



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Susan Pareigis  
(813) 229-1775  
spareigis@fc100.org

#### Officers

**Steven T. Halverson** Chair  
The Haskell Company

**Rhea F. Law** Vice Chair  
Fowler White Boggs, P.A.

**Marshall M. Criser, III**  
Immediate Past Chair

**Barney Barnett** Treasurer  
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

**Susan Pareigis** President and CEO

### Florida Council of 100 Commends Board of Governors for Work of Access & Attainment Commission and TEAm Grant Awards

#### Board of Directors

**Carlos J. Alfonso**  
Alfonso Architects

**Lee Arnold**  
Colliers International

**Allan G. Bense**  
Bense Enterprises, Inc.

**R. Mark Bostick**  
Comcar Industries, Inc.

**Edward E. Burr**  
GreenPointe Holdings, LLC

**Dean Colson**  
Colson Hicks Eidson

**Christopher Corr**  
Rayonier

**Marshall M. Criser, Jr.**  
President Emeritus  
University of Florida

**Remedios Diaz-Oliver**  
All American Containers, Inc.

**David F. Dyer**  
Chico's FAS, Inc.

**Manny A. Fernandez**  
Sysco Corporation

**F. Philip Handy**  
Strategic Industries, LLC

**Benjamin H. Hill, III**  
Hill Ward Henderson, P.A.

**Mike Jackson**  
AutoNation

**Leerie T. Jenkins, Jr.**  
Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc.

**Sydney W. Kitson**  
Kitson & Partners

**Stephen Knopik**  
Beall's Inc.

**Paul Leone**  
Flagler System, Inc.

**Fred Leonhardt**  
GrayRobinson Law Firm

**Scott Lutgert**  
The Lutgert Companies

**Lou Plasencia**  
The Plasencia Group

**Peter Rummell**  
Rummell Company, LLC

**Kathleen Shanahan**  
Uretek Holdings

**William G. Smith**  
Capital City Bank Group, Inc.

**Stella Thayer**  
Tampa Bay Downs, Inc.

**Rasesh Thakkar**  
Tavistock Group

TAMPA, Fla. (March 20, 2014) – In 2012, former chair of the Board of Governors, Dean Colson, created the Board of Governors' Commission on Florida Higher Education Access and Degree Attainment to study the statewide need for future baccalaureate degree attainment. Based on the Commission's recommendations, Governor Scott and the 2013 Legislature provided the Board of Governors \$15 million to incent state postsecondary institutions to produce more baccalaureate degree graduates in fields of high demand. Today, the Board of Governors approved the awards under the new grant program.

"The Florida Council of 100 commends Board of Governors chair Mori Hosseini, former chair Dean Colson, and chancellor Marshall Criser, III, for the successful work of the Commission on Florida Higher Education Access and Degree Attainment and today's issuance of the Targeted Educational Attainment Grant Program awards," said Steve Halverson, chair of the Florida Council of 100. "A highly skilled workforce is the key driver of Florida's economy, and these grants will help continue to build that workforce in the fast-growing areas of information technology and accounting."

Grant applicants received a significant number of points during the review process for partnering with other Florida postsecondary institutions.

"It is heartening to see the programmatic collaboration among our state's colleges and universities on a project of this magnitude," stated Rhea Law, vice chair of the Florida Council of 100. "The need for these graduates is statewide, and these TEAm grant partnerships will go a long way toward ensuring that all Florida businesses have the workers that they need to thrive."

Grantees are expected to quickly ramp-up their programs and document new degree production and job placements through 2017-18.

"We look forward to following the progress of these colleges and universities over the next five years," said Stephen Knopik, chair of the Council of 100's Higher Education Committee. "Every new, talented graduate produced by our postsecondary system is vital to Florida's continued economic success."

###

Formed in 1961, the Florida Council of 100 is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of business, civic, and academic leaders, which exists to promote the economic growth of Florida and a high quality of life for its citizens. Visit [www.fc100.org](http://www.fc100.org) for more information.