2026-2027 Legislative Budget Request

Summary of State University Proposed Budget Initiatives

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University	$70,000,000
FAMU/FSU College of Engineering	$13,140,328
Florida Atlantic University	$48,534,179
Florida Gulf Coast University	$24,272,066
Florida International University	$187,800,000
Florida Polytechnic University	$15,000,000
Florida State University	$261,700,000
New College of Florida	$4,620,000
University of Central Florida	$53,611,600
University of Florida	$50,000,000
UF/IFAS	$6,390,199
University of North Florida	$25,000,000
University of South Florida	$50,000,000
University of West Florida	$6,422,850
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TOTAL:	**$816,491,222**

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

- Restructuring Talent for Operational Excellence and Institutional Competitiveness — $70,000,000

FAMU/FSU JOINT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- Engineering Florida's Competitive Workforce: Accelerating High-Tech Job Creation and Economic Growth — $13,140,328

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

- Florida Atlantic's Opportunity Engine: Recruit. Retain. Rise. — $46,534,179
- FAU Lab Schools Institute — $2,000,000

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

- Journey to Excellence — $24,272,066

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- Operational Excellence — $60,000,000
- Category 6 Initiative: Infrastructure, Testing, Disaster Management & Recovery — $46,500,000
- Innovative Technology Hub and Academic-Industry Partnerships Initiatives — $43,300,000
- FIU Health Innovation District — $38,000,000

FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	
• Rising to 3,000: Expanding Florida Poly's Economic Impact	$15,000,000
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
• Advancing Breakthroughs in Magnetic Science & Technology, Rare Earth Mineral Discovery, Quantum Science & Energy	$70,500,000
• Advancing FSU's National Prominence through Student Academic Success and Federally Aligned Research	$65,000,000
• Transforming Healthcare in North Florida Through Ongoing Investments in FSU Health	$50,000,000
• Translation Hub for Healthy Aging, Healthspan Research, and Digital Health	$43,700,000
• Florida Behavioral Health Center of Excellence	$32,500,000
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	
• Funding for Critical Campus Safety and Security Enhancements	$4,000,000
• Master of Education in Educational Leadership Funding	$620,000
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	
• Investing in Florida's Future: Florida's Premier Engineering & Technology University	$50,000,000
• UCF Center for Adaptability, Readiness, Exploration, Engagement & Resources (UCF CAREER): Creating a Culture of Career Readiness and Exceptional Excellence	$3,611,600
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	
• National Ranking Operating Support	$50,000,000
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	
• IFAS Workload	$6,390,199
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	
• Operational Support for Growth	$25,000,000
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	
• Preeminence Program / Operational Support	$50,000,000
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	
• Strengthening Florida's Future: Advanced Research Capacity in Health and Computing	$6,422,850

Summary of Issue Details[1]:

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

- **$70.0M**: Restructuring Talent for Operational Excellence and Institutional Competitiveness
    - FAMU is currently ranked number 81 among national public universities, ranked number 1 among Public Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) for the past six consecutive years, and is a top producer of African American graduates in STEM, health, and legal fields. With a proud legacy of access and affordability for first-generation and low-income students, FAMU is leading the State University System (SUS) in delivering on the promise of public education for at-risk communities. FAMU sets ambitious goals to further enhance performance outcomes, rankings, and the institutional profile. These objectives include ascending to the top tier of SUS institutions in performance-based funding outcomes and attaining a coveted Carnegie R1 Research Institution designation. The requested resources are pivotal to propelling FAMU toward these objectives while meeting state needs. This request reflects FAMU's continued aspiration to rise as a national model for academic excellence and exceptional student success.
    - To accelerate its progress toward Carnegie R1 designation, FAMU is launching a bold new initiative to create Career Workforce Ready Harnessing Unlimited Brilliance (HUBs) for student success, enhance career-ready workforce, support faculty excellence, research innovation, and successful workforce pathways. Aligned with FAMU's 2022–2027 Strategic Plan and the 2025 University Accountability Plan, this request directly supports high-impact goals, including improving student success and degree completion, expanding academic excellence and research output, and creating aligned workforce pathways across colleges and schools. To attain these aspirations, substantial and sustained investments are imperative to attract and retain high-achieving students, bolster support for faculty excellence, and fortify the university's signature academic programs, ensuring they are primed for workforce demands.

FAMU/FSU JOINT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- **$13.1M**: ENGINEERING FLORIDA'S COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE: Accelerating High-Tech Job Creation and Economic Growth
    - Florida faces a critical shortage of high-tech engineering talent that constrains business growth and economic competitiveness statewide. The FAMU-FSU Joint College of Engineering - established in 1982 as the only engineering college in the nation jointly operated by two public universities - stands ready to address this

[1] For complete proposals, please contact the Board of Governors' University Budgets Office.

workforce crisis through strategic expansion that delivers job-ready engineers to Florida businesses while driving innovation-based economic development.

- The demand for advanced capabilities in aerospace, power systems, cybersecurity technologies, and resilient infrastructure is accelerating. The college is uniquely positioned to address these gaps - supplying career-ready engineers, fueling applied research, and driving innovation across critical industries. To enhance this impact, the college developed a five-year strategic plan, Engineering Our Future (2024–2029), aligned with the SUS 2030 Strategic Plan and the Accountability Plans of both partner universities. This legislative budget request seeks the targeted investments necessary to implement that vision - expanding talent, research, and innovation capacity to accelerate Florida's economy for decades to come.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

- **$46.5M**: Florida Atlantic's Opportunity Engine: Recruit. Retain. Rise.
  - With bold support from the State of Florida and its visionary leaders, Florida Atlantic is an engine of opportunity. The university has rapidly increased graduation rates, research expenditures, and reached record highs in student retention, philanthropic giving, and enrollment. These outcomes were realized while expanding access to first-generation students and earning national recognition for institutional transformation.
  - As the Race to Excellence strategic plan sunsets at the end of this year, this proposal serves as a bridge to FAU's next strategic era - ensuring the university continues to grow enrollment, expand student success, and deliver opportunity without losing momentum. This funding will power the Opportunity Engine through three strategic goals:
    - Recruit: Invest in instructional and research faculty to support smart enrollment growth.
    - Retain: Establish an innovative total compensation program to address compression and retain top talent.
    - Rise: Expand the medical school as the foundation for professional health programs and develop infrastructure to support FAU's new R1 research status.
- **$2.0M**: FAU Lab Schools Institute
  - The Institute will be established to respond to the findings of PISA and NAEP data, specifically focusing on Florida schools regardless of affiliation: public, private, charter, or homeschool. By leveraging leadership and teacher professional learning to expand STEM and corollary curricular programs with curriculum competitions throughout the state and nation, the Institute will not only enhance student skills but also directly address the growing demand for a workforce with strong STEM competencies addressing the needs published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2022) projecting over the course of ten years, the demand for STEM occupations will experience a 10.8% increase as opposed to non-STEM occupations increasing only by 2.3%.

- This initiative is crucial to ensure that students are well-prepared for the future job market, where STEM, presentation, and competition skills are increasingly in demand. Moreover, by incorporating STEM and other curriculum competitions, students are not only gaining proficiency in mathematics and science but also strengthening their literacy and presentation skills through heightened engagement and deeper learning experiences.

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

- **$24.3M**: Journey to Excellence
  - Florida Gulf Coast University's strategic plan, Innovating for Student Success: FGCU's Journey to Excellence, is built upon and provides a foundation for all institutional decisions, funding allocations, and operational priorities through 2029. It establishes FGCU's ongoing legislative budget request, as outlined below. The plan is rooted in our student-centered education model, with five major goals providing clear objectives that have been tracked in real-time with a performance scorecard. By realizing improvements in each of these goal areas, we continue to focus on successful methods of academic delivery that include direct services to students, providing them with the tools they need to be successful in school, career, and life. Concurrently, FGCU is invigorating the Southwest Florida community and beyond with innovative solutions as we respond to the region's needs and positively impact our economy.
  - The five goals include: 1) Innovate in academic success, 2) Enhance student success and well-being, 3) Elevate partnerships for regional impact, 4) Strengthen organizational culture and commitment to employees, and 5) Champion sustainable practices and resiliency.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- **$60.0M**: Operational Excellence
  - This request is focused on ensuring that FIU continues its momentum, increasing FIU's impact on the goals of the top university system in the country, and driving the growth and economic prosperity of Florida and its citizens. To continue FIU's progress and impact as a top public research university and as a major contributor to the economy of the State of Florida, these investments are focused on attracting and retaining excellent FIU students and faculty and continuing to raise its national reputation for academic and research excellence. FIU's leadership is committed to building a future-focused university that provides a dynamic, stimulating, and seamless student experience from admissions to career. This requires investments in digital infrastructure and human capital in key areas of customer relationship management (CRM) software, compliance, cybersecurity, and the transition to new, secure cloud-based tools to replace legacy systems.
  - This proposal has four key areas that elevate excellence at FIU by investing in: 1) the recruitment of leading faculty, 2) the retention of the faculty and staff that have

helped FIU achieve preeminence and our continued success on performance funding, 3) the elevation of the FIU student experience, and 4) the continued upgrading of compliance and security infrastructure.

- **$46.5M**: Category 6 Initiative: Infrastructure Testing, Disaster Management & Recovery
  - This initiative is a university-wide effort and includes needed upgrades and investments in two of our unique research testing platforms: the Wall of Wind and Aquarius. This investment in two of Florida's most iconic research testing facilities, combined with our educational and research strengths, strategic locations, and unique facilities, will enable FIU to remain a national leader in testing, disaster management, and recovery. FIU's location in Miami-Dade County and South Florida, the epicenter to understand environmental resilience, provides an unparalleled opportunity to showcase its achievements in this area and to inspire its students, communities, cities, and other academic institutions to engage in research and policy efforts to improve disaster mitigation, response, and recovery efforts. Highlights include:
    - Expanding the Engineering Center as a leading applied research park focused on environmental materials testing, energy, and infrastructure lab.
    - Leveraging the Biscayne Bay Campus as a major research hub in climate technology, applied research, and environmental robotics.
    - Creating the Center for Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Mitigation, and Recovery focused on academic-government-industry partnership and cooperation.
    - Leveraging advances and data generated by environmental research, environmental robotics deployments, and natural resources monitoring to support research and technology transfer efforts.
    - Complementing the efforts and investments around the South Florida Climate Tech Hub to partner with industry on rapid development from research and testing to commercialization.
    - Supporting small businesses and start-up incubation around research ideas ripe for commercialization. We will work with the College of Business MPA faculty to turn students' promising capstone projects into viable business opportunities whenever possible.
- **$43.3M**: Innovative Technology Hub and Academic-Industry Partnership Initiatives
  - The Academic-Industry (A.I.) Innovation Tech Hub is focused on growing the FIU federal research portfolio (over $325 million in research expenditures in 2024), leveraging internal expertise and research, and expanding strategic industry partnerships and alliances to ensure FIU continues to be a major economic engine for South Florida and the state. The collaborations created as a part of this A.I. Innovation Tech Hub will translate groundbreaking research into practical, real-world applications; support student success through curated talent development initiatives; and position FIU as a catalyst for new business opportunities and propel technological advancement in local communities and on a global scale.
  - This investment will build on the success that FIU has had with federal partners such as the Defense Department and NASA to engineer cutting-edge solutions for defense, security, and forensics, using advanced techniques such as 3D printing of metals, origami antennas, and cold spray and rapid deposition manufacturing. It also builds on our successes in the classrooms, where we transform STEM curriculum at

scale, so that we can inspire future scientists and engineers at the collegiate level, which also spurs more dynamic K-12 STEM educators.

  - The A.I. Innovation Tech Hub will drive FIU's research, innovation, and intellectual products toward commercial applications in the arenas of healthcare and environmental mitigation while leveraging our growing patent portfolio. FIU will achieve this through four major initiatives: investing in the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences; strengthening industry-academy relations; focusing on national security; and strengthening cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention.

- **$38.0M**: Invest in FIU Health Innovation District
  - FIU's Health Innovation District initiative is designed to leverage interdisciplinary expertise and a strong network of partners to pioneer precision and personalized medicine, AI-driven diagnostics, and proactive wellness initiatives that will reshape the healthcare landscape. Through this initiative, FIU will broaden its research influence in clinical applications by intensifying its focus and investing in strategically aligned laboratory space and equipment that correspond with the state's health priorities. This interdisciplinary collaborative initiative will involve our colleges of medicine, engineering (biomedical engineering), public health, arts & sciences (biology and biochemistry), and computer science.

FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

- **$15.0M**: Rising to 3,000: Expanding Florida Poly's Economic Impact
  - Florida Polytechnic University is poised for explosive growth. As the #1 public college in the South, Florida Poly offers the best return-on-investment degree in the country. We rank #1 in career outcomes for students - with the highest percentage of graduates employed (81%) at the highest median starting salary ($67k) in the state - and our students graduate with less debt than students from any other school in Florida. We produce graduates prepared to fill high-tech, high-wage employment gaps at a pace that exceeds schools like Harvard, MIT, Georgia Tech, and Berkeley. To keep up with the increasing demand for graduates from employers within Florida, Florida Poly must grow. The prior request for 2025-26 outlined the strategy to grow enrollment 10% each year to reach 3,000 students by 2030 through a $21.5M recurring appropriation. Since that time, the institution has been laser-focused on growth, strategically investing existing University funds through the elimination of administrative positions. These efforts resulted in a 14% year-over-year growth in enrollment in 2024-25. This growth will continue in 2025-26 thanks to support from the Legislature in the form of a $10M non-recurring appropriation.
  - To further advance Florida Polytechnic University as a key economic driver to the region and state, to ensure Florida Poly continues to provide the #1 return-on-investment degree in the nation to a growing number of students, and to solidify Florida's status as the national leader in key high-tech industries, the institution is now respectfully requesting support for securing $15 million in recurring operational funds.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

- **$70.5M**: Advancing Breakthroughs in Magnetic Science & Technology, Rare Earth Mineral Discovery, Quantum Science & Energy
  - The National High Magnetic Field Lab (MagLab) is the largest and highest-powered magnet lab in the world and Florida's only national laboratory, yet it is experiencing increased competition from China and other U.S. institutions. This LBR outlines the valuable research and support needed to maintain its status and its value for the state of Florida and the nation. Headquartered at Florida State University, the MagLab is creating the foundation of quantum technology, materials science, and energy solutions that will shape our future. Through a strategic partnership involving the National Science Foundation (NSF), the state of Florida, Florida State University (FSU), the University of Florida, and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the MagLab's relocation to FSU in the early 1990s marked a pivotal shift in high-tech research leadership. Today, the MagLab hosts nearly 2,000 researchers annually who use our world-record magnet systems to move science and innovate, creating technologies that improve our world.
- **$65.0M**: Advancing FSU's National Prominence through Student Academic Success and Federally Aligned Research
  - Florida's public higher education system has led the nation's public university systems for nine years in a row. Florida State University has contributed to that success as one of the fastest improving and most effective institutions among the Top 50 public universities. Importantly, FSU has accomplished this without the springboard of a teaching hospital or the associated clinical academic research that would normally accompany a top research university. To continue momentum and increase national standing, FSU will use these funds to strategically invest in: hiring prominent research faculty; advancing nation-leading student success; Improving student success for transfer students; reducing the student-to-faculty ratio from 17:1 to 13:1; and recruiting and retaining top talent.
- **$50.0M**: Transforming Healthcare in North Florida Through Ongoing Investments in FSU Health
  - FSU Health is a bold and comprehensive initiative that will transform the quality of healthcare in Florida's most underserved regions and advance health innovation to improve health outcomes for all Floridians. Even as we move through the design and construction process for the academic health center building in Tallahassee and plan for the FSU Health hospital in Panama City Beach, FSU has been developing its Phase II plan to recruit and hire the teams of physician-scientists, researchers, and other specialized staff that will bring these world-class facilities to life - and have the most impact on the communities we serve.
  - The FSU College of Medicine has historically focused on primary and rural health. Through the FSU Health investment, we will expand our efforts, reimagine, and grow our medical college to produce the talent that Florida needs with expertise in high-demand areas, including healthy aging, behavioral health, genomics, personalized

medicine, and autism. These expansions are increasingly requiring access to top research talent. In support of FSU Health, we have begun building an FSU Health Connections platform that includes the health data sciences initiative, investing in data sciences infrastructure to improve our ability to compete for more and larger National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded projects. To significantly advance FSU's NIH funding support, we must grow our faculty and partners. Growing the number of researchers and physician-scientists will require extensive central support for secure and effective research and operational infrastructure.

- **$43.7M**: Translation Hub for Healthy Aging, Healthspan Research, and Digital Health
  - FSU is seeking Legislative support to establish a pioneering Translational Aging Research Hub (Hub) that will position Florida to be the national leader in healthy aging research and care delivery. The Hub leverages NIH-funded digital health innovations at FSU and a public health model framework to catalyze statewide research efforts, uniting expertise and facilitating translational interventions, to drive policy and practice advancements in healthy aging.
  - A Translational Hub is an environment in which teams of scientists collaborate to solve well-defined problems and disseminate research findings to serve the public, inform the design of effective clinical, programmatic, and policy interventions, and generate private-sector investments in new methods. This approach cultivates a team science environment among experts with diverse knowledge and expertise to develop and test comprehensive public health solutions. This Translational Hub environment will also be designed so that policymakers and external partners can provide regular feedback and recommendations for new strategic initiatives.
- **$32.5M**: Florida Behavioral Health Center of Excellence
  - Florida State University is seeking legislative support to establish a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence based at FSU that will partner with state agencies and institutions to better address the dramatically increasing mental and behavioral health crisis in Florida. Behavioral health disorders, including mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders, are known to be among the most disabling medical conditions in the world. Despite investments in research and clinical care, the prevalence and burden of behavioral health disorders have remained unchanged. Up to two-thirds of people suffering from these disorders never receive effective treatment, leaving families struggling over lifetimes and generations. This is particularly unfortunate as effective treatments do exist, but access, proper training, and stigma present barriers. FSU has significant expertise and foundational elements ready to address this.

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

- **$4.0M**: Funding for Critical Campus Safety and Security Enhancements
  - This request is designed to significantly bolster the physical security infrastructure of the NCF campus, thereby creating a safer learning and living environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The proposed enhancements include upgrades to camera surveillance systems, modernizing access control, fortifying campus perimeters with improved fencing, and providing essential safety equipment upgrades for the campus police department. This request aligns with the New College business plan and Accountability Plan metrics to increase the well-being of students.
  - The safety and security of the New College community are paramount. While current security measures provide a baseline level of protection, the evolving landscape of campus safety threats necessitates proactive and significant upgrades. Colleges and universities across the nation face increasing challenges related to maintaining secure environments, including deterring unauthorized access, responding swiftly to incidents, and ensuring the well-being of their campus community.
- **$0.6M**: Master of Education in Educational Leadership Funding
  - New College of Florida proposes to launch a two-year Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Leadership degree program in Fall 2026. This program will complement existing undergraduate programs. The purpose is to equip students with leadership competencies and proficiency that will propel them into significant leadership roles. Throughout the program, students will delve into the purpose and philosophy of education as put forth by great thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle. They will also learn high-impact practices and then implement them with hands-on training, ensuring significant improvement in the quality and outcomes of the schools they go on to lead.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

- **$50.0M**: Investing in Florida's Future: Florida's Premier Engineering & Technology University
  - This legislative budget request will further fuel UCF's upward trajectory and enable UCF to become one of two Top 25 engineering programs in the state. This is critically important because, by the numbers, UCF drives Florida's engineering and high-tech workforce and, accordingly, the state's economy. Goals include: 1) Top 25 Ranking, Public Engineering College; 2) Top Producer of Engineering and Computer Science Talent; and 3) Infuse Engineering and Technology across the University's Academic Offerings.
  - For example, UCF's request, through new 2026-27 funding, will expand the investment in AI and related areas, as well as many other areas of technology, while paying special attention to robotics. Recent advances in computational power and artificial intelligence (AI) are revolutionizing the field of robotics, enabling capabilities that were previously unattainable. Enhanced computational power allows robots to

process vast amounts of data in real time, making them more responsive and efficient. This is crucial for complex tasks such as object recognition, navigation, and real-time decision-making, where speed and accuracy are essential. The significance of robotics in the future is immense, as these technologies are set to revolutionize numerous industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and logistics.

- **$3.6M**: UCF Center for Adaptability, Readiness, Exploration, Engagement & Resources (UCF CAREER): Creating a Culture of Career Readiness and Exceptional Excellence
  - At UCF, we believe that preparing our graduates for success in their careers through excellent, innovative, and accessible workforce readiness programs is foundational to our mission. UCF is focused on providing the workforce and research infrastructure needed to fuel Florida's growing high-tech economy through a commitment to excellence in education and research, and a commitment to meaningful interaction with industry. To this end, UCF is building a comprehensive career-focused ecosystem that integrates career exploration and readiness, skill development, digital and technical proficiency, professional experience, job market preparation, networking, career advancement, and lifelong professional growth. As Florida's premier engineering and technology university, our mission is to produce career-ready graduates who drive innovation, meet industry demands, and lead in a rapidly evolving global workforce.
  - As UCF forges ahead in the commitment to educate 25,000 engineers, the institution is proposing a strategic investment of approximately $59 per undergraduate student to ensure that all UCF graduates are equipped with the skills, experience, and competencies that position them for long-term success.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

- **$80.0M**: National Ranking Operating Support
  - The University of Florida is focused on becoming a global leader in applied artificial intelligence research and education, research with impact, and preparing students to thrive as citizens in our era of rapid technological change. These new funds will steepen Florida's economic trajectory, build an AI-ready workforce, sustain UF's research preeminence, prepare lifelong learners, strengthen viewpoint diversity and civil discourse, retain and develop talented faculty, and recruit the best and brightest Florida students to stay in Florida. This Legislative Budget Request (LBR) is a critical next step as UF partners to pave the way for Florida's next act.
  - Great faculty change students' lives in classrooms and excel at applied translational research that will futureproof Florida. Our plans will create exceptional performance, retain and recruit world-class talent, reduce poaching risk, and make UF a magnet for innovative faculty. These recurring funds will enable "cluster hiring," bringing entire high-performing teams from other institutions to Florida.
  - The funds will be used to adapt the core curriculum and enhance professional development opportunities to get ahead of extremely rapid technological advancements.

- UF is preparing productive, informed citizens skilled in civil discourse and multiple perspectives. Consistent with legislative and executive branch direction, UF is growing civic literacy and engagement programs so graduates balance new information technologies with a robust understanding of societal foundations and critical thinking. The Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education exemplifies this commitment, adding 20 new faculty this year from Harvard and Princeton. With 53 professors and 1,500 expected students this fall, Hamilton is emerging as a national model for rigorous study of Western thought and American ideals. New operational funds will allow UF to double down on this success.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES (IFAS)

- **$6.4M**: IFAS WORKLOAD
  - The UF/IFAS workload formula is a cost-to-continue funding model that provides for increased research and extension workload demand. The formula was developed at the request of and approved by the Florida Board of Governors. New challenges require new research for solutions. Increased demand for UF/IFAS research and extension activities is based on the delivery of research information to UF/IFAS clientele throughout Florida.
  - The request addresses three separate priorities of the University of Florida in its strategic plan: 1. to have “an exceptional academic environment, achieved by a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff;” 2. “growth in research and scholarship that improves the lives of the world’s citizens;” and 3. to have “a physical infrastructure and efficient administration and support structure that enable preeminence.”

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

- **$25M**: Operational Support for Growth
  - The strategic vision for UNF includes enrollment growth to 25,000 to serve the talent needs of the Northeast Florida region. This growth requires investment to secure faculty in key areas of economic growth in the region, student support services, research support, and scholarships. Our region is one of the fastest-growing in the country, creating a critical demand for expansion of the talent pipeline now.
  - The request supports UNF’s strategic focus areas, which are related to advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics, coastal resilience, computing, cybersecurity, fintech, and healthcare/biomedical endeavors.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

- **$50M**: • Preeminence Program / Operational Support
  - The University of South Florida (USF) requests a recurring $50 million net increased investment in the university's base operating budget beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-27 to further support USF's nationally unmatched ascent in student success and research excellence. Strategic investments from these new resources would be targeted towards accelerating the growth and output of the institution's identified areas of expertise, as submitted to the Board of Governors in July 2025. The identified areas of expertise include Molecular Medicine, Science, and Biology; Applied Artificial Intelligence; and Human Infrastructure Security.
  - USF is recognized as a global leader in education and research in numerous areas across multiple colleges and disciplines. However, the three areas listed above were targeted for specific near-term investment because they provide substantial opportunities to maximize the return on investment for Florida taxpayers and tuition-paying families in new educational, employment, and earnings opportunities, economic development, workforce development, research breakthroughs and new technological advancements, and greater quality of life for our state's current and future residents.
  - If funded, this request will supplement the work of USF's Advancing Efficiency and Strategic Impact Task Force. Commissioned by President Law in early 2025, this task force is conducting a comprehensive institutional review focused on promoting efficiency, transparency, and strategic reinvestment. Beyond seeking simple cost effectiveness, the task force was charged with identifying new opportunities for operational efficiency and innovation. This includes identifying strategic reallocations of existing resources that will allow USF to make enhanced internal investments in the outcomes that matter most - student success, faculty excellence, research innovation, and institutional resilience - without compromising institutional quality or ambition.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

- **$6.4M**: Strengthening Florida's Future: Advanced Research Capacity in Health and Computing
  - The purpose of this request is to seek funding to expand UWF's computational and population health research capabilities, to produce industry-aligned doctoral students, and to enhance and support the Florida Panhandle's growing economy. These areas of research are of strategic importance to both our regional military community and health industries.
  - One unit that will be supported with LBR funds is the Institute for Analytics and Industry Advancement ((IA)²). The institution proposes to develop (IA)² into a world-class research center of excellence, focused on providing predictive data analytics and advanced computational research, including machine learning, deep learning, and cognitive analytics. The cutting-edge computational research will focus on the

creation or application of computational models and systems capable of performing complex tasks. This center will be strengthened and sustained through grants and contracts.

- In addition, this LBR request includes funding to support the launch of a new PhD program in Health and Human Performance Analytics in partnership with the Institute for Human & Machine Cognition, a leader in human health span, resilience, and performance. This program will produce graduates who are not only proficient in data analysis using cutting-edge AI and machine learning techniques but also trained as biomedical researchers, meeting critical workforce needs in the biotechnology sector.