

# Florida A&M University makes gains in state metrics rankings



**Byron Dobson**, Democrat senior writer 10:04 p.m. EDT March 16, 2016

## Florida State places sixth; FAMU places eighth



(Photo: FAMU)

Florida A&M University has dug itself out of last place, ranking eighth among the 11 state universities included this year by the Board of Governors.

Florida State University placed sixth in the rankings under the BOG's performance funding model, the BOG reported Wednesday.

FSU earned 68 points out of 100, while FAMU earned 65 points.

"The improvements shown in our 2014-2015 performance are a reflection of the FAMU community unifying to ensure growth in our student success efforts. All hands were truly on deck, including our alumni and supporters who helped to sustain our efforts," said President Elmira Mangum. "Through the implementation of new technologies and initiatives to promote student success, we were able to exceed last year's results by 13 points, and we look forward to even greater gains next year."

The showing in achieving performance standards endorsed by the Board of Governors and Gov. Rick Scott is important since it's based on a series of standards that help determine how well universities are funded.



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The results, released during a BOG meeting at the University of West Florida, show a second year of progress in university performance. Florida has the highest graduation rates of any of the top 10 largest states, according to a BOG release. Florida's public universities made gains in areas such as graduation and retention rates and the number of graduate degrees awarded in high-wage, high-demand areas.

"Universities are offering a better product than they did just a few years ago with a better return on investment," Board of Governors Chairman Tom Kuntz said. "This year's performance outcomes demonstrate once again that incentive-based funding works in higher education."

Kuntz was one of the key architects of the metrics system, which includes 10 categories on which each university is graded and two additional areas pertinent to the university.

During this session, legislators approved a bill to make the metrics system official. The board is seeking Scott's approval. The Legislature has also proposed a \$500 million investment in performance funding for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, with the universities contributing \$275 million to match a \$225 million investment from the state, according to the BOG release.

FAMU made an 8 percent gain in the category of the median average wages of undergraduate students employed in Florida one year after graduation, a 5 percent increase in second-year retention rates and an 8 percent increase in the number of graduate degrees awarded in key areas, including STEM, Mangum said.

Earning top three scores were the University of Central Florida and Florida Atlantic University, both earning 84 points, followed by the University of Florida, with 82.



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(<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/sports/college/famu/2016/03/15/famu-forward-malcolm-bernard-confirms-hes-leaving-program/81796284/>)

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The bottom three universities were New College of Florida, 59; University of West Florida, 57, and University of North Florida, 56.

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