

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to special postsecondary education  
3           programs; creating s. 1004.226, F.S.; creating the 21st  
4           Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement  
5           Act; providing legislative findings and intent; providing  
6           definitions; creating the Florida Technology, Research,  
7           and Scholarship Board within the Board of Governors of the  
8           State University System; providing for members of the  
9           board; providing for terms; providing for board members to  
10          be reimbursed for per diem and expenses incurred in the  
11          performance of their duties; requiring that the Board of  
12          Governors of the State University System provide staff  
13          support and other support for the board; requiring that  
14          the board provide recommendations for the 21st Century  
15          World Class Scholars Program and the Centers of Excellence  
16          Program; authorizing the board to form committees and  
17          consult with certain other entities; providing for the  
18          21st Century World Class Scholars Program to provide  
19          matching funds to state universities; providing guidelines  
20          for the board in the development of criteria for  
21          recommendation to the Board of Governors; requiring a  
22          minimum investment of funds; specifying the purposes of  
23          the Centers of Excellence; specifying entities eligible to  
24          submit proposals; requiring the board to recommend to the  
25          Board of Governors criteria for approving proposals to  
26          create or expand a Center of Excellence, to solicit  
27          proposals, and to recommend proposals that meet such

28 criteria; requiring documentation if funds are approved  
29 for a Center of Excellence in excess of a specified  
30 amount; requiring reports by Centers of Excellence and the  
31 Board of Governors; providing for expiration of the act;  
32 creating s. 1004.635, F.S.; creating the State University  
33 System Research and Economic Development Investment  
34 Program to provide matching funds to institutions to  
35 construct and acquire facilities and equipment to support  
36 research programs and foster economic development;  
37 providing for administration by the Board of Governors of  
38 the State University System; specifying eligibility  
39 criteria for state university participation; providing for  
40 the matching of appropriated funds; providing  
41 appropriations; creating s. 1004.384, F.S.; authorizing a  
42 College of Medicine at the University of Central Florida;  
43 creating s. 1004.385, F.S.; authorizing a College of  
44 Medicine at Florida International University; providing an  
45 effective date.

46  
47 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

48  
49 Section 1. Section 1004.226, Florida Statutes, is created  
50 to read:

51 1004.226 The 21st Century Technology, Research, and  
52 Scholarship Enhancement Act.--

53 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

54        (a) The Legislature finds that diversifying this state's  
55 economy requires a focus on building a growing base of high-wage  
56 jobs and on nurturing those technologies and clusters that will  
57 be the foundation of Florida's growing economic diversity and  
58 prosperity.

59        (b) The Legislature further finds that special programs  
60 are needed to facilitate the recruitment of exceptional talent  
61 to Florida's research universities and centers and to provide  
62 the infrastructure and resources that precipitate joint efforts  
63 and coinvestment among state research and development  
64 institutions, private industry, and government. Florida needs  
65 consistent commitment and investment in order to further the  
66 state's strategy of capitalizing on innovative research and  
67 development to build a thriving, technology-rich economy.

68        (2) CREATION.--The 21st Century Technology, Research, and  
69 Scholarship Enhancement Act is created for the purpose of:

70        (a) Investing in programs that attract world class  
71 scholars and building Centers of Excellence as an important  
72 means of increasing technology-based business in this state;

73        (b) Requiring coinvestment as a means of leveraging state  
74 dollars;

75        (c) Aligning research and development efforts with  
76 established, statewide economic-development strategies,  
77 including an emphasis on identified economic clusters;

78        (d) Facilitating value-added job creation through  
79 continuous improvement in university research, as well as  
80 entrepreneurship and capital-development programs; and

81       (e) Establishing Florida as a leading state for  
82 entrepreneurship and innovation, with continued commitment to  
83 university Centers of Excellence and an expanding base of  
84 research and development.

85       (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

86       (a) "A 21st Century World Class Scholar" means a principal  
87 researcher/investigator who has high academic credentials,  
88 demonstrated competence, and experience that meets the  
89 requirements established by the board for a 21st Century World  
90 Class Scholar.

91       (b) "Board" means the Florida Technology, Research, and  
92 Scholarship Board.

93       (c) "Center of Excellence" means an organization of  
94 personnel, facilities, and equipment established to accomplish  
95 the purposes and objectives of this act.

96       (d) "Community college" means a Florida public community  
97 college as defined in s. 1000.21.

98       (e) "Private university" means a baccalaureate degree-  
99 granting independent nonprofit university which is accredited by  
100 the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of  
101 Colleges and Schools and which is located in and chartered as a  
102 domestic corporation by the state.

103       (f) "Research center" means an institute, center, or  
104 clinic that includes research and development or education as a  
105 principal mission of the organization.

106       (g) "State university" means a Florida public university  
107 as defined in s. 1000.21.

108           (4) FLORIDA TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, AND SCHOLARSHIP  
109 BOARD.--The Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board  
110 is created within the Board of Governors of the State University  
111 System to guide the establishment of Centers of Excellence and  
112 the attraction of world class scholars.

113           (a) The board shall consist of 11 members. Seven members  
114 shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom the Governor  
115 shall appoint as chair of the board, one of whom must be a  
116 member of the board of directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc.,  
117 and one of whom must be a member of the Board of Governors of  
118 the State University System. Two members shall be appointed by  
119 the President of the Senate and two members shall be appointed  
120 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appointed  
121 members must be representative of business leaders, industrial  
122 researchers, academic researchers, scientists, and leaders in  
123 the emerging and advanced technology sector. Appointed members  
124 may not serve for more than 4 years and any vacancy that occurs  
125 during these appointees' terms shall be filled in the same  
126 manner as the original appointment. A majority of members  
127 constitutes a quorum.

128           (b) Members of the board shall serve without compensation,  
129 but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and  
130 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in the  
131 performance of their duties.

132           (c) The Board of Governors shall provide staff support for  
133 the activities of the board and per diem and travel expenses for  
134 board members.

135        (d) The board is charged with recommending criteria to the  
136 Board of Governors for the 21st Century World Class Scholars  
137 Program and with providing guidance to the Board of Governors  
138 regarding the implementation and administration of the Centers  
139 of Excellence Program. The board shall recommend to the Board of  
140 Governors the qualifications, standards, and requirements for  
141 approval of investments in Centers of Excellence under this act.  
142 The board may form committees of its members and is encouraged  
143 to consult with Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Florida Research  
144 Consortium, Bio-Florida, IT Florida, the Florida Aviation and  
145 Aerospace Alliance, and any other entity whose input may be  
146 helpful in determining the requirements and standards for the  
147 program.

148        (5) THE 21ST CENTURY WORLD CLASS SCHOLARS PROGRAM.--

149        (a) This act allocates state matching funds to attract  
150 21st Century World Class Scholars to state universities.

151        (b) The 21st Century World Class Scholars Program shall be  
152 used as a tool to develop the state's capabilities in science  
153 and high-technology research, emphasizing Florida's identified  
154 strengths in science and technology while also recognizing new  
155 technologies as they may emerge.

156        (c) The board, in consultation with senior administrators  
157 of state universities, state university foundation directors,  
158 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the  
159 board of directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and leading  
160 members of private industry, shall develop and recommend to the  
161 Board of Governors criteria for the 21st Century World Class

162 Scholars Program. Such criteria shall address, at a minimum, the  
163 following:

164 1. The presence of distinguished faculty members,  
165 including whether the university has a substantial history of  
166 external funding, along with the strong potential for attracting  
167 a scholar of national or international eminence.

168 2. The presence of academically outstanding students,  
169 along with the promise and potential for attracting additional  
170 highly qualified students.

171 3. The presence of adequate research and scholarly support  
172 services.

173 4. The existence of an academic environment having  
174 appropriate infrastructure, including buildings, classrooms,  
175 libraries, laboratories, and specialized equipment, that is  
176 conducive to the conduct of the highest quality of scholarship  
177 and research.

178 5. The demonstration of concordance with Florida's  
179 strategic plan for economic development or an emphasis on one or  
180 more emerging sciences or technologies that could favorably  
181 impact the state's economic future.

182 (d) A state university must raise a minimum of \$1 million  
183 to be eligible for state matching funds to recruit a 21st  
184 Century World Class Scholar. Funds raised by the university  
185 shall be eligible for a one-to-one match from the state.  
186 Revenues received from state appropriations, student tuition and  
187 fees, and state-funded contracts or grants are not eligible for  
188 state match.

189        (e) Upon the verification by the Board of Governors that a  
190 state university has met the criteria for a 21st Century World  
191 Class Scholar, the Board of Governors shall release matching  
192 funds to the university. Funds shall be used for the purpose of  
193 recruiting a 21st Century World Class Scholar and shall be  
194 expended according to an expenditure plan approved by the Board  
195 of Governors.

196        (f) Nothing in this act is intended to replace or obviate  
197 existing programs.

198        (6) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.--

199        (a) The purposes and objectives of a Center of Excellence  
200 include:

201        1. Identifying and pursuing opportunities for university  
202 scholars, research center scientists and engineers, and private  
203 businesses to form collaborative partnerships to foster and  
204 promote the research required to develop commercially promising,  
205 advanced, and innovative science and technology and to transfer  
206 those discoveries to commercial sectors.

207        2. Acquiring and leveraging public-sector and private-  
208 sector funding to provide the totality of funds, personnel,  
209 facilities, equipment, and other resources needed to support the  
210 research required to develop commercially promising, advanced,  
211 and innovative science and technology and to transfer those  
212 discoveries to commercial sectors.

213        3. Recruiting and retaining world class scholars, high-  
214 performing students, and leading scientists and engineers in  
215 technology disciplines to engage in research in this state and



216 to develop commercially promising, advanced, and innovative  
217 science and technology.

218 4. Enhancing and expanding science and technology  
219 curricula and laboratory resources at universities and research  
220 centers in this state.

221 5. Increasing the number of high-performing students in  
222 science and technology disciplines who graduate from  
223 universities in this state and pursue careers in this state.

224 6. Stimulating and supporting the inception, growth, and  
225 diversification of science and technology-based businesses and  
226 ventures in Florida and increasing employment opportunities for  
227 the workforce needed to support such businesses.

228 (b) The following entities are eligible to submit  
229 proposals for a Center of Excellence:

230 1. Any state university.

231 2. Any private university.

232 3. The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research  
233 Institute.

234 4. The Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition,  
235 Inc..

236 5. Any community college, training center, or other public  
237 or private research center in the state that coordinates with a  
238 state university for purposes of this act.

239 (c) The board shall recommend to the Board of Governors  
240 criteria for approving proposals to create or expand a Center of  
241 Excellence. Such criteria shall consider:

- 242        1. The maturity of the applicant's existing programs  
 243 relating to a proposed Center of Excellence.
- 244        2. The comprehensiveness and effectiveness of site plans  
 245 relating to a proposed Center of Excellence.
- 246        3. The existing amount of the applicant's resources  
 247 dedicated to activities relating to a proposed Center of  
 248 Excellence.
- 249        4. The regional economic structure and climate.
- 250        5. The degree to which the applicant identifies and seizes  
 251 opportunities to collaborate with other public or private  
 252 entities for research purposes.
- 253        6. The presence of a comprehensive performance and  
 254 accountability measurement system.
- 255        7. The use of an integrated research and development  
 256 strategy using multiple levels of the educational system.
- 257        8. The ability of the applicant to raise research funds  
 258 and leverage public and private investment dollars to support  
 259 advanced and emerging scientific and technological research and  
 260 development projects.
- 261        9. The degree to which the applicant transfers advanced  
 262 and emerging sciences and technologies from its laboratories to  
 263 the commercial sector.
- 264        10. The degree to which the applicant stimulates and  
 265 supports the creation of new ventures.
- 266        11. The existence of a plan to enhance academic curricula  
 267 by improving communication between academia and industry.

268        12. The existence of a plan to increase the number,  
269 quality, and retention rate of faculty and graduate students in  
270 advancing and emerging science and technology-based disciplines.

271        13. The existence of a plan to increase the likelihood of  
272 faculty and graduate students pursuing private-sector careers in  
273 the state.

274        14. The ability of the applicant to provide capital  
275 facilities necessary to support research and development.

276        (d) The board shall periodically solicit proposals for  
277 Centers of Excellence. To call for proposals, the board shall  
278 notify the president or chief executive officer of the eligible  
279 entities identified in paragraph (b).

280        (e) The board shall recommend to the Board of Governors  
281 for approval and funding those proposals that meet the criteria  
282 approved by the Board of Governors.

283        (f) If no proposal is judged worthy of approval during a  
284 solicitation cycle, an approval need not be made. This act does  
285 not establish a limit for an investment amount; however, any  
286 approval for a single Center of Excellence exceeding \$20 million  
287 must be documented to have superior prospects for success in its  
288 field of research and offer outstanding opportunities to  
289 leverage state dollars.

290        (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--

291        (a) Any Center of Excellence receiving funding pursuant to  
292 this section shall provide at least annual reports to the board  
293 and the Board of Governors concerning its achievement of  
294 objectives as identified and presented in the approved proposal.

295        (b) The Board of Governors shall issue an annual report by  
296 December 31 each year of the activities conducted, including the  
297 accomplishments and overall economic benefits to the state, the  
298 number of 21st Century World Class Scholars attracted, the  
299 number of Centers of Excellence created or expanded, the success  
300 of collaborations with related industries, and the success of  
301 these programs. The annual report shall be presented to the  
302 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
303 House of Representatives. The annual report must include a copy  
304 of an independent audit of the board and a review of the  
305 progress of programs established pursuant to this section.

306        (8) EXPIRATION.--This section shall expire June 30, 2011.

307        Section 2. Section 1004.635, Florida Statutes, is created  
308 to read:

309        1004.635 State University System Research and Economic  
310 Development Investment Program.--

311        (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the  
312 Legislature to create an investment program in state  
313 universities that enhances graduate education and enables state  
314 universities to become nationally competitive in science and  
315 technology-based economic development.

316        (2) GENERAL PROVISIONS.--There is created the State  
317 University System Research and Economic Development Investment  
318 Program to provide matching funds to eligible institutions to  
319 construct and acquire cutting-edge, state-of-the-art science and  
320 engineering research facilities and specialized equipment to  
321 support research programs, foster economic development, and

322 accelerate Florida's innovation economy. The program shall be  
323 administered by the Board of Governors of the State University  
324 System.

325 (3) INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.--To be eligible to  
326 participate in the State University System Research and Economic  
327 Development Investment Program, a state university must meet  
328 each of the following criteria:

329 (a) The number of nonprofessional doctoral degrees awarded  
330 each year must exceed 250. For purposes of this section,  
331 nonprofessional doctoral degrees do not include degrees awarded  
332 in law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. At least  
333 25 percent of the nonprofessional doctoral degrees must be in a  
334 mathematics, science, technology, engineering, or health-related  
335 discipline as defined by Classification of Instructional Program  
336 codes.

337 (b) The number of postdoctoral appointees reported in the  
338 most recent NSF/NIH Survey of Graduate Students and  
339 Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering must exceed 200.

340 (c) The 4-year undergraduate graduation rate must equal 40  
341 percent or higher.

342 (d) Expenditures from externally awarded contracts and  
343 grants must be a minimum of \$100 million per year.

344 (e) The university must have a proven track record of  
345 securing patents and licenses leading to products in the  
346 marketplace over the last 5 years.

347 (f) At least 75 percent of the entering freshmen each  
348 academic year who are classified as residents for tuition

349 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21 must be eligible to receive  
350 Florida Bright Futures Scholarships.

351  
352 The Board of Governors shall develop uniform guidelines,  
353 definitions, and reporting formats for a university to use to  
354 demonstrate that it meets each of the criteria described in this  
355 subsection. The Board of Governors shall determine the  
356 eligibility status of a state university to participate in the  
357 program.

358 (4) USE OF FUNDS.--Funds appropriated for the State  
359 University System Research and Economic Development Investment  
360 Program shall be used by the Board of Governors to match funds  
361 raised by an eligible university from nonuniversity sources on a  
362 one-time dollar-for-dollar basis.

363 Section 3. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the sum of  
364 \$150,000,000 is appropriated from nonrecurring general revenue  
365 funds to the Board of Governors of the State University System  
366 of which \$50 million shall be allocated for the 21st Century  
367 World Class Scholars Program, \$50 million shall be allocated for  
368 the Centers of Excellence Program, and \$50 million shall be  
369 allocated for the State University System Research and Economic  
370 Development Investment Program.

371 Section 4. Section 1004.384, Florida Statutes, is created  
372 to read:

373 1004.384 University of Central Florida College of  
374 Medicine.--As approved by the Board of Governors of the State

375 University System on March 23, 2006, a College of Medicine is  
 376 authorized at the University of Central Florida.

377 Section 5. Section 1004.385, Florida Statutes, is created  
 378 to read:

379 1004.385 Florida International University College of  
 380 Medicine.--As approved by the Board of Governors of the State  
 381 University System on March 23, 2006, a College of Medicine is  
 382 authorized at Florida International University.

383 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.