



12 June 2020

Dear USF Community,

The University of South Florida achieved a historic milestone today as the Executive Council of our accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), approved our plan to consolidate our three campuses.

Today's action authorizes a single accreditation for the Tampa campus and our branch campuses in St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee and allows us to comply with the state law passed in 2018 and amended in 2019 that mandates consolidation as of July 1, 2020.

Considering the complexities of consolidating three separately accredited institutions, today's approval represents a remarkable accomplishment. I am grateful for the many valuable contributions and input from faculty, staff and students representing each campus, the USF Board of Trustees, the Florida Board of Governors, members of the state legislature and other stakeholders from across the Tampa Bay region and the State of Florida.

With consolidation, USF students will have access to a broader array of rigorous and relevant accredited degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, doctoral research and professional levels on all three campuses. The benefits of preeminence will extend to all of our campuses, and consolidation will mean that every USF student will earn their degree from a Preeminent Research University.

Just as there will be expanded access and opportunities for students, the same will be true for our faculty, who, for example, will be able to take advantage of greater opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

We have an extraordinary opportunity, as One USF, to strengthen our position as one of the nation's premier research universities and a leader in student success by developing new and innovative ways to serve all members of the university community and the broader Tampa Bay region as we strive to become a top-25 public research university and position ourselves for eligibility for membership in the Association of American Universities.

Our next step in the consolidation process is to extensively document that the consolidated USF complies with SACSCOC's *Principles of Accreditation* and to prepare for a site visit by a SACSCOC

committee later this year or early next year. A standard requirement for accreditation, the visit will include all three campuses, the Morsani College of Medicine in downtown Tampa and possibly other off-campus instructional sites. We will share more details in the weeks and months to come.

Thank you for all that you do to make USF a world-class university.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Currall  
President and Professor