

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
Workshop on the Expansion of Online Education
December 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Post-Secondary Online Expansion in Florida (the Parthenon Report)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 2012 Legislature provided funds to the Board of Governors to obtain the services of a consulting firm that would study online education in Florida. Through a competitive bidding process, the contract was awarded to The Parthenon Group, which is based in Boston, MA. **The Scope of Services** provided that the study would include, among other requirements, a description of the nature and extent of existing online postsecondary programs in Florida; an assessment of educational opportunities needed to boost Florida's economy; options for expanding the awarding of degrees; and, for each option, a ten-year plan for start-up and operating costs, enrollments, degree production, and revenue generated.

Parthenon's report, **Postsecondary Online Expansion in Florida**, its **Detailed Fact Base**, and its cover letter were submitted to the Board Office on November 16, 2012. The Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP), the Florida College System (FCS), and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) were each requested to submit a letter reflecting their perspectives of Parthenon's report. Those letters are included in the agenda packet.

After Parthenon's presentation of the report, the workshop will focus on policy decisions that the Committee and, ultimately, the Board will need to make in order to determine the best approach to recommend to the Legislature for moving forward with postsecondary online education in Florida. At the end of the workshop, the Committee will take the policy issues into consideration while discussing the pros and cons of

Parthenon's options and determine whether any – or a combination of any – should be pursued in preparation for January's Committee meeting.

Supporting Documentation Included: Parthenon cover letter (hyperlinks to the Scope of Services, report, and detailed fact base are provided in the above Background Information); Letters from CAVP, FCS, and ICUF

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Lytle and Ms. Webb
The Parthenon Group