Dear Friend of USF,

As we close out 2013, I want to express my appreciation for your ongoing support of the University of South Florida System (USF System). I also want to thank each of you who took the time to provide feedback during the Aim Higher campaign. Aim Higher is designed to place additional focus on the future of education in Florida and the investments we need to make to ensure that Florida remains competitive on a global scale. Thanks also to those 33,000 students, faculty, and staff across the USF System who had a hand in the success of Aim Higher.

Whatever your role in the Aim Higher campaign—whether you were a student, an employee, a faculty member, an alumni, a friend, or a supporter—you contributed to a conversation that will help shape the future of higher education in Florida and beyond. Let’s all continue to work together throughout 2014 to ensure that Florida’s future is well-supported and well-funded.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

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Amias: The degree of (Amias) also aids the Initiation to the Government Relations Officers. Please. I may note that 2013 Legislation Session was signed into law over the incoming college and university presidents' concerns. USF System and other state universities have expressed their concerns that tuition freeze for the upcoming academic year, but without additional state funding. The Presidents of the university presidents and student body presidents believe strongly that the Aim Higher campaign. Aim Higher is designed to place additional focus on the future of education in Florida and the investments we need to make to ensure that Florida remains competitive on a global scale. Thanks also to those 33,000 students, faculty, and staff across the USF System who had a hand in the success of Aim Higher.

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The Aim Higher campaign also hopes to advocate for a greater prioritization of education and the well-being of our state. The campaign is designed to focus on the future of our state and how we can ensure that Florida remains competitive on a global scale. The campaign’s goal is to invest in the future of our great state.

Let’s invest in future doctors and scientists who someday could save our lives. Let’s invest in future teachers who will provide our children with first-class educations. Let’s invest in future leaders for our state and our nation. Let’s invest in future engineers, artists, and entrepreneurs who will help us solve some of the greatest challenges of our time.

We encourage all Floridians to stand with us and our 330,000 students. We promise not to seek one penny of a tuition increase this year. Speaking on behalf of all of the university presidents at the December press conference, Presidents said that they would only seek a tuition increase if there is not additional state funding.

As we all know, the current economic environment presents a significant challenge for state universities. The funding environment for universities is one of our state’s top priority issues, and the Aim Higher campaign is designed to ensure that Florida remains a leader in higher education and that our state universities are able to continue to attract the best students and faculty, while providing high-quality education.

The USF System has been able to increase our enrollment by over 5,000 students in the past five years, increase our research profile, and ramp up our undergraduate and graduate programs. This has been made possible through historically high tuition increases. However, the USF System has also experienced reductions in state funding and other sources of revenue, which has led to a decreased reliance on state funding. The USF System has adopted a similar tuition freeze in exchange for additional state funds to be able to continue their pre-Session work in committees and subcommittees. So the higher legislative leaders are taking note of the initiative. Senator Joe Negron of Stuart, one of the USF System’s top priorities, was in attendance at the December press conference.

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