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Veteran fundraiser joins USF St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.. (July 29, 2002) -- John E. Collins has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of Campus Advancement for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Collins will direct a staff of six Advancement professionals, and will focus on major-gift fundraising for the campus.

Collins is a veteran fundraiser who comes to USF St. Petersburg from Arizona State University West in Phoenix. ASU is the fourth largest multi-campus university in the country. Highlights of his five years as Vice Provost for Institutional Advancement there include successfully completing a capital campaign, establishing an annual scholarship benefit which spotlighted diversity through music, and beginning a Volunteer Center which resulted in ASU West being designated as Arizona's only "University of Promise" by Colin Powell's America's Promise organization. During Collins' tenure, ASU West became known as the community partnership campus.

"John's experience, especially his multi-campus management skills, will prove invaluable to us as USF St. Petersburg progresses," said Michael Rierson, vice president of University Advancement at USF. "There are many similarities between our institutions and John will be a tremendous asset to us and to our community."

Previously Collins served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Berklee College of Music in Boston, the largest college of contemporary music in the world. He conducted international (especially Japanese) corporate and foundation cultivation and solicitation efforts and helped establish many international corporate partnerships. Prior to Berklee, Collins was Director of Alumni Relations at Emerson College.

Before moving into fundraising, Collins' career was in performing arts management. He was Managing Director of the Arena Theatre at Tufts University, and also Artistic Director of the Boston Mime Theatre. Collins and his wife, Mary Ellen, a freelance writer and former Arizona Republic columnist, now reside in the Old Northeast part of St. Petersburg.

Approximately 4,000 students attend USF St. Petersburg, one of four USF campuses, studying in the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Arts and Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, and Nursing. The campus hosts the internationally recognized Marine Science program and a Nursing program. USF, designated a Research I university, is among the top 20 universities in the nation.