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Nationally Renowned Business Expert Brings ‘Passion’ and ‘Energy’ to USF St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg, Fla - April 25, 2003

"This is a unique and exciting opportunity in one of the most desirable communities in the world," said Dr. Ronald Paul Hill upon being named the founding dean of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg's College of Business.

Hill, one of the most recent scholars to join the administration of USF St. Petersburg, is a nationally known and respected expert in business/marketing strategy and policy issues.

"Dr. Hill was founding dean and professor of Business Administration at the University of Portland," said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. "We are very excited that he has agreed to come to USF St. Petersburg as dean and Bank of America Endowed Professor. He brings a great deal of scholarly rigor and administrative experience and he is certain to be a superb leader and role model," said Olson.

Hill’s commitment to excellence is well known within the university and professional communities he has served. Those communities span from coast to coast and include some of the premier educational institutions in the United States. Prior to Hill’s position at the University of Portland, he was Chair of Marketing at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, professor at Cornell University in New York, The American University and the George Washington University both in Washington D.C., and the University of Maryland.

"Dr. Hill's vision for USF St. Petersburg's College of Business is an outgrowth of years of reflection on his role as a researcher, teacher, administrator, and business consultant," said Olson.

Hill, who received his doctorate from the University of Maryland, has been repeatedly published in the premier journals in his field and was named the most prolific scholar for the decade of the 1990s. Among his other achievements, he was ranked among the best teachers in five different universities over the last 24 years and voted the top MBA professor at the University of Portland in 2002.

While in Portland, he was a regular commentator for several local network affiliates and presented strategic planning opportunities to more than 2000 Portland executives. He often provided expert commentary to local and national media on a variety of business/marketing strategy and policy issues. He has been interviewed by many newspapers including the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and the Lincoln Star Journal and has appeared on several television and radio news shows across the nation.

"USF St. Petersburg has a gifted and growing faculty," said Hill. "Their ability to organize their teaching and research in a way that reflects the corporate social responsibility could not be timelier. What we will offer to students, executives, and the community will be unique and should bring national attention to the St. Petersburg campus. I look forward to pursuing our goals with all my passion and energy," he said.

"The challenges are many," explains Hill. "With the recent economic recession, funding at the state and federal levels will remain low in the foreseeable future. We must create partnerships with the individual and corporate residents in Pinellas County that encourage them to invest private dollars in this public venture. With this support, we will be able to create a first-class institution that is worthy of the people of St. Petersburg. Without their support, our road ahead will be more difficult and progress much slower."

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