

University of South Florida Strategic Plan 2002-2007

As the 21st Century begins, the State of Florida is the fourth most populous state and the Tampa Bay Region is among the nation's most dynamic and rapidly growing metropolitan areas. Florida's population grew from 2 million to 15 million between 1950 and 2000. The growth has made Florida a cosmopolitan, mostly urban state, with extensive cultural, economic and social transformation.

Along with the achievements of the boom years have come vast challenges in education, health care, social services, arts, the environment, transportation, and economic development. The University of South Florida is uniquely positioned to assist the state with the challenges of rapid development by providing increased opportunities for the education of Florida's citizens and outstanding research outcomes to improve the quality of life.

Since opening for classes in 1960, USF has developed into one of the nation's major public research universities. USF is classified as Doctoral/Research Extensive by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and is ranked among the top 100 public research universities in the annual report "The Top American Research Universities." The University receives more than \$200 million a year in external funding to support research and development projects.

With 39,000 students from all 50 states and 116 countries, USF awards more than 4,650 bachelor's degrees and 1,700 master's degrees annually on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota/Manatee and Lakeland. The University confers more than 160 doctorates in 31 fields, and more than 90 Doctor of Medicine degrees a year. In its short history, USF has awarded more than 180,000 degrees.

USF's greatest strategic opportunities reflect the University's location: coastline, port, estuaries and beaches; fresh water supplies, clean energy, and other environmental subjects; urban infrastructure. Through research in bioengineering, life sciences, materials science, microelectronics, nanotechnology, information and communication technology, advanced manufacturing, and other areas, USF is an anchor for the vast Florida High-Tech Corridor, Florida's most effective knowledge-based economic development effort.

The location and population of Florida and the Tampa Bay Region create opportunities for the University of South Florida to make extraordinary contributions in areas of diversity, building on the region's cultural identities and ethnic heritage. USF is committed to making diversity and equal opportunity a fundamental, integral part of all university operations.

As USF approaches the 50th anniversary of its founding, the institution is committed to serving the people of Florida and the Tampa Bay Region through enhancement of areas of strength and strategic opportunity.