



\$3,000 FRAG!

The Florida legislature passed a state budget today that increases the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) to \$3,000 per student, the highest award in the history of the grant. More than 34,000 Florida residents who are full-time students attending the 28 member institutions of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) will receive this tuition assistance beginning this fall.

“I cannot offer enough praise for the members of this legislature and legislative leadership. On behalf of the tens of thousands of students attending our independent institutions and their families, I offer heartfelt thanks to the members. This tuition assistance grant goes a long way in helping our schools cobble together student financial aid packages that open the doors to higher education for qualified students from all walks of life,” said Ed Moore, executive director of ICUF.

Many studies by independent groups in Florida have found the Florida Resident Access Grant provides a very high return on the investment of state dollars. It helps students pay tuition at quality institutions without the additional costs to taxpayers for building construction, faculty and staff salaries, and other operational costs. Students choosing ICUF schools who otherwise would have gone to public institutions earn degrees at a low cost to the state. ICUF institutions meet the same standards as public institutions in terms of accreditation, not-for-profit status and public service. Approximately 44 percent of Florida resident students attending ICUF institutions are minorities.

As increasing demand exceeds the capacity of our state institutions to accommodate the numbers of students knocking at their doors, the legislature has provided this assistance which helps increase the likelihood of students being able to stay in Florida and obtain a baccalaureate degree. ICUF institutions are housed on 28 main campuses and offer classes at more than 180 sites throughout the state making them readily accessible for most students.

“Our legislators have shown a strong commitment to providing access to higher education for all Florida students. By increasing the Florida Resident Access Grant to \$3,000, these members are providing outstanding leadership and are recognizing the importance of the role independent institutions play in providing opportunity for our citizens to fulfill their dreams and to help make Florida a brighter place,” Moore said.

