

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Academic and Research Excellence Committee**  
January 28, 2026

**SUBJECT:** World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION**

Consider approval of the 2026 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Section 1004.6497, Florida Statutes, requires that the Board of Governors submit a report on the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program to the legislature by March 15 each year. The legislature provided recurring funding of \$90.5 million in 2024-25 to support the efforts of the State University System institutions in recruiting and retaining exemplary faculty and research scholars. The 2026 report includes expenditure information for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year. Board staff collected the statutorily required data points from State University System institutions in the fall of 2025 to create the 2026 report. If approved by the Academic and Research Excellence Committee, this item will be forwarded to the full Board for consideration.

Dr. Lynn Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation, will provide an overview of the 2026 report.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

2026 World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

Dr. Lynn Nelson