

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

SUBJECT: World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Report

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.

Supporting Documentation Included:

2026 World Class Faculty and
Scholar Program Report

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Lynn Nelson