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Bill Hogarth's blog: Great things happening in the College of Business

Posted February 18, 2013 at 9:24 am by [Bill Hogarth, Interim Regional Chancellor](#)

The College of Business is really on a roll.

The Entrepreneurship Program was recently named the [outstanding emerging entrepreneurship program](#) in the entire country. One of its newest faculty members, Dr. Hemant Merchant, has been ranked [the 10th most prolific international management scholar in the world](#). A growing relationship with Pasco-Hernando Community College will help their qualified graduates earn a business degree from USF St. Petersburg without leaving home.

And most recently, members of our student Entrepreneurship Club [dominated a pitch competition](#) at the University of Tampa that drew more than 200 students from across the Southeast. Four of the seven finalists were USF St. Petersburg students, and the first and third place winners were both USFSP students.

These are just the latest signs of the college's growing stature. Our students and the business community they seek to join are the greatest beneficiaries. The college is preparing the next generation of business leaders and helping those already in the business world to reach the next level of success.

The College of Business also practices what it teaches. No business can rest on its laurels. It must constantly challenge itself in response to the dynamics of the marketplace. The College of Business has done just that, which is one reason it created the first fully online MBA program among public universities in the Tampa Bay area: It gives busy executives another avenue to grow and succeed by embracing the latest technology.

The college also is engaged with the real world in ways that benefit the community, whether through in-depth economic impact studies, regular forums that offer the latest ideas to business people or free help with income tax preparation (it's that time of year again!).

And veterans interested in pursuing an MBA are getting the help they need to transition from the military to the academic world.

An important next step in the growth and evolution of the College of Business is a building to call its own. The USF System Board of Trustees has ranked it the top new-building priority, and our Pinellas Legislative Delegation is supporting this important effort.

If you know a legislator, please express your support for state funding of a new home for the College of Business.

As Florida begins to emerge from the economic woes of the last few years, the College of Business is poised to lead the way toward a brighter economic future.

About the blogger



I am Interim Regional Chancellor of USFSP and Director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography. I also served three years as Dean of the USF College of Marine Science. Before joining USF, I was the former Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Services at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001. I grew up in Jarratt, Virginia, a town of 600 people in southern Virginia. I received my bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Richmond in Virginia and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. To fulfill one of my childhood dreams, I took a break in marine research and returned to my hometown to operate a small neighborhood grocery store.