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USF Board of Trustees Approves Biology Degree at USFSP

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (June 17, 2011) – The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida System approved a new bachelor of science degree in biology at USF St. Petersburg. As the most requested degree by prospective students, the biology degree meets the needs of students and contributes toward meeting the growing demand in the State of Florida for degree holders in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical (STEMM) fields.

"In addition to being a highly-desired college degree by high school students throughout Florida, the biology degree fits into strategic initiatives of USFSP and the State University System," said Norine Noonan, regional vice chancellor for academic affairs. "The STEMM fields are collectively considered core technological underpinnings of an advanced society."

The biology degree addresses the curricular needs of students seeking admission to graduate and professional schools, such as medical, dental, veterinary or PhD programs. The degree also prepares students who want to pursue careers in the private sector, such as Florida’s growing biotechnology industry.

"The biology degree program builds upon our existing strengths and offers students a wide range of post-baccalaureate training and career entry options," said Frank Biafora, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We’re very excited to provide such a sought-after program for our students and expand academic offerings in the STEMM disciplines at USFSP."

Undergraduates in this program will complete core courses, upper-division elective courses in organismal or cellular/molecular biology and a senior capstone course focused on a research project guided by a faculty mentor. Providing ample opportunities for undergraduate research is a strategic goal at USF St. Petersburg, and the biology degree will contribute to achieving that important goal.

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