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For Immediate Release

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USF Sarasota-Manatee to debut engineering program with USF in Tampa

SARASOTA, Fla. (April 18, 2016) – Months after announcing the formation of a College of Science & Mathematics, USF Sarasota-Manatee is unveiling plans for a pre-engineering program in combination with USF in Tampa.

Starting this fall, prospective students will be able to enroll in pre-engineering classes at USFSM for two years then finish their degree studies at USF in Tampa. Entitled “USF Bridge to Engineering,” this new program will offer local students the option to prepare for engineering careers where they already live and work.

“This dynamic new partnership shows the power of the USF System and how collaborative efforts like this one can positively impact our students and their future careers,” said USF system president Dr. Judy Genshaft. “We are excited to see this engineering partnership develop as part of our growing emphasis on STEM-related fields.”

This new addition to USFSM’s curriculum is tied to the campus’s long-range strategic plan and follows the campus’s announcement in November to create a College of Science & Mathematics by Fall 2016. Since expanding to a four-year institution in Fall 2013, USFSM has placed an emphasis on expanding science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to meet the workforce needs of its local and regional communities.

“USF Sarasota-Manatee is committed to serving our local communities, and this partnership will help to fill a demand for workforce-ready students with training in science, technology, engineering and math,” said Dr. Stone. “We will continue to work with our local chambers, economic development corporations and businesses to ensure that we are keeping our local students in our region when they move on to their careers.”

The pre-engineering partnership will offer students convenient access to USF’s world-class engineering programs, keeping bright students in the Tampa Bay region to fill the growing needs in STEM careers.

“I am looking forward to welcoming the innovative and talented engineering students from USF Sarasota-Manatee into the College of Engineering,” said USF Engineering Dean Dr. Robert H. Bishop said. “This is a natural partnership designed to provide a highly trained engineering workforce to fill much needed local engineering and technology jobs.”

For the first two years students will take requisite undergraduate courses at USFSM – including math, physics, chemistry and engineering – to prepare for USF’s mechanical engineering degree program in Tampa. Upon completion of coursework, students will be eligible to continue their studies at USF’s College of Engineering in Tampa provided they have maintained a 2.0 overall GPA and 3.0 GPA in required calculus and physics courses.

Because the pre-engineering curriculum at USFSM will include classes tailored to engineering, along with other general studies, students accepted into the program must meet regularly with USFSM advisors for guidance in choosing requisite courses.

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This letter is an electronic communication from the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.

This new partnership represents another effort by USFSM to align its programs with community needs and broaden its academic reach through collaboration. In fall 2014, the campus launched a biology program in partnership with Mote Marine Laboratory, which has quickly become one of USFSM's fastest-growing programs.

"This exciting program will help to fill a critical workforce need in our community," said Sharon Hillstrom, president and CEO of the Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation. "Current and new businesses throughout the region can benefit from training and retaining potential engineering talent in our area."

While initially developed to align with degrees in mechanical engineering, it is hoped the Bridge to Engineering program can be expanded to support other engineering majors at USF in Tampa, including chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, computer science, electrical engineering and industrial engineering.

To learn more about Bridge to Engineering or to make an appointment with a USF Sarasota-Manatee advisor, visit www.usfsm.edu.

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About the USF System

The University of South Florida System is a high-impact, global research system dedicated to student success. The USF System includes three institutions: USF; USF St. Petersburg; and USF Sarasota-Manatee. The institutions are separately accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. All institutions have distinct missions and their own detailed strategic plans. Serving over 48,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.6 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.

About USF Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM)

USF Sarasota-Manatee is a regional campus of the University of South Florida System, offering the prestige of a nationally ranked research university with the convenience of a hometown location, including classes in Manatee County, Sarasota County and online. Separately accredited, USFSM is ideal for those interested in pursuing a baccalaureate or master's degree, professional certification, or continuing education credit in a small, personal setting with distinguished faculty and a dynamic curriculum of over 40 academic programs. Website: www.usfsm.edu.

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