



2027-2028 Legislative Budget Request

Summary of State University Proposed Budget Initiatives

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University	\$51,500,000
FAMU/FSU College of Engineering	\$13,603,133
Florida Atlantic University	\$53,339,099
Florida Gulf Coast University	\$10,352,481
Florida International University	\$130,500,000
Florida Polytechnic University	\$20,000,000
Florida State University	\$261,700,000
New College of Florida	\$30,000,000
University of Central Florida	\$88,650,000
University of Florida	\$50,000,000
UF/IFAS	\$6,269,346
University of North Florida	\$60,000,000
University of South Florida	\$75,000,000
University of West Florida	\$5,588,000
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TOTAL:	\$856,502,059

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

- Agricultural Innovation, Workforce Development, and Extension Excellence Initiative \$6,500,000
- FAMU R1 Research Acceleration and Carnegie Classification Initiative \$10,000,000
- Florida Center for Legal Innovation, Technology, and Judicial Leadership \$25,000,000
- Cardiometabolic Health Disorders Institute \$10,000,000

FAMU/FSU JOINT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- Engineering Florida's Defense Future: Building the Workforce, Research, and Innovation Capacity for National Security \$13,603,133

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

- Florida Atlantic's Opportunity Engine: Recruit. Retain. Rise. \$51,339,099
- Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation \$2,000,000

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

- Innovating for Student Success: FGCU's Journey to Excellence \$10,352,481



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- Operational Excellence \$60,000,000
- Defense, National Security, and Intelligence Initiative \$30,000,000
- The Disaster Preparedness Center of Excellence at FIU \$25,000,000
- Industry Partnerships and New Technology Commercialization Initiative \$15,500,000

FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

- Rising to 3,000: Expanding Florida Poly's Economic Impact Through Enrollment Growth & AI Enablement \$20,000,000

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Protecting Florida's Global Leadership in Magnetic Science, Critical Minerals, Quantum Innovation, and Energy Security \$70,500,000
- Advancing Florida's Workforce, Research Competitiveness, and Student Success through Florida State University \$65,000,000
- Advancing Florida's Health Care Workforce, Research Capacity, and Access to Care Through Continued Investment 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

- New College of Florida Operational Growth Support \$30,000,000

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

- Investing in Florida's Future: Florida's Technological University \$50,000,000
- Sustaining Preeminence: Operational Support for Florida's Most Efficient University \$35,000,000
- UCF Center for the Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: BUYER BEWARE PROJECT \$1,900,000
- UCF RESTORES PTSD Clinic for Florida's Veterans & First Responders \$1,000,000
- UCF National Aerospace Medicine and Extreme Environments Center Aerospace Chamber Complex \$750,000

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

- University of Florida National Ranking Operating Support \$50,000,000

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

- UF/IFAS Workload \$6,269,346



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

- Operational Support for Growth \$60,000,000

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

- Preeminence Program / Operational Support Increase \$75,000,000

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

- UWF Comprehensive Excellence Initiative: Talent Gateway, Research Faculty, and Civic Education Academy \$5,588,000

Summary of Issue Details¹:

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

- **\$6.5M: Agricultural Innovation, Workforce Development, and Extension Excellence Initiative**
 - As Florida's 1890 Land-Grant University, Florida A&M University plays a critical role in supporting one of the state's most important economic sectors. Florida agriculture contributes more than \$270 billion annually to the state's economy and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across production agriculture, food systems, environmental management, agribusiness, transportation, and related industries. Continued growth and sustainability of this sector require strategic investments in research, innovation, workforce development, and technology transfer.
 - The proposed investment will support the hiring of ten research faculty members with expertise in areas critical to Florida's future agricultural competitiveness, including specialty crop production, water resource management, food security, agricultural economics, precision agriculture, environmental sustainability, and emerging agricultural technologies. The initiative will also support eight research scientists who conduct applied research, manage laboratory and field operations, assist with grant development, and advance technology transfer activities. Six Extension specialists will expand statewide outreach efforts, providing direct support to producers, rural communities, and agribusinesses while delivering workforce training and educational programming.
 - The initiative will also strengthen the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station (BAERS), a critical asset supporting agricultural innovation, field-based research, producer engagement, and workforce training. Enhancements to BAERS will expand the University's capacity to conduct applied research that directly benefits Florida producers while serving as a living laboratory for students and industry partners.
 - Additionally, investments in precision agriculture technologies, including advanced sensors, unmanned aerial systems, data analytics, and artificial intelligence

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



applications, will position Florida producers to increase productivity, improve resource management, and enhance long-term sustainability. Expanded community outreach and producer education programs will ensure that research findings are rapidly translated into practical applications that strengthen agricultural productivity and economic growth throughout Florida.

- ***\$10.0M: FAMU R1 Research Acceleration and Carnegie Classification Initiative***
 - Florida A&M University is strategically positioned to become the nation's next public HBCU to achieve Carnegie R1 status. Advancing to R1 will strengthen Florida's national research profile, increase federal research funding, expand doctoral education, attract top faculty, and generate long-term economic returns through innovation and commercialization.
 - The Florida Board of Governors has identified research growth, doctoral production, and economic impact as central components of the SUS 2030 Strategic Plan. Research universities serve as economic engines that attract federal funding, industry partnerships, startup creation, and high-wage talent.
- ***\$25.0M: Florida Center for Legal Innovation, Technology, and Judicial Leadership***
 - The Florida Center for Legal Innovation, Technology, and Judicial Leadership will position Florida A&M University College of Law as a statewide hub for legal innovation, emerging technologies, judicial leadership, intellectual property, artificial intelligence governance, cybersecurity law, healthcare law, entrepreneurship, and technology commercialization. Florida's rapidly growing innovation economy requires attorneys, judges, policymakers, and legal professionals equipped to navigate increasingly complex issues involving technology, intellectual property, data governance, business formation, healthcare regulation, and emerging industries. This initiative will strengthen Florida's legal workforce while supporting business growth, entrepreneurship, and economic development.
- ***\$10.0M: Cardiometabolic Health Disorders Institute***
 - Florida A&M University requests \$10 million in nonrecurring funding to establish the Cardiometabolic Health Disorders Institute, a statewide center of excellence focused on preventing and treating cardiovascular disease, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and related chronic conditions. Leveraging FAMU's strengths in pharmacy, nursing, allied health sciences, public health, biomedical research, and community engagement, the Institute will advance interdisciplinary research, healthcare workforce development, clinical innovation, and evidence-based interventions—particularly in rural and underserved communities.

FAMU/FSU JOINT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- ***\$13.6M: Engineering Florida's Defense Future: Building the Workforce, Research, and Innovation Capacity for National Security***



- The requested \$13.6 million recurring appropriation builds the three capacities on which Florida's defense future depends - workforce, research, and innovation - by expanding an existing, nationally recognized capability rather than creating a new one. It grows the faculty who produce defense-ready engineers and federal research alike, modernizes the infrastructure that makes that research government-trusted, and sustains the talent and partnerships that convert both into Florida jobs and technologies. The expansion would be implemented over a multi-year period, in step with workforce demand and federal research opportunities. Each component maps to a specific, trackable output:
- Faculty and research capacity: This is the engine of all three capacities of the workforce, research, and innovation. The funding supports a phased, multi-year expansion of faculty expertise and professional research personnel in high-demand fields, including artificial intelligence, quantum science and engineering, cyber-physical security, autonomy, hypersonics, advanced manufacturing, and resilient energy systems.
- Research equipment: Expands and sustains the specialized infrastructure required for modern defense research and workforce preparation, including hardware-in-the-loop testing, real-time digital engineering and modeling-and-simulation environments, advanced manufacturing capabilities, artificial intelligence computing resources, quantum research laboratories, and associated technical support.
- Student Success and Workforce Development: Provides targeted scholarships, graduate support, and student-success initiatives to increase the number of security-clearable, defense-relevant engineering graduates, with particular emphasis on expanding graduate education and more than doubling Florida A&M University Ph.D. production.
- Faculty and Staff Retention: Supports retention of key faculty, principal investigators, and technical personnel who maintain critical federal partnerships, sponsored research programs, and nationally recognized technical capabilities.
- Operations, Compliance, and Partnerships: Supports accreditation, research compliance, workforce partnerships, and engagement with federal agencies, military installations, national laboratories, and industry partners.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

- **\$51.3M:** *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 and research expenditures, and has reached record highs in student retention, philanthropic giving, and enrollment. These outcomes were achieved by expanding access for first-generation students and earning national recognition for institutional transformation.
 - Guided by its new strategic plan, 2031FAU: Where Tomorrow Begins, this proposal will ensure the university continues to grow enrollment, advance student success, and expand its research enterprise without losing momentum. To sustain this



trajectory, Florida Atlantic requests \$51.3 million in new state investment. 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: Develop quantum infrastructure to support advanced technologies, workforce development, and research growth.
- **\$2.0M: Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation**
 - Florida Atlantic is seeking the funding to support the "Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation (CESI) at FAU Lab Schools," which serves as the epicenter for reengineering education in Florida and our nation. The approach focuses on five key areas designed to extend the impact of our thriving educational model beyond our school campuses. The model will: develop and execute leadership training programs tailored for educators at all levels, expand focused teacher professional learning in science and mathematics, expand the impact of the Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies, develop one million future K-12 student researchers by scaling the A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School Research Initiative, and develop and implement a program of study focused on American Exceptionalism.

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

- **\$10.4M: Innovating for Student Success: FGCU's Journey to Excellence**
 - In this Legislative Budget Request, FGCU aims to continue to elevate its three official areas of expertise designated under the SUS strategic initiative: Multidisciplinary Research Excellence through The Water School; Health Span — Enhance Access to Quality-of-Life and Aging Support with Workforce Preparation; and Resort, Golf, and Hospitality Management. FGCU continues to evaluate related initiatives in Academic Program Enhancement, Industry Partnerships, and Infrastructure Alignment. While the continued investment in FGCU's continuous improvement and student success has proven to yield an excellent return for students and to strengthen our regional mission, FGCU is requesting continued investment in the 2027-2028 fiscal year of \$10,352,481.
 - The four goals include: 1) Innovate in academic success, 2) Enhance student success and well-being, 3) Elevate partnerships through regional impact, and 4) Champion sustainable practices and resiliency.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- **\$60.0M: Operational Excellence**
 - 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 while continuing to raise its national reputation for academic and research excellence.



FIU's leadership is committed to providing a win-win, dynamic, stimulating, and seamless student experience from admissions to career.

- This requires investment in digital infrastructure and human capital in key areas around the student experience, leveraging artificial intelligence to improve systems and service, and lay the foundation for a robust future-focused enterprise. This proposal has four key areas that elevate excellence at FIU by addressing these key areas and investing in: the recruitment of leading faculty; the retention of the faculty and staff that have powered preeminence and FIU's continued success on performance funding; the elevation of the FIU student experience; and the continued upgrading of compliance and security infrastructure.
- ***\$30.0M: Defense, National Security, and Intelligence Initiative***
 - In this initiative, FIU will establish the National Security Innovation Center (NSIC) as a university-wide hub integrating research, technology, workforce development, and operational collaboration across intelligence, cybersecurity, engineering, artificial intelligence, law, business, public policy, environmental security, and regional expertise. Rather than creating a new or siloed initiative, the NSIC will unify capabilities FIU has already built, through the Jack D. Gordon Institute, the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, and FIU's broader engineering, computing, and policy programs, into a single, scalable enterprise capable of supporting real-world decision-making for the federal government, the State of Florida, and the South Florida region.
 - A cornerstone of the Center will be the OSINT Innovation and Talent Development Lab, positioned to become one of the nation's leading academic laboratories dedicated to advancing OSINT methodologies, AI-enabled analytics, digital investigations, and technology evaluation, while providing hands-on training for students and practitioners alike. The Lab will unite FIU faculty, students, government partners, and industry to develop solutions addressing cyber threats, illicit finance, disinformation, transnational organized crime, infrastructure protection, migration, and strategic competition throughout the Western Hemisphere.
 - Key components are: Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF): Enables secure research, expansion of federal partnerships, and national security; Security Operations Center (SOC): Supports cybersecurity training, monitoring, simulation, and workforce development; Open-Source Intelligence Innovation and Talent Program: Builds OSINT research and workforce capacity; Cybersecurity and Compliance: Aligns with state, federal, and industry security expectations, as required for federal defense initiatives; Space, Defense, and Emerging Security Research: Positions FIU for growth in space defense, drones, autonomous systems, and security technology; and National Security Workforce Pathways: Connects students to internships, clearance pathways, applied research, and public service careers.



- ***\$25.0M: The Disaster Preparedness Center of Excellence at FIU***
 - FIU is proud to have earned the designation as the statewide Center of Excellence for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience training. The Disaster Preparedness Center of Excellence at FIU will serve as a statewide hub for disaster simulation, training, interagency collaboration, research, and education, in partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). This Center builds on FIU's existing leadership and record of success in this area.
 - The overall purpose of the Center is to enhance Florida's capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters through integrated training, applied research, and coordinated engagement across federal, state, and local partners. The Center's primary goals are to expand access to high-quality, scenario-based training; strengthen multiagency coordination and readiness; advance research in disaster resilience and hazard mitigation; and develop a highly skilled workforce to meet the state's evolving emergency management needs.
 - This Legislative Budget Request provides an investment of funds that will help establish the Center, expand public and private partnerships around disaster preparedness and management, advance industry partnerships, grow infrastructure testing, build upon the work currently done at the Academy for International Disaster Preparedness, and integrate the work done at the Extreme Events Institute, including the Wall of Wind and Florida Public Hurricane and Flood Loss Model.
 - This initiative aligns directly with FIU's 2030 FLBOG-approved strategic plan and the priorities of expanding the FIU experience in resilience and innovation. This integrates opportunities for faculty and students, expansion of research and commercialization, and strategic partnerships with public and private enterprises.
- ***\$15.5M: Industry Partnerships and New Technology Commercialization Initiative***
 - The Industry Partnerships and New Technology Commercialization Initiative focuses on supporting the integration of FIU innovations and cutting-edge technologies with industry partners. This request is also aligned with the BOG's new strategic plan's focus on industry engagement and commercialization of University Intellectual Property.
 - This Legislative Budget Request will advance FIU initiatives and programs to position its academic and research units to support both internal and external goals of commercialization of university innovations, partnerships with industry, and application of technologies to societal solutions.
 - The Industry Partnerships and New Technology Commercialization Initiative will support FIU's drive to direct its basic science research enterprise (currently at \$326M annually) towards translational research with industry to accelerate commercialization and applications or research discoveries to the marketplace. This LBR will support three pillars of the Initiative. These are Industry Collaboration and Technology Transfer, Rapid Manufacturing, and Quantum Computing Initiative.



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

- ***\$20.0M: Rising to 3,000: Expanding Florida Poly's Economic Impact Through Enrollment Growth & AI Enablement***
 - Florida Polytechnic University has reached a pivotal point in its growth trajectory – one that now requires additional recurring state investment to sustain its momentum and meet Florida's growing demand for high-wage STEM talent. As the fastest-growing institution in the State University System, Florida Poly has increased enrollment 25%, from 1,766 students in Fall 2024 to more than 2,200 students in Fall 2026. This growth is not only significant; it is accelerating. The University is now on pace to reach 3,000 students ahead of its original 2030 projection, more than doubling enrollment within six years. Without additional recurring operational support, Florida Poly's rapid growth will outpace the institutional capacity required to deliver the high-quality, high-return STEM education the State has invested in and increasingly depends upon.
 - This \$20 million recurring operational Legislative Budget Request represents a disciplined, strategic step toward aligning Florida Polytechnic University's funding with its growth, mission, and statewide value. The request supports two deeply connected strategic priorities:
 - Funding the operational support and infrastructure necessary to sustain Florida Poly's growing enrollment, expanding academic ambition, and increasing statewide impact.
 - Establishing a permanent AI Enablement function to modernize University operations, improve service delivery, and scale administrative capacity more efficiently.

Together, these requests simultaneously support enrollment growth while reducing Florida Poly's per-student cost to the State.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

- ***\$70.5M: Protecting Florida's Global Leadership in Magnet Science, Critical Minerals, Quantum Innovation, and Energy Security***
 - The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab) is one of Florida's most consequential research and economic assets. As the largest and highest-powered magnet laboratory in the world—and Florida's only national laboratory—it anchors advanced manufacturing, energy innovation, biomedical discovery, quantum science, and critical minerals research that directly benefit the State of Florida. Headquartered at Florida State University through a longstanding partnership among the National Science Foundation, the State of Florida, Florida State University, the University of Florida, and Los Alamos National Laboratory, the MagLab brings global talent, federal investment, and private-sector opportunity into Florida while advancing technologies essential to economic competitiveness, public health, and national security.



- This request is a strategic state investment to preserve and expand a high-value Florida enterprise at a moment of intensifying national and international competition. The MagLab hosts more than 1,800 researchers annually, supports more than 400 peer-reviewed publications each year, and remains a premier destination for discoveries that translate into new products, new companies, and high-wage jobs. Recent public reporting underscores both the opportunity and the urgency: the MagLab is the foundation of a growing “Magnetic Capital” strategy for Tallahassee and Florida, and its federal support must be matched by continued state commitment to modernization, workforce development, and industry engagement. By acting now, Florida can protect an irreplaceable asset, strengthen its leverage for future federal and private investment, and secure long-term economic returns for Floridians.
- ***\$65.0M: Advancing Florida’s Workforce, Research Competitiveness, and Student Success through Florida State University***
 - Florida’s State University System has led the nation since 2017 because it pairs accountability with strategic investment. Florida State University has been a major contributor to that success as one of the nation’s fastest-rising public universities and as one of Florida’s designated preeminent research institutions. This request will help the State of Florida build on that momentum by expanding the talent pipeline, accelerating research aligned with national and federal priorities, and strengthening the university’s capacity to educate and graduate more high-achieving students on time and at lower cost.
 - With recurring state investment, FSU will strengthen Florida’s economic competitiveness and deliver measurable value to students, families, employers, and taxpayers by advancing the following priorities:
 - Expand Florida’s research capacity in high-value fields by recruiting nationally prominent faculty, especially in STEM and health-related disciplines that attract federal funding, generate discoveries, and support long-term economic growth.
 - Sustain national leadership in student success through targeted advising, academic support, innovative programming, and career preparation that help more students graduate on time and enter Florida’s workforce ready to contribute.
 - Increase success for transfer students from the Florida College System by strengthening proven supports that help AA transfer students complete high-value bachelor’s degrees efficiently and affordably.
 - Improve educational quality and faculty engagement by reducing the student-to-faculty ratio from 17:1 to 13:1, enabling more individualized instruction, stronger mentoring, and greater undergraduate participation in research and innovation.
 - Recruit and retain top talent for Florida by remaining competitive for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff whose work directly supports Florida’s educational attainment, research enterprise, and economic vitality.



- ***\$50.0M: Advancing Florida's Health Care Workforce, Research Capacity, and Access to Care Through Continued Investment in FSU Health***
 - Florida State University requests continued investment to expand FSU Health as a strategic state asset that strengthens Florida's health care workforce, improves access to high-quality care in underserved regions, grows federally funded research, and delivers long-term economic and public health benefits for the State of Florida.
 - FSU Health is a long-term, statewide investment in Florida's ability to meet rising demand for physicians, researchers, and advanced health services. It is designed to improve care in North Florida and Northwest Florida regions, where many communities continue to face limited access to providers. This will also expand the research, training, and innovation capacity needed to serve Floridians for decades to come. As Florida State University advances the academic health center in Tallahassee and the FSU Health hospital in Panama City Beach, the university is also developing the next phase of faculty, physician-scientist, and clinical-research recruitment needed to ensure these assets generate measurable returns for the state in workforce production, patient access, and research competitiveness.
- ***\$43.7M: Translation Hub for Healthy Aging, Healthspan Research, and Digital Health***
 - Florida State University (FSU) requests legislative investment to establish a statewide Translation Hub for Healthy Aging, Healthspan Research, and Digital Health that will help Florida meet one of its most pressing long-term challenges: supporting a rapidly growing older adult population with better health outcomes, lower avoidable costs, and stronger access to care. The Hub will convert research into deployable solutions for Florida's communities, providers, caregivers, and policymakers by aligning FSU's NIH-funded digital health capabilities, public health expertise, and statewide data resources to accelerate innovation, improve service delivery, and inform evidence-based policy.
 - A translational hub is a problem-solving environment designed to move promising research out of the laboratory and into real-world use. It brings together experts across disciplines to define urgent problems, test evidence-based solutions, evaluate outcomes, and rapidly share what works with healthcare providers, community organizations, industry partners, and policymakers. For Florida, this model is valuable because it shortens the time between discovery and implementation, increases the return on public research investment, and provides a practical mechanism to address statewide challenges in healthy aging, caregiving, and digital health.
- ***\$32.5M: Florida Behavioral Health Center of Excellence***
 - Florida State University (FSU) seeks legislative support to establish the Florida Behavioral Health Center of Excellence, a statewide strategy to strengthen access to behavioral health care, improve health outcomes, expand workforce capacity, and reduce the long-term public costs of untreated mental illness and substance use



disorders. Rather than adding another isolated program, the Center will organize existing strengths across FSU, partner universities, health systems, and state agencies into a coordinated model for evidence-based care, workforce training, telehealth, and applied research. The result will be a more efficient and scalable system that delivers measurable benefits to the State of Florida. This would be especially true for children, families, pregnant and postpartum women, older adults, and residents of rural and underserved communities.

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

- ***\$30.0M: New College of Florida Operational Growth Support***
 - To ensure New College of Florida becomes the number one liberal arts school in the country, it needs to keep pace with its institutional growth. New College of Florida presents this unified \$30,000,000 Legislative Budget Request. This proposal integrates a \$15,000,000 recurring investment in operational excellence with a \$15,000,000 nonrecurring capital asset acquisition. By permanently securing our campus footprint and funding high-demand academic tracks, this comprehensive request builds the elite programmatic and physical infrastructure required to scale enrollment to 1,200+ students and become the number one liberal arts university.
 - The comprehensive plan is structured across five primary strategic pillars: Strategic Campus Land Acquisition; Programmatic Expansion and Innovation; The Freedom Institute; Critical Campus Safety and Security Enhancements; and Historic Building Deferred Maintenance.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

- ***\$50.0M: Investing in Florida's Future: Florida's Technological University***
 - This new 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.
 - UCF's steadfast commitment to providing Florida's prepared workforce is made possible through regular, productive collaboration with the state's top industry leaders. Through these meaningful interactions, UCF's legislative budget request responds to industries' direct requests for the preparation and established competencies of graduates entering the workforce.
- ***\$35.0M: Sustaining Preeminence: Operational Support for Florida's Most Efficient University***
 - The University of Central Florida requests \$35 million in recurring operational support to sustain the performance, capacity, and excellence that earned its designation as a



Preeminent State Research University while continuing to deliver exceptional value to the State of Florida.

- Recurring operational support will enable UCF to sustain the academic quality, student support, and institutional capacity necessary to maintain preeminent performance while continuing to educate one of the nation's largest student populations.
- The requested funding will strengthen instructional capacity in high-demand degree programs, support faculty recruitment and retention, address rising operating and technology costs, improve the learning environment through strategic infrastructure investments, and ensure students continue to receive the academic advising, career preparation, experiential learning, and support services necessary for timely graduation and long-term career success.
- By sustaining operational excellence, this investment will allow UCF to continue expanding Florida's talent pipeline while preserving the quality, accessibility, and affordability that distinguish the University.
- ***\$1.9M: UCF Center for the Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: BUYER BEWARE PROJECT***
 - State funding will build on the past support of the University of Central Florida's Center for the Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (HTMS Center) to expand the Buyer Beware initiative, strengthening Florida's leadership in preventing human trafficking through research, artificial intelligence, education, and cross-sector partnerships.
 - Continuing the development and design of the three phases (three tools) of the Buyer Beware project, this investment will enhance statewide prevention efforts, increase support for law enforcement and the hospitality industry, expand workforce training and public education, and accelerate the deployment of innovative AI technologies to reduce demand for commercial sexual exploitation. These initiatives directly align with UCF's strategic priorities of research excellence, workforce development, community impact, and industry innovation while providing measurable outcomes through expanded training, technology implementation, strategic partnerships, and evidence-based evaluation.
 - The Buyer Beware initiative will also enhance law enforcement operations by providing AI-assisted tools that support the organization and documentation of investigative information, helping officers efficiently compile reports, summarize evidence, and prepare draft investigative documents and arrest warrant materials for officer review. By reducing administrative workload and improving the consistency and timeliness of case documentation, investigators can dedicate more time to victim-centered investigations, offender identification, and coordinated enforcement efforts. These capabilities will strengthen collaboration across agencies while supporting informed, evidence-based investigative and prosecutorial processes.



- ***\$1.0M: UCF RESTORES PTSD Clinic for Florida's Veterans & First Responders***
 - UCF RESTORES provides treatment and resiliency services at no cost to Florida's veterans, active-duty personnel, first responders, and survivors of mass shootings or natural disasters.
 - Most of the funding is for retention of personnel who have allowed our clinic to provide the needed training and clinical services at no cost to Florida's veterans, military personnel, first responders, survivors of sexual trauma, and survivors of mass shootings and other natural/manmade disasters. If insurance were to be billed for these services or the individual had to pay out of pocket, the cost would exceed \$1.67 million. Thus, providing these services at no cost is a great benefit to Florida's citizens.
 - The remainder of the funding (\$114,793) is for costs related to running the clinic, including printing costs, marketing and communications, mobile crisis unit maintenance, insurance, registration fees, telecommunications, publication costs, electronic health record services, and office supplies such as copy machine rental, electronic media storage, paper, etc.
- ***\$750K: UCF National Aerospace Medicine and Extreme Environments Center: Aerospace Chamber Complex***
 - The purpose of this request is to establish the altitude chamber component of the NAMEC at UCF Lake Nona. This project will create a specialized aerospace medicine and extreme-environment platform for commercial spaceflight, aviation medicine, high-altitude physiology, decompression research, space-suit testing, emergency-response training, biomedical monitoring, and human-performance testing.
 - The \$750,000 appropriation requested will outfit space at the Academic Health Sciences Campus so that chambers purchased by C2Space can be installed, commissioned, and operated safely. This creates a high-value public-private partnership: C2Space provides specialized chamber equipment and operational expertise, while the State of Florida enables the infrastructure necessary to activate the capability in a university medical environment.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

- ***\$50.0M: University of Florida 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 pave the way for Florida's next act.



- With generous support from the state, UF invested in cutting-edge infrastructure, including HiPerGator AI, which continues to be the fastest academic supercomputer in the country, fueling breakthroughs in agriculture, health care, and national security. This world-class computer is an asset for the entire State University System, fostering partnerships among scholars and policymakers from Pensacola to Miami.
- Great faculty change students' lives in classrooms and excel at applied translational research that will futureproof Florida. UF's plans will deliver exceptional performance, retain and recruit world-class talent, reduce the risk of poaching, 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.
- Another focus is adapting the core curriculum and enhancing professional development to stay ahead of rapid technological advancements. UF has integrated AI research and learning opportunities campus-wide, with much bolder plans for the future.

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

- **\$6.3M: UF/IFAS WORKLOAD**

- The UF/IFAS Workload Formula is a cost-to-continue funding formula or model. It provides for increased research and Extension workload demand. The formula was developed at the request of and approved by the Florida Board of Governors (BOG). New challenges require new research and solutions. Increased demand for UF/IFAS research and Extension activities stems from the delivery of research information to UF/IFAS clientele throughout Florida.
- The model uses Extension delivery methods to measure increases in workload by both Extension and research faculty in the form of workload delivery units. UF/IFAS faculty disseminate a wide range of research-based information to the general public, community leaders, and policymakers. The model uses non-traditional teaching methods (such as field consultations, office consultations, telephone and email requests, group workshops, and printed materials) and converts these contacts to the equivalent of student FTEs.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

- **\$60.0M: 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, to support student services, research, and scholarships. Our region is one of the fastest-growing in the country, creating a critical need to expand the talent pipeline now. To reach this enrollment goal, UNF has a plan that requires operational support.



- The request supports UNF's strategic focus areas, which are related to advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics, coastal resilience (water to land technologies including port integrity), computing, cybersecurity, fintech, and healthcare/biomedical endeavors.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

- **\$75.0M: Preeminence Program / Operational Support**
 - The University of South Florida (USF) Board of Trustees (BOT) requests a recurring \$75 million net increase in investment in the university's base operating budget beginning in Fiscal Year 2027-28 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 growth and output in the institution's areas of expertise, recently approved by the Board of Governors (BOG), and to position USF as a "model AAU" institution.
 - The three BOG-approved areas of expertise for USF are Molecular Medicine, Science, and Biology; Applied Artificial Intelligence; and Human and Infrastructure Security. USF is recognized as a global leader in education and research in numerous areas across multiple colleges and disciplines. However, the three overarching themes 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, as well as in state economic development, workforce development, research breakthroughs, and new technological advancements.
 - If funded, this request will supplement USF's own internal work to seek ways to achieve greater institutional efficiency, transparency, and strategic reinvestment. This includes identifying strategic reallocations of existing resources that will enable 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.
 - With these themes in mind, we have focused USF's requests for the use of increased base state funding and repurposed institutional funding into investments required for essential university operating costs and in strategic new investments in the BOG-approved areas of expertise for USF.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

- **\$5.6M: UWF Comprehensive Excellence Initiative: Talent Gateway, Research Faculty, and Civic Education Academy**
 - UWF's Legislative Budget Request is strategically designed to sustain this momentum, broaden institutional impact, and fulfill key metrics in the UWF Accountability Plan and the Florida Board of Governors' SUS 2030 Strategic Plan. Securing these funds will allow UWF to develop innovative, collaborative pathways that expand the state's research capacity, support regional employers, and



strengthen the workforce talent pipeline through three interconnected institutional initiatives:

- Establishing the UWF Talent and Industry Gateway: Serving as a high-touch corporate interface, the Gateway will convert regional business and industrial challenges into formal applied research projects, industry contracts, and direct student internship pipelines.
 - Expanding the Cohort of STEM Research-Focused Faculty: Recruited to meet growing regional R&D demands, these specialized faculty lines will aggressively pursue competitive federal, state, and industry awards, directly driving progress toward the SUS 2030 targets for increased total research expenditures.
 - Elevating the Academy of American Civic Republicanism: This funding will expand the Academy into a nationally recognized center for research, teaching, and civic education, positioning the university as a vital statewide resource for civic literacy and constitutional study.
- Through these three initiatives, this LBR will allow UWF to establish a robust network of institutional expertise. Together, these initiatives directly advance the BOG SUS 2030 Strategic Plan by building capacity to recruit nationally recognized scholars, expand high-demand academic offerings, and significantly increase externally funded research in STEM, civics, and the humanities—benefiting both Northwest Florida and the entire state.

