distinctive training programs and forward-thinking community outreach. The Center will receive $2.1 million annually from the NCI to enhance its ability to attract more world-class researchers and clinical investigators and train the next generation of cancer research workforce, while increasing its competitiveness for cancer research grants.

The University of South Florida accepted an invitation to become a member of the Association of American Universities. Joining the University of Florida as the second institution in the State University System to become a member.

FGCU has landed nearly $22.9 million grant through the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge. The grant will be spread over three years and focuses on collaborative workforce development in their five-county region. With this grant, FGCU will have the opportunity to advance their micro-credentialing program while creating accelerated pathways for workforce development alongside partner institutes of higher education, K-12 public school systems and technical colleges throughout the region. These regional collaboration will create a resilient and vibrant workforce to advance and diversify Florida's economy.