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Melanie Marquez

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Governor Appoints Knab to Statewide Commission

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Jordan Knab, principal investigator on several research grants headquartered at USF St. Petersburg, was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to the Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities. Knab is one of 13 new appointments made by the governor.

Knab has worked extensively on the development of policies and programs for students with disabilities at all levels. He is the principal investigator for Project 10: Transition Education Network; the Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities; and the SEDNET Statewide Administration Project.

In his new role on the commission, he will work with the other commissioners to identify barriers in state and local programs that hinder employment for persons with disabilities. The commission will then recommend changes to Florida laws, policies and procedures that can help remove those barriers and increase employment and job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy, people with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the recent downturn in the economy. Between October 2008 and June 2011, the rate of job loss among workers with disabilities exceeded that of workers without disabilities by nine percent. The commission will identify strategies to close this gap.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to represent transition age individuals with disabilities throughout Florida in their quest for gainful, competitive employment and independent living,” Knab said. “We have learned a great deal through our projects and research here at USF St. Petersburg, and I look forward to sharing that information with the Commission.”

Knab leads federal and state grants with a current annual operating budget of more than $2.2 million. One of the projects directly assists Florida’s school districts in serving students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Another project addresses the social, academic, and employment needs of students with intellectual disabilities transitioning out of high school with a special diploma.

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