

2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STUDENT SUCCESS

FAU's first priority is to improve student success as measured by increasing retention and graduation rates, and decreasing time to degree. Funds will be utilized to establish an early warning system, align academic planning and scheduling practices, create a sustainable and comprehensive communication plan, and increase student engagement initiatives.

CAMPUS PARTNERSHIP STEM INITIATIVE

FAU's Life Sciences/STEM initiative is at a crossroads of historical importance. The STEM Initiative will capitalize on the nearly one billion dollars that taxpayers have invested to attract world class biomedical research institutions to our region over the past decade. Funds will be utilized to establish a joint venture between the Colleges of Science, Engineering and Computer Science and Medicine with our regional partner institutes - Scripps Florida, the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience (MPFIN), the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI), and the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies (TPIMS) to create world-class Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) training programs on the MacArthur Campus of FAU in Jupiter.

SOUTHEAST NATIONAL MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER (SNMREC)

Originally established in 2007 as a State of Florida Center of Excellence, FAU's SNMREC will soon install the world's first offshore test berth for small-scale ocean current turbines thanks to a lease agreement between FAU and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The project demonstrates the multidisciplinary nature of marine renewable research and shows how successful public-private partnerships can shape the international landscape in this field. Funds will be utilized to continue this important research and support deployment of the test berth.

COMPUTER ACCELERATION PIPELINE TO UNLOCK REGIONAL EXCELLENCE (CAPTURE)

FAU, Broward College and Palm Beach State College recently partnered to fast-track students into the high-tech workplace. CAPTURE creates an accelerated pipeline to a bachelor's degree in computer science or computer engineering, which students can enter from any of the three partner institutions, from the ranks of employees in local corporations or from graduating high school classes in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Funds will be utilized to achieve sustainability, increase graduates in Computer Science and Engineering fields to meet the work place demands of Southeastern Florida and explore opportunities in other fields of study that have an escalating need for highly skilled employees.

TECH RUNWAY

Tech Runway was designed to establish a formal program for mentoring entrepreneurs and their ventures based on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Venture Mentoring Service (VMS). The project combines the resources of the University with the local business community and creates an ecosystem that is conducive to the development of successful technology start-ups. Funds will be utilized to maintain and grow current operations and provide seed capital for an additional 10 – 20 start-up companies.