

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
October 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Universities of Distinction 2020-21 Legislative Budget Request

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of 2020-21 legislative budget requests for Universities of Distinction

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its August 29, 2019 meeting, the Board of Governors identified Universities of Distinction as one of three pillars of excellence. Universities of Distinction is designed to support the nine non-preeminent institutions in the State University System. Institutions will participate in Universities of Distinction by submitting a proposal to the Board of Governors that identifies a program or program area that is a core competence capable of reaching national or state excellence. This may include multiple degree programs that support an area like health, or institutions can be very specific, such as increasing the number of registered nursing graduates to produce a stronger qualified workforce for the state of Florida and/or a particular region of the state. Proposals must demonstrate a unique focus for the institution. This initiative should be flexible to allow for the distinctive array of strengths across the system.

Proposals must also address the recommendation from the Florida Council of 100's Project Sunrise Report and the Chamber of Commerce 2030 report to increase the output of high-caliber talent from the State University System and to make Florida a place where talent thrives. Proposals must demonstrate how current or future workforce needs will be addressed, with a focus on producing high-quality talent.

As part of the proposal, each institution must also identify metrics for measuring success. At least one metric must demonstrate a year-one accomplishment or success. A minimum of two metrics must demonstrate a return on investment to the state. One metric must demonstrate how the program has improved over time as a result of the funding. Since institutions elect to elevate existing programs to excellent ones, appropriate metrics and/or rankings must also be included to evaluate this ascension. The Board of Governors may recommend additional metrics to measure success and

progress.

Institutions may use funds for faculty recruitment and/or hiring, lab equipment, technology, staff hiring, financial aid, stipends, and other expenses as permitted. Institutions may also use funds to support innovative ideas and partnerships, with Florida College System institutions and the business community. For this program to ignite success, funding should be recurring.

By January 1st of each calendar year, the Board will recommend to the Governor and Legislature any programs that should be considered for funding in the next fiscal budget.

The Committee will consider approval of the individual legislative budget requests from the nine non-preeminent institutions.

Supporting Documentation Included: Universities of Distinction White Paper;
2020-21 Legislative Budget Requests

Facilitators/Presenters: University Representatives