Rising in the Rankings

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Rising in the Rankings

The results are in: USF is one of the nation's fastest growing universities in terms of federal research and development expenditures. That's according to an annual survey conducted by the National Science Foundation.

“This is a positive sign of USF's progress toward meeting its goal of becoming a top 50 public research university in five years," USF President Judy Genshaft says. “It is a result of the faculty's hard work and dedication to research excellence. It is also a tribute to the wonderful support and funding from Congressman C.W. Bill Young.”

USF broke into the prestigious group at the 71st spot as the recipient of more than $84 million in federal research expenditures in 2003—an increase of more than 26 percent from the previous year and one of the most dramatic upward moves of institutions on the list.

The announcement follows two other recent rankings that show USF's progress toward becoming one of the nation's top 50 public research universities. USF is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to the Princeton Review, the world's leading test-prep company and publisher of The Best 361 Colleges: 2006 Edition, available at bookstores in late August. This is the first time USF has been included in the prestigious guide.

The Best 361 Colleges includes public and private schools, traditional and non-traditional colleges, historically black colleges and universities and science and technology-focused institutions. Rankings are based on surveys of more than 110,000 students at the schools in the book who rate their own schools and report on their campus experiences.

And for the second straight year, USF's College of Education has been ranked among the top third of education schools in the nation. U.S. News and World Report ranked the college 60th of 249 schools which grant doctoral degrees in education.

The magazine ranks the schools based on a weighted average of 12 quality measures broken down into four categories: quality assessment, student selectivity, faculty resources and resource activity.

New Digs

The dirt's been flying at USF St. Petersburg. This past spring, the university's largest regional campus broke ground on a seven-story residence hall and an 1,100-space parking garage including a major retail bookstore.

Residence Hall One, the school's first student residence hall, is slated for completion in summer 2006. The 126,000-square-foot residence hall will offer 354 students apartment-style, on-campus living. Suites include a living room and kitchen as well as private and/or double bedrooms. Each floor will additionally offer its residents a
full-service laundry room and study lounge.

Speaking at the groundbreaking for Residence Hall One, USF St. Petersburg Regional Chancellor Karen A. White said, "Today's ceremony is about the beginning of the campus of 2020. Future USF St. Petersburg students will continue to enjoy a close-knit, student-friendly campus where they can focus on their studies. It will be a place where professors challenge students to become citizen-scholars through academic study, service learning and research. And they will have a lively waterfront, residential living and a splendid city to enjoy."

Also slated for completion in Summer 2006 is the first phase of Parking Center One, an 1,100-space parking facility including a Barnes & Noble bookstore. The facility is located downtown, on the corner of Fifth Avenue South and Third Street. It will benefit students living in residence halls, commuters and downtown residents and business owners. Along with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, the facility's first floor will house USF St. Petersburg's Police Department and Parking Services.

White says the new facility is symbolic of the great community interest and support for campus expansion in St. Petersburg. "Parking Center One's location creates an important gateway, designed to fill the needs for both our expanding student population and our surrounding downtown community."

-ANN CARNEY