September 2014

Dear Freshman:

Congratulations on making the decision to further your education! By attending the University of South Florida, you are taking an important step toward achieving the American dream in Florida. To help ensure your success after graduation, we are creating an opportunity economy where dynamic, growing industries create jobs and careers for generations to come.

As I travel throughout our state, students and parents tell me they cannot afford to see tuition at Florida Colleges and State Universities continue to climb. For that reason, I signed historic legislation earlier this year that will keep tuition low and allow all Florida families to access affordable higher education.

To help make higher education more affordable in the Sunshine State, we began last year by changing how we fund higher education. Instead of relying on students and families to cover rising costs, we are now awarding funds based on how state universities serve students as they earn their degrees. Higher tuition and fees mean you and your family face greater debt after your graduation. That is why we are rewarding schools that demonstrate results by preparing students for well-paying jobs in our state.

My top priority is making sure Florida families have the opportunity to get a great job and have access to a quality education. Throughout your time at the University of South Florida, I encourage you to set goals. I have learned that success depends on your willingness to work hard. I am confident your hard work and perseverance will open up many opportunities for you.

It is my hope that, once you complete your higher education, you will put your talents and skills to work right here in the Sunshine State. I believe as we make Florida Colleges and State Universities more affordable, we will help future generations of Floridians add to the vitality of our state.

Again, congratulations on choosing to further your education. As you pursue your dreams, I wish you all the best for a great freshman year.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor