



# CHANCELLOR'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023 UPDATE

## Chancellor's Message

Trustees,

This month, I am proud to congratulate the University of South Florida for achieving the historic milestone of being invited to join the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). USF has been relentless in their pursuit of academic excellence and has been a national leader in student success and research along the way. The trajectory of higher education in Florida is unparalleled and this accomplishment is a shining example of that achievement. Florida is No. 1 in the nation for higher education because of our continued focus on access, student performance and outcomes, industry partnerships, high-performing faculty, and research innovation.

Ray Rodrigues

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# FLORIDA *remains*



## IN THE NATION for Higher Education for the 7th year

by U.S. News & World Report

[Read more here on why](#)

# University of South Florida accepts invitation into the Association of American Universities (AAU)

*USF is one of only two institutions from the State University System invited to the AAU, joining the University of Florida, a member since 1985.*



*"This is a historic and momentous achievement for USF. Especially when considering we were founded in 1956, to now officially be recognized by our peers as one of America's leading research universities, is a shining example of our university community's determination, innovative spirit and relentless pursuit of excellence."*

*Rhea Law, USF President*

This month, USF accepted an invitation to join the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU), which is comprised of 71 leading public and private research universities in the U.S. and Canada. AAU universities make up just 3% of all four-year universities in the U.S.

**According to the AAU, faculty at their member universities perform 63% of the total amount of federally funded basic research (\$28.8 billion).**

USF's membership in the AAU enables them to continue their upward trajectory and transform the lives of students and faculty through research, academic excellence, and innovation, while addressing global challenges and building on their economic impact to the state.





## Leadership collaborates at SUS and FCS Presidents Meeting

Last month, Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz Jr., Chancellor Rodrigues, and Chancellor Henry Mack III met with presidents from the State University System and the Florida College System to discuss the historic achievements of the 2023 Legislative Session and encourage expanded access to our nationally ranked postsecondary institutions.

State education leaders across the state joined together for a series of productive meetings collaborating and strategizing on continuing to accelerate Florida's education efforts and enhance opportunities for students across the state. The aim of the meeting was also to expand access to high-quality postsecondary education for all Floridians.

## Save the Date

**June 14**

Florida Board of Governors New Member Orientation  
Tallahassee, FL

**June 21-22**

Florida Board of Governors Meeting  
USF- Tampa, FL

**August 29-30**

Florida Board of Governors Meeting  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL

**September 20**

Florida Board of Governors Committee Workshops

**November 8-9**

Florida Board of Governors Trustee Summit & Meeting  
UCF- Orlando, FL

## New Florida Student Association Chair Elected

For the third consecutive year, the president of FSU's Student Government Association was elected to serve chair of the Florida Student Association. Jack Hitchcock will be attending the June Board of Governors meeting as the student representative.

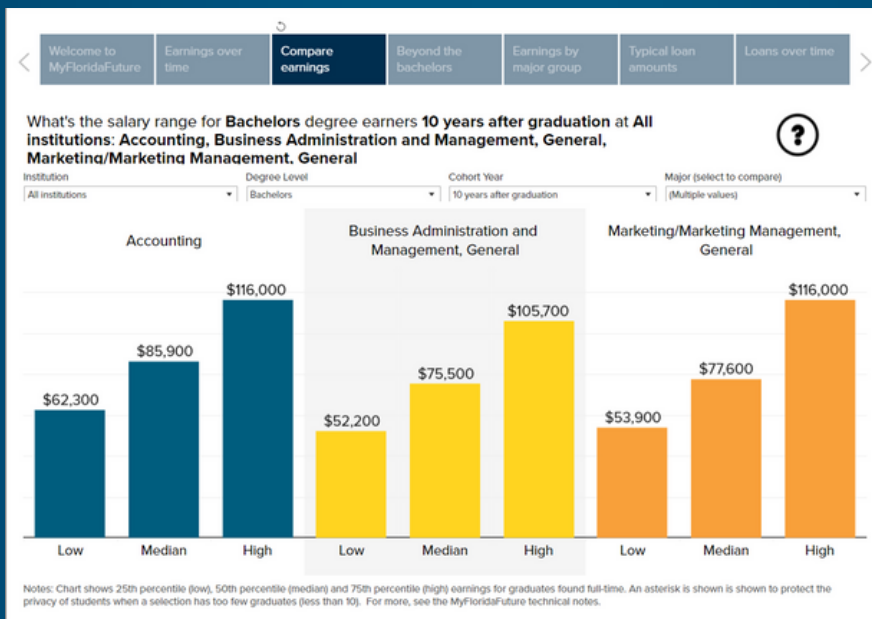


Jack Hitchcock

# Start planning early!

## MYFLORIDAFUTURE

[MyFloridaFuture](#) is a free, online college and career planning tool that provides students, parents, and policymakers with a wealth of information to make better-informed decisions about educational options and future employment opportunities. Here's an example:



**With 61% of System students graduating in 4 years, we are preparing students for the workforce sooner, which leads to more earnings and less debt.**

### Benefits to Students:

- Students can research each institution and compare salary expectations and academic degree programs
- Students can weigh the expected benefits of pursuing additional education
- Students can explore and better understand the future impact of student loans

### Benefits to Florida:

- Informed consumers make better decisions
- Data is readily available to parents, students, policy makers and the public
- Efforts to educate about student debt may result in more disposable income

[VIEW MYFLORIDAFUTURE TOOL HERE](#)