February 2016

The 2016 year is now in full swing, and so too is the work of the Board of Governors. January saw several exciting developments, including the transition in the Board’s chairmanship, the start of the legislative session and the launch of the State University System’s new marketing campaign, Think Florida: A Higher Degree for Business.

We look forward to keeping you posted as items develop and continuing to work together on behalf of our students and communities.

Best,
Marshall M. Criser III
Chancellor

Chairman Tom Kuntz delivers State of the System Address
January marked the beginning of Governor Tom Kuntz’s two-year term as Chairman, and he delivered his State of the System Address during the Board meeting on January 21. He used the address to outline his key priorities, including aligning our degrees to match the needs of Florida’s high-skilled workforce, elevating the State University System’s research profile, and increased access to, and affordability of, post-secondary degrees through Florida’s 2+2 program and through online education. The full text of the speech and accompanying op-ed are available here and here.

Board of Governors welcomes new member
The Board recently welcomed its newest member, Dr. Fernando Valverde. A native of Miami, Governor Valverde is the regional president for Humana in North and South Florida. A physician and entrepreneur in his early professional career, he turned to academics 10 years ago and helped launch and build the Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. He has worked for FIU in various leadership and academic roles and is an active member of the South Florida community, holding numerous community and non-profit board positions.

Think Florida Launches
Joined by business leaders, legislators and other partners from across the state, the State University System launched Think Florida: A Higher Degree for Business. The campaign is designed to increase economic opportunity for our students and support Florida’s efforts to bring new businesses to the state. For more information, you can visit ThinkFlorida.org and follow the campaign on the Board of Governors’ Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as the social media pages by the universities.

Next Board of Governors Meeting

March 16-17, 2016
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida

Trustee Topics

Welcome, New Trustees
On January 21, the Board of Governors appointed or reappointed 20 trustees to university Boards. More than 150 applications were received and reviewed for board appointment. A list of the appointees, including their terms, can be found here. The new appointments are subject to completion of Trustee Orientation and confirmation by the Florida Senate.