



# CHANCELLOR'S NEWSLETTER

SUMMER UPDATE 2024

## Chancellor's Message

The State University System has many reasons to celebrate. First, I am honored to announce Florida has once again been named the top state for higher education by U.S. News & World Report. This is the eighth year in a row we have received this recognition. Florida has maintained this top ranking by continuing to graduate students on time, providing students with the lowest cost for in-state tuition and fees, and offering a quality education with little to no debt to students. Additionally, I appreciate Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature continuing to prioritize higher education and invest record funding into our System. I would also like to recognize the presidents, trustees, staff, and faculty at each of our campuses for remaining committed to student success and academic excellence.

Lastly, to all of our System graduates— CONGRATULATIONS! We are very proud of your accomplishments and wish you success in the journey ahead!

Ray Rodrigues  
Chancellor of the State University System of Florida

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For the 8th Year in a Row

FLORIDA

#1

IN HIGHER EDUCATION

*U.S. News & World Report*



WHAT DOES  
THIS MEAN?

Florida ranks #1 for lowest tuition and fees

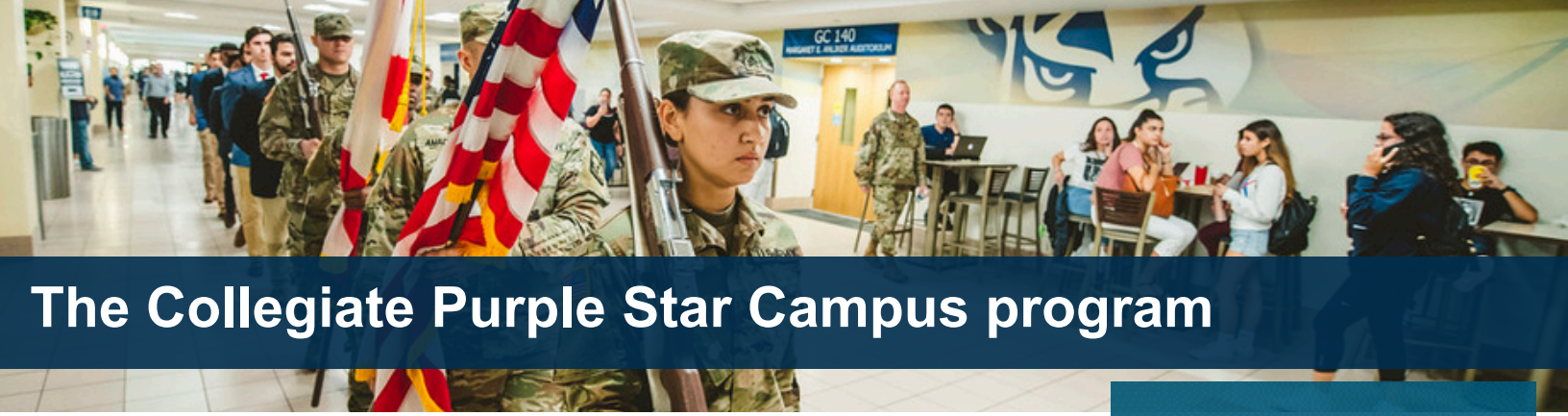
Offering a quality higher education with little to no debt to students

Florida ranks #2 for four-year graduation rates

SUS graduates are entering the workforce sooner

Florida has invested record funding in higher education

Ensuring graduates receive a positive return on investment



# The Collegiate Purple Star Campus program

The Collegiate Purple Star Campus program was established in 2023 by the Florida Legislature to recognize State University institutions for their commitment to supporting military personnel, veterans and their families. To receive the Collegiate Purple Star Campus Designation, institutions must provide certain benefits, such as priority course registration, a designated military liaison, dedicated resources for military students and families, student-led transition programs, and professional development and training opportunities.



**These eight SUS institutions have earned the Purple Star Campus designation:**

- Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida State University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Florida
- University of North Florida
- University of South Florida
- University of West Florida

We look forward to all 12 SUS institutions receiving this honor.

## Save the Date

**June 26**

2024 Florida Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit  
Tampa, FL

**June 27-28**

Florida Board of Governors Meeting  
UCF - Orlando, FL

**September 23-24**

Florida Board of Governors Meeting  
USF - Tampa, FL

**October 29-30**

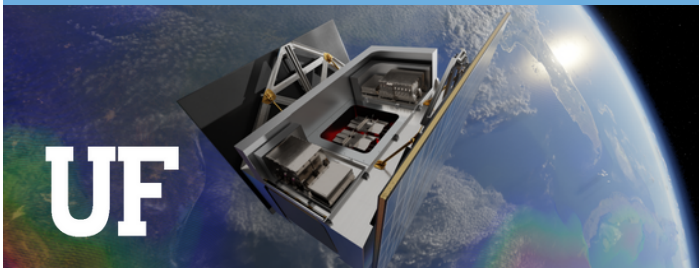
Florida Board of Governors Meeting  
FIU - Miami, FL

## New Florida Student Association Chair Elected

John Brinkman, Student Body President at University of Florida, has been elected as the new FSA chair and will be attending the June Board of Governors meeting as the student representative.



# Did U Know?



NASA has selected a team of University of Florida aerospace engineers to pursue a \$12 million mission aimed at improving the way scientists track changes in Earth's structures, such as tectonic plates and oceans. The mission, titled "GRATTIS", will demonstrate the performance of state-of-the-art sensors that measure nanometer-scale gravitational changes from space to monitor movements on the Earth's surface and interior.



FIU's Wall of Wind received \$4 million to expand hurricane and windstorm resilience research. Researchers use results from Wall of Wind testing to explore solutions that will help mitigate the destruction caused by powerful windstorms. The additional funding will allow researchers to expand capacity and continue work that could lead to strengthening building code standards for greater resilience to Category 5 storms for homes, businesses and critical infrastructure.

Florida Polytechnic University celebrated the groundbreaking of the Gary C. Wendt Engineering Building, a cutting-edge 40,000-square-foot academic facility designed to elevate the institution's in-demand engineering programs. The \$15-million, two-story building will house research and development labs for a variety of engineering disciplines, staff and faculty offices, collaboration spaces, and a conference room.



The Collegiate Cyber Defense Team at UCF won their record sixth national championship, defeating nine other regional champions to win the 2024 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. The competition's unique focus on operational aspects of managing and protecting a network infrastructure is designed to assess each student's depth of understanding and operational competency. Through these competitions, students gain skills and real-world experiences that make them highly attractive to potential employers.

