



INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES *of* FLORIDA

ICUF REPORT

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House, Senate Consider Major Cuts in FRAG Funding

The initial budget documents rolled out by legislators at mid-session would impose major cuts on FRAG funding – 25 percent in the House proposal and 15 percent in the Senate.

“These proposals are a long way from final, but they reflect the potential impact on this great program from the current economic situation in Florida and the nation. I fear that these cuts will serve to also cut access to opportunity for so many Floridians. We must redouble our efforts to hold the reductions to the lowest level possible,” said ICUF President Ed H. Moore.

He urged all members of the ICUF community, from presidents and trustees to faculty members, staff, students and parents, to let the legislators who are writing the budget for next year know how much of an adverse impact major cuts in FRAG funding would have on our students and schools. “The proposed funding levels are numbers we received back in the early part of this decade when we served much fewer students” said Moore. “We were encouraged to increase access and we did so by increasing it by more than 45% in 9 years. ICUF schools cannot maintain this level of access when funded at ten year old levels.”

Legislators are likely to pass separate House and Senate budgets by early to mid-April and work to the end of the month on resolving their differences.

“If the numbers proposed at this point hold up,” he said, “we would likely see many of our students dropping out and transferring to public institutions because of the serious disruptions major FRAG cuts would wreak on their financial aid packages,” he said. Forcing students to leave private institutions for public colleges and universities is counter-productive and actually increases the state’s higher education spending.”

Moore noted that the FRAG, currently set at \$2,813, is about one-fourth of what it costs the taxpayers to subsidize the education of a state university student.

Earlier, Gov. Charlie Crist recommended in his 2009-10 state budget that the Legislature hold funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant program steady at \$92.5 million.

“We are delighted that the governor recognized the importance of the FRAG to Florida’s economy and the more than 34,000 deserving students who depend on the grants to help pay tuition at ICUF institutions,” Moore said.

Legislators File FRAG 30th Anniversary Resolution



Legislative Staff Desk

Senator Mike Haridopolis and Representative William Proctor have filed resolutions in the House and Senate commending ICUF institutions on the 30th anniversary of the Florida Resident Access Grant.

The resolution by Haridopolis, says that the Senate “wholeheartedly commends and supports the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida for their significant contribution to all Floridians.”

The resolutions note that the FRAG has helped hundreds of thousands of Floridians earn colleges degrees and that more than half of current recipients are pursuing degrees in areas of critical concern for the state’s workforce, including nursing, teaching, engineering, computer science and biomedical professions.

They go on to point out that nearly half of the FRAG recipients are the first members of their families to attend college and more than one-third come from families with annual incomes of less than \$60,000.

“The stability and significance of the Florida Resident Access Grant Program is a primary catalyst for the creation of additional capacity in the state’s independent colleges and universities, which is a critical component of expanding for Florida students,” the resolutions say.

Haridopolis is a graduate of Stetson University and is chair of the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Governmental Operations. Proctor is the former president of Flagler College and serves as chair of the House State Universities and Private Colleges Committee.

Faces of FRAG Brief Features on Florida Success Stories

Alumni, Luis Maldonado, Stetson University

Luis Maldonado was the first person in his family to attend and complete college when he graduated from Stetson University magna cum laude in 2001. After applying to a variety of public and private universities, he chose Stetson because he’s from a small town and “believed a small school would be the best place to hone my skills and develop new ones.”

Maldonado, who grew up in LaBelle, received the FRAG from 1997 to 2001. What he found at Stetson were professors who were accessible and willing to go out of their way to assist and mentor students. An English major, Maldonado developed the writing and analytical skills he needed for law school and his career.

He graduated cum laude from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, and is now an assistant chief counsel with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in Orlando. He has just accepted a position with ICE’s National Security Law Division in Washington, D.C.

In addition to participating in the inaugural Leadership Stetson program last April, Maldonado recently established the First Generation College Student Endowed Book Fund to pay for textbooks for community service-oriented first-generation students at the university.

The Florida Resident Access Grant, Maldonado said, was critical to helping fund his education. He also received several scholarships. “I wouldn’t have been able to go to Stetson,” he said, “without the financial aid I received.”

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Alumni, Sherry Paramore, Bethune-Cookman University

Sherry Paramore is a 1991 graduate of Bethune-Cookman University who works as development director for the United Negro College Fund in Orlando.

“Yes, I received FRAG,” Paramore said. “My loans were maxed; I received all of the band and academic scholarships available. Without FRAG, I would not have been to attend and finish college.

“Nearly 20 years has passed since I left the grounds of Bethune-Cookman College and my higher education experience continues to play a major role in my life,” she said. “I have maintained relationships established while in college, lessons learned in Political Science/Public Administration are still relevant in my life today and most importantly, community service remains an essential part of my life.

Paramore says she has not been elected to public office “yet,” noting Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune’s premise when she founded Bethune-Cookman in 1904: “Enter to Learn, Depart to serve”.

“I have a profound belief that we as citizens of this country should give back to our communities and I have been compelled to utilize my time and talents to help others and work towards making our society a better place to live for everyone,” Paramore said. “I work everyday to ensure talented students who want and deserve a quality education are able to do so without facing financial barriers.”

She comes from a FRAG family, saying “I’ve had brothers, nephews, nieces and cousins receive FRAG.”

Alumni, Gloria Czerniec Trujillo, Barry University

Gloria Czerniec Trujillo graduated from Barry University with a nursing degree in 2002, worked as a pediatric nurse for six years and is now the urgent care supervisor for the Baptist Medical Plaza at Country Walk.

Trujillo received the FRAG when she was a student at Barry. After working at a pediatric nurse at Baptist Children's Hospital for 6 years, Trujillo returned to Barry to earn an MSN in nursing administration. In 2008, she was hired to work in Baptist Outpatient Services as an urgent care supervisor.

This new center has an urgent care and a pediatric diagnostic center -- the first pediatric diagnostic center for Baptist Outpatient Services. Trujillo has joined the ranks of nurses in the state at a time when the nursing shortage is critical.

“My education has really been able to advance my career and broaden my ideas about nursing and the future of nursing,” she said. “I am a supervisor which enables me to take an active role in decisions and ideas which will highly influence nurses in the urgent care setting, as well as influencing the patient's we take care of everyday.”

Barry University to Hold Job Networking Event

Barry University will host an unconventional event to help its students find a job in an uncertain economy. Speed dating.

Based on the idea of “speed dating,” groups of students will rotate between tables of employers to speak to them about career opportunities. This networking opportunity follows a day of discussion panels, covering topics such as “Careers I Biology” and “International Hiring”.

According to a Job Outlook 2009 spring survey released last week, employers are expected to hire 22 percent fewer graduates from the class of 2009 than from any graduating class in the previous five years.

Lynn Program Touts “Outside” the Classroom Experiences

Lynn University has launched a new program that helps students prepare “experiential learning transcripts” that help them market experiences outside the classroom to potential employers.

“The ELT records the way students use outside classroom opportunities to enhance and validate their classroom education,” said Louise Sundermeier, Associate Dean of Student Development. “It augments their leadership roles, internships, awards and recognitions, community service hours and other activities.”

Among the experiences students have recorded on their ELTs are working at ESPN’s Winter X-Games, performing live off Broadway and holding leadership positions in the Student Government Association.

Eleven ICUF Schools Named to President’s Honor Roll



Eleven ICUF institutions have been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for 2008.

Rollins College and Stetson University were named to the Honor Roll with distinction, the only four-year institutions in Florida to achieve that honor. Stetson made the list for the third year in a row, and Rollins made it for the second consecutive year.

“Community service is one of Stetson University’s core values,” said President Dr. H. Douglas Lee. “We are committed to social justice initiatives and grassroots service programs that empower disadvantaged communities.”

“We are proud that Rollins faculty and staff have worked together to offer these service opportunities for

our students and that our students have responded so enthusiastically,” said Rollins President Dr. Lewis Duncan. “This recognition affirms our efforts to help students connect what they learn in the classroom to applications in everyday life.”

Named to the Honor Roll were Bethune-Cookman University, Eckerd College, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Southern College, Lynn University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Ringling College of Art and Design, Saint Leo University, and The University of Tampa.

Flagler Named to 100 Best College Buys

For the 10th time, Flagler College has been named one of America's 100 Best College Buys. Flagler was the only independent college in Florida to make the list, which is based on surveys of more than 1,400 colleges and universities nationwide.

The list is compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc., an independent consulting organization that specializes in the recruiting and retention of students.



PBA President Wins Broadcasting Award

Palm Beach Atlantic University President Dr. David W. Clark has won the National Religious Broadcasters 2009 William Ward Ayer Distinguished Service Award. The award is named after the organization's first president.

Dr. Clark has an extensive background in religious broadcasting and won an Emmy for *We Shall Not be Moved*, a documentary on the civil rights movement he produced for ABC Television and the Hallmark Channel.

According to President Clark, "Serving an industry association like NRB involved volunteering for every opportunity that came my way for 30 years. When I began, we had several hundred at our annual convention in DC. Now we typically have 7000 plus in attendance!" "I was deeply honored by this award from my colleagues in the National Religious Broadcasters."



Dr. David W. Clark

Florida Southern Dedicates Archives Center



Rhea Chiles

Florida Southern College has dedicated its new Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr., Archives Center. Among the memorabilia that will be housed there is the Governor Lawton M. Chiles, Jr., Center for Florida History. Chiles' widow, Rhea, was a guest of honor at the dedication.

The center was named for FSC Trustee Sarah D. McKay, who contributed more than \$1 million toward the \$3.5 million cost of the project. Other collections housed there include the Ruth K. and Charles T. Thrift, Jr., Florida United Methodist Heritage Center; Florida Citrus Archives; Citrus Hall of Fame; and Florida Southern College Archives and Frank Lloyd Wright collection.

"We greatly admire and respect Dr. McKay for her outstanding service to the college, including more than a decade on the Board of Trustees and past service of chairman of the board," said FSC President Dr. Anne B. Kerr. "This state-of-the-art resource will have an immeasurable impact on our community and our state."

NSU Names University Center After Major Donor

Nova Southeastern University has named its University Center after entrepreneur and philanthropist Don Taft, whose foundation made a major contribution to the university.

“We are deeply honored that the Taft Foundation has honored NSU with this gift,” said University President Ray Ferrero, Jr. “Don Taft joins a number of distinguished citizens, philanthropists and organizations who all share a common belief in NSU.”

The 366,000 square foot Don Taft University Center houses NSU’s sports arena, Student Union, wellness and fitness center, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences’ Performing and Visual Arts departments and performance venues.

NSU also unveiled a 17-foot high Mako shark – the university’s mascot --sculpture at the entrance to the Taft Center. The piece was made of bronze with stainless steel teeth by international wildlife sculptor Kent Ullberg. The shark sculpture was commissioned by NSU students.



Florida Tech Gets \$1 Million From Northrop Grumman

Northrop Grumman has presented Florida Institute of Technology with a \$1 million gift to support its annual engineering and science student design competition.

The donation underwrites the newly named Northrop /Grumman Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase, a spring competition where students design and build original projects ranging from rockets to robots. Florida Tech engineering and science students are required to complete a hand-on, detailed senior project before graduation.

“We appreciate Northrop Grumman’s generosity in this important area,” said Florida Tech President Dr. Anthony J. Catanese. “This support is critical to inspiring innovation in a very important area of our curriculum.”

Saint Leo Recognized for Military Outreach

Military Advanced Education magazine has named Saint Leo University one of the 2008 Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities in the country. It was the second year in a row Saint Leo was honored.

More than 2,000 colleges and universities applied for the award, which was selected by a panel of military officials and educators. Saint Leo has been providing special higher education programs to the military for 35 years.

The university educates military personnel at its main campus, more than 40 continuing education sites, military bases, online and in distance learning programs. Saint Leo provides military members studying online with \$200 vouchers a semester to defray the cost of books and materials.



Soldiers at Saint Leo University

T. Boone Pickens Holds Energy Forum at NSU



T. Boone Pickens, the oilman/investor who has been sponsoring television ads touting natural gas as a better alternative than oil, and Mike Jackson, Chairman and CEO of AutoNation, have discussed America's energy future at a town hall meeting at Nova Southeastern University.

Both men have taken the lead in calling for new approaches to energy consumption. Pickens advocates replacing oil with natural gas, and Jackson advocates a gas tax increase to spur innovation and reduce mileage driven, flex fuels and clean, hybrid vehicles.

Topics discussed at the town hall meeting included federal energy policy, development of new technology, alternative fuel sources, and geopolitical energy dynamics.

Randy Pohlman, Ph.D., Dean of NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, (right) served as moderator of the town hall meeting on energy with T. Boone Pickens (left) and Mike Jackson.

A-Rod Donates \$3.9 Million to UM Baseball Program

The University of Miami has named its new baseball stadium Alex Rodriguez Park after the New York Yankees slugger who donated \$3.9 million to construct it.

Rodriguez appeared at the dedication of the facility a few days after it was revealed that he had used banned performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03.

The Hurricanes offered Rodriguez, who played high school baseball in Miami, a scholarship, but he decided to accept a lucrative offer from the Seattle Mariners and turned pro. He has maintained a close relationship with the Miami program and trains in the off-season at the Hurricanes' facility.





Bethune-Cookman Hosts Model UN Conference

Bethune-Cookman University has hosted its 28th annual Model UN Conference. Students from six colleges and universities, including Stetson, participated in the conference.

The students researched the countries they were assigned to represent and held Model UN sessions where they debated international issues and worked together to find solutions. The theme of the conference was Ensuring Environmental Sustainability.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students – and the students from other institutions – to really learn by doing,” said Dr. Dorcas McCoy, Director of the Model UN. “Through this experience they learn not only the substance of issues, but also how to effectively debate and dialogue with people from diverse backgrounds.”

Southeastern Names Transitional Chancellor

Southeastern University has named Tommy Barrett, pastor of a mega-church in Phoenix, as its transitional chancellor. Southeastern President Dr. Mark Rutland is leaving as of July 1 to become president of Oral Roberts University.

Barrett is senior pastor of the Phoenix First Assembly of God Church and co-founder of the Los Angeles Dream Center, an inner city church and outreach center.

St. Pete Times Publishes Eckerd Student’s Column

The *St. Petersburg Times* has published a column by Eckerd College senior Blake Johnson in which he urges members of his generation to fight for social justice. Johnson wrote that he was profoundly influenced by participating in a round table discussion on campus of events leading from the civil rights movement to the election of President Barack Obama.

“It is clearer to me now, more than ever, that our generation is truly blessed by the efforts of those who have gone before us,” he wrote. “The sit-ins, the long bus rides, the sweat and blood, laid the foundation not only for the election of our first black president, but serves as the cornerstone for a time when men and women, both black and white, can share in a common American experience.”

Johnson concluded that “we must resolve to continue working and fighting for the kind of America we know we can one day be.”



Student Blake Johnson

Barry Expands Center to Teach Studying Skills

Barry University has expanded its Glenn Hubert Learning Center, which teaches study skills to first-generation and other students who lack the family background or tradition needed to succeed in college. More than 40 percent of Barry’s students are the first members of their families to attend college.

The expansion, supported by a \$370,000 grant from Hubert, has doubled the size of the center, increasing the number of students it serves by more than 200.

Embry-Riddle to Set Up Shop in Iraq

Some U.S. troops serving in Iraq have used their down time to take distance courses from the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide Campus. Now they'll have access to Embry-Riddle instructors on site.

The university announced Monday it has been authorized by U.S. Central Command to set up teaching locations at Camp Victory near Baghdad International Airport and the Balad Airbase, the second busiest airport in the world.

Some 60 to 70 students are expected to enroll, according to John Watret, chief academic officer for the worldwide campus.

Embry-Riddle will offer professional aeronautics courses for undergraduates and an aeronautical science graduate program, said Mark DiFabio, executive director for marketing of the worldwide campus.

Under the CENTCOM contract, the university holds exclusivity to provide aviation education at military bases in the Middle East.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to strengthen our commitment to providing education to the dedicated men and women serving our country," Martin Smith, executive vice president of the worldwide campus, said in a written statement.

Through its worldwide campus, the university also serves students in Afghanistan and Kuwait, DiFabio said.

As of last summer, the worldwide campus had 136 locations serving more than 27,000 students -- about five times the number of students enrolled at the Daytona Beach campus.

UM Grad Gets Obama Administrative Appointment

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is applauding the nomination of Ines Triay as Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management at the Department of Energy.

The Caucus says Triay has twenty four years of experience at the department, as well as fourteen years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. She was born in Cuba, raised in Puerto Rico and received her Ph.D in Chemistry from the University of Miami.

Stetson Teacher Education Program Ranks No. 1 In State

The Florida Department of Education has awarded Stetson University's teacher education program the highest ranking of any teacher education program in the state.

The Department's Teachers from Florida Teacher Preparation Programs report ranks each teacher education program according to 14 measures. Stetson University ranked first in all 14 measures for which a program had 10 or more responses. (considered the minimum number for data to be reliable). The rankings are based on asking first year teachers, their principals, and their supervising teachers how well their undergraduate colleges prepared them for teaching.

"This accomplishment is a clear reflection on the quality, dedication and commitment of our faculty, our students and our local school partners," said Dr. Glen Epley, professor and chair of the Teacher Education Department. "We take enormous pride in our work, and we are humbled that our work has resulted in such a marvelous outcome."

President Clark to Leave PBAU

President David Clark recently announced he is retiring from Palm Beach Atlantic University. “As Shakespeare said, ‘parting is such sweet sorrow.’ That is true of leaving the presidency of a dynamic, growing, small university like Palm Beach Atlantic University. Lois and I have come to know hundreds of faculty and students and parents. We have seen the power of ideas transform the lives of tentative freshmen to poised and ready seniors. We have witnessed several hundred pharmacists and nurses prepared for a life of public service. There are several vocations in life worth doing, but I truly believe that serving the academy at any level is the highest honor of all. At the core of what we do every day is the powerful truth that ideas have consequences.”

The Clark’s are returning to Eagle Mountain Lake near Fort Worth, Texas. PBAU is conducting a national search for a replacement.

Embry-Riddle Space Institute Bill Advances

A bill that would put Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at the head of a new Space Technology and Research Development Institute have received the unanimous approval of the House Economic Development Policy Committee.

The institute would work to coordinate research and development and workforce development efforts around the state as the space shuttle program gives way to its successor and competition increases for those jobs.

“As we transition from the shuttle to the Constellation program there is a potential loss of thousands of jobs clustered around the Space Center and tens of thousands of jobs elsewhere,” said Rep. Dorothy Hukill, R-Port Orange.

The bill (HB 88) would allow Embry-Riddle to create the organizational structure and work with Federal Aviation Administration officials for certification and possible funding.

ICUF members are: Barry University · Beacon College · Bethune-Cookman University · 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 University · Florida Southern College · Hodges University · Jacksonville University · Lynn University · Nova Southeastern University · Palm Beach Atlantic University · Ringling College of Art and Design · Rollins College · Saint Leo University · St. Thomas University · Southeastern University · Stetson University · University of Miami · The University of Tampa · Warner University · Webber International University

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