



INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES *of* FLORIDA

ICUF REPORT

SPECIAL

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FRAG Emerges from Legislative Session with Minimal Reduction

ICUF's legislative supporters did an exceptional job of assisting funding for the FRAG this year, appropriating nearly as much money to pay for the grants as last year. That's noteworthy as the \$70.4 billion budget approved by the Legislature on the last day of the 2010 session imposed substantial cuts on numerous programs. "We are extremely grateful to our friends in the Legislature for doing their best to prioritize the FRAG and student aid programs," said ICUF President Ed H. Moore. "Our thanks go out on behalf of the tens of thousands of students and their families who know well the important role the grants play in making it possible for many of our students to pay their tuition and remain in school."

Moore thanked Senator Evelyn Lynn, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee, and Representative William Proctor, Chair of the House State Universities & Private Colleges Appropriations Committee, for the vital role they played in protecting FRAG funding. "Many other legislators were strong supporters and helped to make possible a good outcome for our students and members," Moore said. "FRAG provides access to success for so many students, creating the opportunities needed to move forward with their college dreams. We had tremendous bi-partisan support for this worthwhile student aid program," said Moore.

The Legislature put nearly \$83.9 million into the FRAG program, which is less than a 1 percent reduction from the current program. Lawmakers set the grants at \$2,425 for the coming academic year. This amount is less than last year's award of \$2,507 because analysts projected that enrollment would increase next year to about 3% over the current year. "Three percent growth is a realistic estimate," Moore said. "The continued growth of FRAG enrollment is good news for our schools and for the state of Florida because it means that we are doing our part to increase degree production in a troubled economy. The FRAG is a very important tool in assuring that our institutions can fashion financial aid packages that make their schools affordable for large numbers of students." About half of the FRAG recipients are the first in their families to attend college.



Senator Lynn



Representative
Proctor

Moore Appointed to Florida Council of 100

ICUF President Ed H. Moore has been named to the Florida Council of 100 as an ex-officio member. He will serve on the Council's Higher Education Committee. "I am honored to be able to participate in policy discussions by members of this prestigious organization," Moore said. The Council of 100 was formed in 1961 at the request of Governor Farris Bryant to advise him on state issues from the business perspective.



"The Council has continued that advisory role to the Governor over the years, and today exists to promote the economic growth of Florida and improve the economic well-being and quality of life of its citizenry," its website says. "The Council was the first of its kind in the United States, and works in close harmony with the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Legislature, as well as with private organizations, to achieve quality of life improvements for the people of Florida. CEOs invited into the Council represent a cross-section of key business leadership in Florida. Members are expected to have a stake in Florida and in the achievement of the Council mission; achieved a high degree of success and recognition in their business, profession or public service career; demonstrated involvement in public policy issues; and possess the personal qualities of character, personality and leadership ability, and the desire to advance the Council mission."

Earlier this year, the Council and the Florida Chamber of Commerce issued a report recommending improvements to Florida's entire education system designed to drive economic growth in the state. The report called for a major increase in the production of bachelor's degrees and recommended that "detailed consideration also be given to increased use of private colleges and universities and distance/virtual education for degree production."

ICUF Receives Place on New Higher Education Council

A bill passed by this year's Legislature to revise the Board of Governor's role in overseeing the state universities, created a new Higher Education Coordinating Council which now includes the ICUF president as a member. The Council will serve as an advisory board to the Legislature, State Board of Education, and Board of Governors. The legislation gives the Council responsibility for identifying unmet needs and facilitating solutions to disputes regarding the creation of new degree programs, and the establishment of new institutes, campuses, or centers.

"I am pleased to represent ICUF on a panel created to promote a cooperative approach to higher educational in Florida," Moore said. "Higher education can be the driving force in Florida's economy as we emerge from this slowdown. This Council will be a creative catalyst for creating a brighter and more productive Florida."

Graduation Highlights: Speakers, Honorary Degrees and Smiles

Thousands of ICUF graduates received their degrees this spring in commencement exercises that brought joy to the graduates and their family members. Here are some of the highlights of graduation at ICUF institutions.

- Florida Memorial University awarded an honorary degree to noted journalist Roland S. Martin and presented its President's Meritorious Achievement Award to alumnus Barrington Irving. Irving flew solo around the world in 2007 and created nonprofit, Experience Aviation, Inc., to introduce minority youth to careers in aviation and aerospace.
- Alumna Nicole Stott, an astronaut, was the featured speaker at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduation and received the University's Distinguished Speaker Award. Stott spent three months on the International Space Station in 2009.
- Flagler College awarded degrees to about 369 graduates. The commencement speaker was John Darrell Rood, Chairman and Founder of Vestcor Companies and a former U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas.
- Palm Beach Atlantic University streamed its graduation live over the Internet for the first time. Trustees Chairman Robert Simpson, President of Palm Beach Motor Cars, spoke to about 450 graduates.
- Southeastern University graduated its largest class ever; 388 students. Great-grandmother Vivian Browning, mother of Professor Kenneth Stevens, received her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services at the age of 65.
- Stetson University President Wendy B. Libby gave the "charge" at the graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies. The "charge" is a tradition where the president places a duty and responsibility upon the graduates.
- Actor Stephen Lang, who played Colonel Miles Quaritch in the Avatar movie, spoke at the Jacksonville University graduation saying, "I believe the reason that Avatar had so much success was because it is about an individual who takes responsibility for his own survival, and in doing so influenced another race to do the same."
- United States Senator George LeMieux, was the commencement speaker at Florida Institute of Technology. Five graduates received Faculty Honors Awards for maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average. They are: Amanda Rose Anderson, Joshua Martin Black, Cara Jan Bortz, Mikaela Elis Devauux, and Nicholas Michael Milano.

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
The University of Tampa · University of Miami · Warner University
Webber International University

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