



*Dear Friend of USF,*

*Welcome to another year's edition of the USF Government Relations Newsletter. Tuesday, March 4, 2014, marked the first day of the 2014 Legislative Session in Tallahassee. However, Governor Scott, the Legislature, and the USF System (see below), have been hard at work on important issues for several weeks. I would like to thank all the people who planned, participated in and attended the 2014 USF Day at the Capitol. It was our biggest event at the Capitol ever and a huge success.*

*The USF System is extremely fortunate to have many State Senators and State Representatives that care deeply about our institution, our students and our success. Chief among these staunch advocates is the Speaker of the Florida House, Will Weatherford, from just up the road from the Tampa campus in Wesley Chapel. The Speaker's commitment to providing additional funding to all higher education institutions, and especially the USF System institutions, is well documented and sincerely appreciated by all of Bulls Country. If you get the chance, please thank Speaker Weatherford and the rest of our Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation for their support for USF and all universities. Throughout the session, we will provide you the opportunity to contact your elected officials by visiting the USF Bulls Advocates page and clicking on "Find Your Legislator." Please know that your voice can, and does, make a difference.*

*Below, and at right, you will find a list of the Top 5 Legislative Priorities for the USF System for 2014. Please take a minute to read the short brief on the Florida Center for Cybersecurity at USF that is provided below. In the coming weeks, we will provide a similar briefing on each of the other four top priorities.*

*The cybersecurity initiative is an exciting and important one for USF and our state (just ask any of the 41 million Target shoppers who were recently affected by that company's unfortunate security breach). USF can be the leader in this emerging field, and with your help and support we can get that issue and the rest of our top priorities passed and funded this session.*

*Thanks, as always, for your passion and support. Go Bulls!*

**Mark Walsh**

**Executive Director of University Partnerships and  
Assistant Vice President for Government Relations**

