



FROM HERE YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE!

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February 2005

ICUF Report

Bush holds line on FRAG budget – Overall funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant would not increase, but there would be a small increase in the amount each student gets under Gov. Jeb Bush's proposed 2005-06 state budget. The governor proposed a total of \$79.8 million in funding for the FRAG, the same as last year and the fourth year in a row at this level. Because the number of students receiving the FRAG is expected to decline this year, which happens when the grant level continues to be below what is needed to stimulate expanded enrollments, individual grants would increase from \$2,369 to \$2,425. The governor's proposal is but the first step in preparing next year's state budget. Final spending decisions will be made by the Legislature, probably in late April. ICUF is seeking a \$9.4 million increase in FRAG funding, which would increase the grants to \$2,711. Bush proposed a large increase in funds for ICUF students who receive need-based aid from the state. His budget would increase funding for the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant from \$11.5 to \$17.5 million, increasing the grants from a maximum of \$1,300 to a maximum of \$1,592.

ICUF director spotlights partnerships to CEPRI – Discussing the role ICUF institutions play in meeting state education policy, Executive Director Ed H. Moore stressed to state education planners the partnerships our members have formed with state universities, community colleges and high schools. Moore emphasized that the partnerships are designed to meet critical state needs at a low cost to the taxpayers. He noted, for example, that our members run four-year degree programs at community colleges at less cost to taxpayers than it costs the community colleges to run similar programs, a savings of more than \$15 million a year. Members of the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement were receptive to Moore's message. "I think the council received the report very well and has always considered the independent colleges and universities as a valuable resource in higher education," said Dr. William Proctor, the Council's executive director.

House leader supports increased role for ICUF – ICUF Executive Director Ed H. Moore's message to the House Higher Education Committee has fallen on receptive ears. Moore made a presentation to the committee emphasizing the commitment of our members to help the state meet its critical workforce needs such as nursing and education. He urged legislators to increase funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant, which provides tuition assistance for Florida students attending ICUF institutions, to help our institutions reach their

full potential to serve Florida. **Moore** noted that cuts in FRAG funding have reduced the effectiveness of the grant in encouraging students to attend our schools at considerable savings to taxpayers. In fact, he said, the number of students who receive the grant has leveled off and is likely to decline unless legislators increase the FRAG to reduce the gap between tuition at state universities and **ICUF** institutions. The meeting received statewide coverage on Florida Public Radio. Interviewed by a public radio reporter, Committee Chairman David Mealor, R-Lake Mary, said he supported increasing the FRAG. “The independent colleges and universities are a wonderful resource,” Rep. Mealor said. “In many ways we may not have tapped them to the degree that we ought to.”

Lakeland Ledger calls for FRAG increase – In a recent editorial, the *Lakeland Ledger* expressed amazement that FRAG supporters have to fight for needed increases every year only to wind up with the same amount of money allocated for the program. “FRAG is good for private and public universities. It’s good for the students, who have a wider choice of high education. It’s good for taxpayers, who save dollars through a reduction in the size of the state university system,” the *Ledger* said. The paper supported **ICUF’s** goal of increasing the FRAG to \$2,711 this year. **ICUF** is currently meeting with newspaper editorial boards around the state to enlist their support in our campaign to increase the FRAG. The team that visited the *Ledger* included **President Greg Hall of Warner Southern College; President Rex Yentes of Webber International University; John Kautz**, vice president for finance and administration at **Southeastern College; Rob Tate**, vice president of advancement at **Florida Southern College; ICUF Executive Director Ed H. Moore** and **John Van Gieson**, public relations consultant.

Embry-Riddle partnership spotlighted by lawmakers – In keeping with its mission of expanding workforce opportunities, the House Community Colleges and Workforce Committee has focused on an **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** partnership with a Panhandle high school. **ERAU Professor Rob Owen** was invited to appear before the committee to discuss the university’s Aviation Institute at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach. **Owen** said the 110 students enrolled in the program are taking aviation and aeronautics courses taught by **Embry-Riddle** professors and can complete the first year of college before they graduate from high school. He said **Embry-Riddle** is talking to several high schools about opening similar programs in other parts of Florida. **ICUF** is stressing partnerships our members have formed with other institutions to meet educational needs in our message to legislators. The **Embry-Riddle** partnership with Choctawhatchee High is a wonderful example of the innovate programs **ICUF** members are developing all over Florida.

Bethune-Cookman installs fifth president – **Bethune-Cookman College** has installed the fifth president in the college’s history, **Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed**, and unveiled a campus sculpture of its founder, **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune**. **Dr. Reed** celebrated her inauguration by promoting her vision for an International Institute for Civic Participation and Social Responsibility. “The institute will provide a forum for students to work with international leaders to address and resolve disparities in areas of education, health care, and economic empowerment,” she said. **Dr. Reed** has already taken initiatives to connect the College and its students to the community around them, both locally and globally. Linking the past with the future, **Dr. J. Stanley Marshall**, chairman of the **B-CC Board of Trustees**, compared **Dr. Reed** with the historic leader who founded the college 100 years ago. “Through diligence and faith, **Bethune-Cookman College** has found a woman worthy to wear the mantle of the College and its founder, **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune**,” **Dr. Marshall** stated. The **Dr. Mary**

McLeod Bethune Bronze Statue and Centennial Gardens opened in conjunction with **Dr. Reed's** inauguration.

Lynn University partners with Palm Beach School District – The Palm Beach School District and **Lynn University** are teaming up to enable 20 district educators to pursue a graduate degree in educational leadership with an ESOL endorsement, beginning with the start of the spring II term on February 28. The federal government is funding the initiative through the “No Child Left Behind” program. “As the county’s population of non-native English speakers continues to grow, there is a critical need to train more educators to work with them,” said **Dr. Kathleen Cheek-Milby**, **Lynn University** vice president of academic affairs. “**Lynn** is committed to strengthening the public educational system, and we are honored that the school district recognizes the excellence of our master’s degree program in such a significant way.”

Miami medical school receives \$13 million grant – South Florida entrepreneur Wallace H. Coulter has donated \$13 million to establish a center at the **University of Miami Miller School of Medicine** to expedite marketing of new drugs. The **Wallace H. Coulter Center for Translational Research** will focus on breakthrough treatments for diabetes, cancer, arthritis, spinal cord injury and paralysis, along with other advances in biomedical technologies. “This is an extraordinarily generous gift to support something of great importance,” said **Dr. Luis Glaser**, executive vice president and provost of the **University of Miami**. **Dr. Camillo Ricordi**, senior associate dean for research at the **Miller School of Medicine**, said the new center of excellence at **UM** “will bring our translational research capabilities to the next level, bridging across existing departments and centers, promoting collaboration, synergy and catalyzing the development of a shared infrastructure and competences to move promising new discoveries forward.”

Stetson honors the Rev. Hal Marchman – To honor the life’s work and community ministry of the **Rev. Hal Marchman**, **Stetson University** is establishing a chair to be funded with a \$2 million endowment. “**Hal Marchman** is a multi-talented person who has crossed over a broad range of social, political, civic and societal boundaries in order to help people,” said Hyatt Brown, former speaker of the Florida House. Brown and his wife Cici are making the lead gift to **Stetson** for the new **Hal S. Marchman Chair of Civic and Social Responsibility**. The university will raise additional money to complete the \$2 million endowment. Proceeds from the endowment for the \$2 million chair will be used permanently to support the work of a senior professor, said **Stetson President Doug Lee**. The **Marchman Chair** will add strength to **Stetson’s** academic and co-curricular focus on civic and social responsibility and foster civic engagement and grass-roots community leadership among students and faculty.

Tampa foundation partners with Eckerd College – The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and **Eckerd College’s Management Development Institute** have established a program to provide scholarship assistance for nonprofit executives to attend **Eckerd College’s Leadership Development Program**. An administrator from the Hillsborough County School District was among the first participants in this scholarship program.

PBA’s women’s volleyball team wins NCCAA Championship – **Palm Beach Atlantic University** has won its first NCCAA volleyball title and its second national title in two years. **Jackie Stanley**, the Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament, led **PBA** (33-3) with 27 kills. **Lindsey Kruis** and **Kristin Mock** also racked up 13 kills apiece and **Mock** added 11

blocks to her tally. **Hannah Roberts** recorded 26 digs and **Ashley Bonvento** registered 63 assists. Congratulations to the Sailfish.

ICUF members are: Barry University • Beacon College • Bethune-Cookman College • Clearwater Christian College • Eckerd College • Edward Waters College • Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University • Flagler College • Florida College • Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences • Florida Institute of Technology • Florida Memorial College • Florida Southern College • International College • Jacksonville University • Lynn University • Nova Southeastern University • Palm Beach Atlantic University • Ringling School of Art and Design • Rollins College • Saint Leo University • Saint Thomas University • Southeastern College • Stetson University • University of Miami • University of Tampa • Warner Southern College • Webber International University

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The Newsletter of the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida