January 2015

A new year brings new possibilities and new challenges. This year the State University System will renew its commitment to focus on increasing graduation and retention rates, increasing post-graduate success, lowering the cost-per-student, and other important measures that will ensure every student in Florida has access to a quality education and successful placement in the workforce. To accomplish these goals, we will continue to work with the Governor, Legislature, universities, and business partners to duplicate and exceed the success of the Board of Governors’ performance-based funding model, which holds universities to the highest standards and certifies excellence for students. Thank you for reading.

Happy New Year!

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

Legislative Interim Committee weeks begin
Committee introductions, agency presentations, and filed legislation are just a few of the items on committee agendas as the lawmakers return to Tallahassee to begin preparations for the 2015 Legislative Session, which begins in March. In January, interim committee weeks are scheduled for January 5-9 and January 20-23. When available, full agendas for the House committees may be found here. Full Senate committee agendas may be found here.

State University System shares goals with Legislature
The State University System’s budget and policy priorities were on the agendas for both the House and Senate education committees the first week of January. On Tuesday, January 6, staff and I presented the Board’s legislative budget request (LBR) to the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee. A State University System panel discussion on performance funding and preeminent tuition differential was held on Wednesday, January 7 during the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. And finally, an SUS overview was discussed at the House Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee during that same day. If you missed them, you can view past videos in the Video Library on The Florida Channel.

Proposed UCF Downtown site visit
On January 15 Chair Mori Hosseini, Vice Chair Tom Kuntz, along with other board members, myself and staff, will meet with UCF and local officials to tour the proposed downtown campus location. This information-gathering session will help prepare Board members for discussion of the proposed project ahead of the January 21-22 meeting in Jacksonville.

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

February, 19
Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee
Trustee Topics

TRUSTEE NOMINATION - The Nomination and Governance Committee of the Board of Governors is reviewing the more than 100 applications that have been received for trustee appointments or reappointments. The deadline for applications has been extended to February 13. Also, at the January Board of Governors meeting, Committee members will review and approve proposed amendments to the University Board of Trustee Selection and Reappointment Process. The amendments are designed to streamline the processes for the appointment and reappointment of university trustees and provide additional flexibility.

TRUSTEE SUMMIT - The 2014 Trustee Summit was a tremendous success! USF Trustee Chair Hal Mullis was applauded for 100 percent participation from his board. Each institution was represented and over two half-days, the event provided system synergy and time for members to learn from each other. We are proud that Florida is one of only a few states that organize professional development opportunities for governing boards. Opportunities for trustees are a priority of Chair Hosseini and our system is recognized for these efforts. Leading experts on best practices for effective university governance were invited to speak and respond to specific questions from participants. Trustees had time to meet and talk with Board of Governors’ members and presidents were invited to attend the keynote address. On day two, the Board of Governors’ Chair, Vice Chair and Chancellor held an interactive informal session with trustees, responding to individual questions and gaining understanding regarding specific concerns. Chairs and Vice Chairs attended a leadership breakfast hosted by Chair Mori Hosseini, along with special guest Dr. Tom Meredith. Dr. Meredith, a former chancellor, university president and trustee for several state systems, serves as a senior consultant with the Association for Governing Boards (AGB) and is an expert on governance and presidential selection. For staff development, board professionals and chiefs of staff were also given time to collaborate and discuss their responsibilities in a group session. Building on suggestions and results from the participants’ survey after the event, plans are already underway for 2015.

The 2015 Trustee Summit will be held at Florida International University, November 4-5 2015.