

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 17, 2014**

SUBJECT: Bright Futures Scholarship for the Summer Term Legislative Budget Request

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information and discussion

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of this Legislative Budget Request issue is to establish funding to be provided for Bright Futures Scholarships for the entire calendar year. In recent years, and as a result of increased Bright Futures eligibility requirements for students, funding for the Fall and Spring Terms has declined. In March 2014, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) projected that \$32 million of the 2014-2015 appropriated for Bright Futures would not be needed in 2015-16 as a result of the increase in student eligibility requirements. The estimated available funding could be utilized for summer term enrollment awards to eligible students as authorized in Subsection 1009.53(9), Florida Statutes, which states, "A student may use an award for summer term enrollment if funds are available." Pursuant to this section of law and recent history, only two state budget cycles have contained funding for students during the summer semester.

Allocating the \$32 million in available funds to summer term awards will provide students an opportunity to accelerate their time-to-degree and more rapidly enter into the state's workforce. This would also help to reduce student debt and allow for more efficient classroom utilization across the State University System.

This request is consistent with previously-articulated goals of the Board of Governors, the Governor and the Legislature to increase student graduation rates, to reduce student debt, and to increase classroom usage during the summer term.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Bright Futures Scholarship for the
Summer Term LBR Form I

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Ronald Toll, Provost, Florida Gulf
Coast University