

Dear Friend of USF,

Below is the memo sent on Monday, March 5th, from USF System President Judy Genshaft to the USF community, alumni, and friends. The President's letter provides the very latest update on the USF System's budget for next year.

Please consider taking a moment to thank House Speaker-Designate Will Weatherford; Senators Jim Norman, Arthenia Joyner, and Jack Latvala; and the entire Tampa Bay legislative delegation for their leadership on this issue. You may do so using the Alumni Advocacy link in the column to the right.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark Walsh

Assistant VP for Government Relations for the USF System



Update on the State Budget

To: USF Community, Alumni, Friends

From: Judy Genshaft, USF System President

Dear Friends,

During the past month we have seen a profound outpouring of support for the University of South Florida and the USF System. We have argued for fairness in the state budget of Florida, and we have achieved that because of your help.

With emails, calls, and letters, our friends have accomplished much. USF has remained strong.

Today, the Florida House and Senate have agreed on the state budget. After a "cooling off" period, the Florida Legislature is expected to vote by Friday and send that budget to Gov. Rick Scott for his signature. These agreements are contingent on the governor's approval.

The most important elements from today:

- We now anticipate full funding of \$6 million for our new College of Pharmacy.
- We expect financial help with any transition to an independent Polytechnic University -- USF Polytechnic's students would be able to graduate from USF under an orderly 5-year transition plan.
- We pushed for equitable funding, and while there will be significant cuts to all of Florida's universities, those cuts will be made equitably.

My concern throughout this process has been the treatment of our students, faculty, and staff. We fought to ensure that our students would be cared for. I believe today's agreement does that.

In addition, we have received support to launch a heart institute at USF Health, an innovative and collaborative initiative to raise the level of health care in the region.

My sincere thanks go to House Speaker-Designate Will Weatherford; Senators Jim Norman, Arthenia Joyner, and Jack Latvala; and the entire Tampa Bay legislative delegation, from all eight counties, for fighting to ensure that the USF System was treated fairly. Our thanks to House member Seth McKeel, for looking out for our students at USF Polytechnic and allowing them to remain in Lakeland to finish their USF degrees.

And to each of you, thank you again for your voices. All of you have made it possible for the USF System, and all of our students and employees, to continue to achieve greatness and to continue to pursue our goals. You made a huge difference.

CONNECT WITH USF ALUMNI ADVOCACY

<http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/home/>

CONTACT YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE

To locate contact information for your local Florida State Senator and Representative, using your home address, click here: <http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/directory/statedir.tt?state=FL&lvl=state>

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

To send us your feedback or ideas, email: govrelations@usf.edu