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(St. Petersburg, Fla) March 1, 2006 – Leaders at USF St. Petersburg announce the hire of a new vice chancellor for Administration and Finance who has more than 35 years of experience in higher education finance. Ashok K. Dhingra, D.P.A., will start the job April 21.

"Dr. Dhingra’s significant experience at large institutions in Tennessee, Nevada and Alaska will help develop strategies for future growth here at USF St. Petersburg," said Karen A. White, regional chancellor. "He is a collaborator who will provide effective and efficient service to our university constituents to support teaching, scholarship and service."

For the last two years, Dhingra was the vice president of Financial and Administrative Services at Southwest Tennessee Community College. It is the largest community college in Tennessee, serving close to 18,000 students each year.

Before that, Dhingra was vice president for Administration and Finance at the University of Nevada, Reno for 20 years. It is a Carnegie University research-extensive institution offering about 200 degree programs to more than 12,000 students.

During his tenure, University of Nevada, Reno’s budget increased from $71 million to $350 million representing an approximate 400 percent increase. Dhingra developed and implemented new salary administration including market-based salary models, salary equity studies and a merit program for academic and administrative faculty. He also established an executive compensation model to attract and retain administrators.

"I believe in working with my staff in a teamwork environment. I have always strived to raise all employees to perform at their highest level," Dhingra said. "In that regard I believe the sky is the limit. It is only through this approach we can all serve in the most effective and efficient manner."

From 1976 to 1983 Dhingra worked for the University of Alaska Statewide System of Higher Education. He was the associate vice president for Finance and directed, among various system's financial services, its budget development.

Dhingra received his bachelor’s in Chemical Engineering from Punjab University in India. He received his master’s in Business Administration, with emphasis on Operations Management, from the University of California in Los Angeles. His doctorate is in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

--USF St. Petersburg--