Dear Friend of USF,

As we near the halfway point of the 2013 Legislative Session, the budget proposals for the House and Senate are beginning to take shape and it is critical that we focus our efforts on the budget proposals for the USF System. Senator of Higher Education Appropriations, Christian Bill Galvano (Bradenton) released his Chairman’s Proposed Budget for the State University System this past week and it includes a full restoration of the $300 million cut sustained by the State University System last year. This restoration will amount approximately $450 million in the CSF budget for the USF System in the coming fiscal year. Please contact your Senator and Representative for the USF System to support the full restoration of funding for the USF System. The Senate is also working hard on significant proposals to boost funding for universities and public institutions. Senator of Higher Education Appropriations Committee, Seth McKeel (Lakeland) and the House Appropriations Committee, Bill Galvano (Bradenton) released their 2013 budget proposals for the academic year. The Senate has already made a very strong commitment to restore the $300 million from last year. The House is also working hard on significant proposals in budgeting for universities and public institutions and maintaining important projects.

Thanks for all your support.

Doug Woolard
USF President

Stephanie Holmquist-Johnson
Lindsay Lewis
Doug Woolard
Willie Taggart
Coach

The day was a great success and enjoyed by all participants.

USF Day at the Capitol

On February 19, 2013, dozens of USF students from across the USF System made the four-hour trip north to Tallahassee in order to advocate for and lobby for their university at the official “USF Day at the Capitol.” The USF Alumni Association and USF Foundation joined Student Government and USF Athletics, as well as the USF System, in sponsoring this student led initiative to help make the vision for a day of advocacy a reality. The goal of the day was to provide students an opportunity to participate in this political process by meeting with individual legislators and advocating on their behalf for the issues they most passionately support. Some of the issues raised included: education, the “Anchored Higher” initiative, which aims for a restoration of $300 million in base funding for the State University System and an investment of $118 million to allow universities to forgo a tuition increase next year – to the passage of the “Higher for Us” initiative – which asks for a restoration of $300 million in base funding throughout the State University System and an investment of $118 million to allow universities to focus on increasing next year – to the passage of SB 260 and HB 539, which would allow veterans of the U.S. Armed Services or its reserves to attend a Florida higher education institution or physically reside in the state for tuition purposes if they physically attended a Florida higher education institution predominantly for a public purpose. The bills also included minor changes to the political process: to increase or improve current law or to pass new law on behalf of students. The goal of the day was to provide students an opportunity to participate in this political process by meeting with individual legislators and advocating on their behalf for the issues they most passionately support.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

To send your feedback or ideas, email: govrelations@usf.edu or visit http://usfalumni.org/advocate. If you get a moment, please send Chair Galvano a note of thanks for his support of the USF System and for state university funding in general. (To contact Chairman Galvano: http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S26) For more information, please contact USF Advancement at (813) 974-3000.