August 2015

As the dog days of summer wind to a close and universities prepare for the excitement of the upcoming academic year, the Board office is engaged in several important efforts to benefit our universities and students. It is my privilege to keep you posted on those efforts, listen to your feedback and work side-by-side with so many of you on behalf of our students.

Welcome back!

Marshall M. Criser III
Chancellor

Safety and Security Summit

The 2015 Safety and Security Summit was a huge success thanks to the leadership of nationally recognized crisis management expert Larry Barton and the participation of police chiefs, general counsels, housing directors, communicators, government relations, emergency managers and student affairs leaders from around the state. Working side-by-side with the Board office, Janet Owen, vice president of government relations at UNF and Dan Holsenbeck, senior vice president for university relations at UCF, did a wonderful job organizing this opportunity to share best practices on campus security, mental health and more. Thank you to UCF for hosting the summit and to all who continue to work every day to ensure that our campuses are safe for our students.

Board Foundation Scholarships

The State University System recently had the privilege of disbursing $110,000 in scholarships to first-generation college students from around the System. The scholarships are the result of a generous $5 million donation from the Helios Foundation, which the Board invests in order to offer annual scholarships to students who are the first generation in their family to attend college. Since 2007, the scholarship has helped nearly 25,000 students achieve a higher education.

SUS Joins Unizin

The State University System finalized its contract with Unizin in July, joining top universities from across the country that are working to have more control and influence over the digital learning ecosystem. Florida is the first university system to join the organization, which will help secure Florida’s leadership in the realm of digital learning and give access to tools under development. Thank you to all of my State University System colleagues who made this effort possible.
SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference

The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Higher Education Policy Conference is being held this week in Newport Beach, California, where State University System CFO Tim Jones is participating in a panel discussion on performance-based funding. The conference, attended by key members of Board staff and higher education policy makers from around the country, will address some of the critical higher education policy issues facing our nation and state, including how to effectively use workforce data and how to meet the financial needs of students.

Upcoming Board Meetings

September 2-3, 2015
Gainesville, FL

Trustee Topics

Trustee Summit
Don’t be left out! Register now for the Trustee Summit 2015. There is no charge to register and you can do it online: http://www.flbog.edu/aboutsus/trustees-summit-workshop-2015.php At this link you will also find hotel information, a university map and the schedule of events for November 4 & 5, 2015. Summit sessions feature noted experts who will share their insights and guidance for building a strong system, developing relationships and solving challenges that university boards face today.

New Trustee Orientation
All trustees are welcome to attend. For trustees newly appointed by the Board of Governors, orientation is a requirement. Orientation will be offered the morning of November 4, just prior to the opening of the Trustee Summit. The 2.5 hour session is an opportunity to meet and talk with other trustees, leadership from the Board of Governors, senior staff from the board office and discuss the strategic priorities of the State University System of Florida. Please visit http://www.flbog.edu/aboutsus/trustees-orientation.php to register and obtain a copy of the agenda.