December 2014

As we approach the end of 2014, now is a good time to reflect on what a successful year it has been for the State University System of Florida. Working together with our elected leaders, universities and business groups, we accomplished a number of weighty goals: the launch of the Board’s 10-metric performance-based funding model; the allocation of $15 million in grants for university projects in high-need workforce areas; and the highest-ever number of students studying science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

These are just a few of the great things we have accomplished this year. I can’t wait to see what 2015 brings.

Happy Holidays!
Marshall M. Criser III
Chancellor, State University System of Florida

FSU moves forward after emotional week
Students and staff at Florida State University are doing their best to move forward after an active shooter injured three people at the campus library on November 20. I join the entire State University System in commending the courage of the law enforcement, staff and students who acted bravely in the face of a frightening and dangerous situation. I am proud of the students and staff throughout the state who have reached out to FSU to show support. Classes resumed one day after the shooting and counseling services remain available.

Positive Feedback on the 2014 Trustee Summit
Building on the Board of Governor’s commitment for a strong university system and engaged local boards for the second year, the board hosted TRUSTEE SUMMIT 2014 on November 5 and 6. Chair Mori Hosseini believes that it is crucial for trustees to be engaged and informed regarding statewide higher education issues and collaborative efforts to support each of our institutions. The summit is an opportunity for trustees to become familiar with other trustees, share information and experiences. Running concurrently with the November Board of Governors’ meeting at Florida Atlantic University, trustees from each of the system’s institutions attended and participated in two half-day sessions on leadership and the importance of trusteeship. Trustees were able to ask questions directly and interact with notable guest speakers including Dr. Thomas Meredith, a senior consultant with the Association for Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities (AGB) and Ms. Anne D. Neal, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). Plans are already underway for next year’s summit which will be held at Florida International University on November 4 and 5, 2015.

Florida Welcomes two university presidents
Board of Governors’ members confirmed Mr. John Thrasher and Dr. Kent Fuchs as the newest presidents of FSU and UF, respectively. Responding to questions from the Board, both demonstrated vision for their universities and a commitment to the wider State University System.

Organizational Session ushers in new legislative leadership
The Florida Senate unanimously elected Senator Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando) as its next president. President Gardiner announced Senator Garrett Richter (R-Naples) as President Pro Tempore and Senator Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) as Majority Leader. Senator David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) will serve as Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules.

The Florida House of Representatives elected Representative Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) as its next speaker.

UCF honors veterans and celebrates TEAm Grants
The University of Central Florida held a special joint event to honor the sacrifices and contributions of veterans and their families and to celebrate TEAm Grants, which allocated $8.5 million to UCF (in partnership with USF and FIU) for projects in accounting and computer information technology. The event followed a Veterans' Commemoration ceremony at UCF, where Board member Matthew Carter spoke as keynote speaker, taking the opportunity to thank the Governor and the Legislature for their focus on providing opportunities for veterans.

Upcoming Board Meetings
January 21-22
University of North Florida, Jacksonville

Trustee Topics
TRUSTEE NOMINATION - To attract the broadest possible range of highly qualified applicants, the Board of Governors is extending the application deadline for 22 Board of Trustee positions throughout the State University System of Florida. The new deadline is December 17. More information is available at: http://www.flbog.edu/aboutsus/vacancies.php