OUTREACH

Owls in Tallahassee
This week the Interim Provost, Dr. Perry, traveled to Tallahassee to meet with members of FAU’s Legislative Delegation, House and Senate leadership, and professional staff. During his visits, Provost Perry discussed several areas of higher education policy, including the implementation of the Board of Governors’ recently recommended performance metrics. In addition, Dr. Megan Davis, the Executive Director of FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, also was in Tallahassee to meet with legislators. Dr. Davis met with members of FAU’s Delegation as well as the leadership of the House and Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittees. These meetings provided an opportunity for Dr. Davis to share some of the exciting projects and research that are currently taking place at Harbor Branch, including the Indian River Lagoon Observatory project and the Institute’s work in the field of aquaculture.

Indian River Lagoon Symposium 2014
Last week, FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) put on a series of special events focusing on the Indian River Lagoon. The Symposium, held on February 6, 2014, comes as a

Bills in Brief

HB 115 / SB 318 - Public Meetings/University Direct Support Organization (Pigman / Stargel)
The measure provides an exemption from public meeting requirements for the portion of meeting of a board of directors of a university DSO at which the 1) identity of donor or prospective donor, 2) a proposal seeking research funding from organization, or 3) a plan or program for initiating or supporting research is discussed. Effective Date: October 1, 2014 Last Action: The bills were recently reported favorably out of the House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee (HB 115) and the Senate Education Committee (SB 318).

HB 135 - Public Records & Public Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search (Kerner)
result of a multi-institutional, multi-agency effort to provide an open forum to discuss Lagoon science and management. Scientists, students, public officials, education and outreach professionals, and members of the public were in attendance throughout the week. The goal of the Symposium is to help foster and facilitate better communication among these different groups so that the gap between research and its intended application can be narrowed. The week concluded with the Harbor Branch Foundation’s third annual “Love Your Lagoon” fundraising dinner, which also took place on HBOI’s campus. The money raised during the event will help support HBOI’s research efforts.

HBOI Indian River Lagoon Symposium

2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

OPPAGA Report on Graduate Medical Education
This week, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) presented their report on Graduate Medical Education (GME) to the Senate and House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittees. The report provided members with an overview of graduate medical education and how these programs are funded and accredited. Currently, Florida has nine medical schools and 53 accredited GME institutions operating 407 residency programs with over 5,000 approved positions. The presentation also talked about the costs and effort involved in starting and maintaining a GME program. In addition, OPPAGA discussed the ratio of in-state to out-of-state medical school graduates in Florida’s GME programs as well as the breakdown of GME specialties and subspecialties. Research has shown that the location where a medical school graduate completes their GME training can be a good indication of where that individual will ultimately practice medicine. OPPAGA’s research reaffirms that conclusion and shows that since 2000, over 52 percent of the physicians who completed their GME training in Florida are still practicing in the state and another 7 percent still hold active Florida medical licenses. The presentation concluded by highlighting some of the priorities and challenges in expanding
the scope of GME in Florida and the need to continue to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of these programs going forward. It should be noted, that FAU has taken a novel approach to GME and created five hospital GME consortium for the training of its medical residents. FAU's first residency in internal medicine was recently accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and is slated to begin in 2014.

-House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee Meeting Packet

State University System Performance Funding
This week, the new SUS Chancellor Marshall Criser and staff from the Board of Governors’ Office provided the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee with an overview of performance funding in the university system. The presentation initially touched on the University Incentives of Technology Program and the High Demand Programs of Emphasis using the Board’s Gap-Analysis. Both of these programs focused on incentivizing institutions to increase the production of graduates in certain specifically identified fields. The officials from the BOG then discussed the implementation of the 2013-14 Performance Funding and the newly developed 2014-15 Board of Governor’s Performance Funding Model. The new model uses data from the annual SUS Accountability Report, System-Wide Strategic Plan, and University Work Plan to determine funding based on the following system.

Metrics
The plan calls for each university to adhere to seven common metrics:

Percent of bachelor’s degree graduates employed and/or continuing their education; average wages of employed baccalaureate graduates, cost per undergraduate degree; six-year graduation rate for full-time and part-time first time students; academic progress rate (2nd-year retention with GPA above
2.0); bachelor’s degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis (includes STEM); university access rate (percent of undergraduates with a Pell grant).

An eighth metric, graduate degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis, applies to 10 of the state’s 12 universities, including FAU.

The Board of Governors and Board of Trustees decided on the final two metrics for each university. For FAU, the two metrics are Percentage of Bachelor’s Degrees awarded without excess hours and Bachelor’s Degrees awarded to minorities.

**Funding**

Each university metric is evaluated based on Excellence or Improvement with five benchmarks ranging from high to low. The maximum score is 50 points, with universities that earn 26 points or higher eligible to receive new funds. Each university would contribute a small portion of their recurring base state funds to be allocated through the performance funding model. Universities earning 26 points or higher would have their base funding restored. Universities earning 25 points or fewer, or the three lowest scoring universities, are not eligible for new funds and would have a portion of their base funding at risk. Those funds would be reallocated for strategic initiatives at high-performing universities.

During the first year, a baseline would be established so universities would lose no more than 1 percent of their existing base state funds. A number of legislators raised questions about the individual metrics and the potential for negative impacts to certain schools within the SUS. There were questions about whether the state’s preeminent institutions should be included in this model, utilizing a six year graduation rate, accounting for part time students or students who are working and going to school, the inclusion of base funding in the funding model, and the potential for inclusion of a national model.

FAU will continue to work with legislators and the Board of Governors to help ensure that the implementation of this performance funding model is successful.
Florida Institute for Commercialization of Public Research
On Wednesday, February 12, 2014, the Florida Institute for Commercialization of Public Research, which has a branch office in the Research Park at FAU, gave a presentation on Growing Florida’s Innovation Economy to the Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. The Institute leverages the state’s $2 billion research infrastructure to develop a pipeline of investible, high growth-potential companies. Currently, the Institute supports 22 universities and research institutions and delivers company creation, building and funding programs. The presentation also provided an update on the Seed Capital Accelerator Program and Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund, which work to fill ecosystem gaps by providing capital to start, grow and keep innovation-based companies in Florida. Both funds have been successful and the Technology Seed Capital Fund, which was launched in Fall 2013, has already had applications exceed its capital allocation by a ratio of four to one.

GOING FORWARD
Next week is the final Interim Committee Week before the start of the Legislative Session on March 4, 2014. Palm Beach County Days is scheduled to coincide with the start of the Legislative Session as individuals from throughout the county will be Tallahassee on March 4th and 5th. In addition, on February 20, 2014, the Board of Governors is scheduled to meet at the University of South Florida.