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USFSP News

Student Success Center to Be Named for Debbie Nye Sembler

During its regular Campus Board meeting on October 20, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg formally recognized the contributions of USF Trustee Debbie Nye Sembler, who has served for the last decade as Chair of the USFSP Campus Board. As part of its tribute, USFSP announced that it will name its Student Success Center for Sembler.

“I have never experienced a more beautiful surprise and meaningful gesture in my life,” said Sembler, whose 12 years of service as a Trustee will end later this year. “The Student Success Center helps so many students to realize their full potential.”

When Sembler became a Trustee in 2003, USF St. Petersburg was just earning a reputation as a student-centric research institution. Today, as a separately accredited university within the USF System, USF St. Petersburg serves more than 6,700 students in 37 undergraduate and graduate programs.

As Chair of the Campus Board, Trustee Sembler helped facilitate growth at USFSP. She supported several new construction projects, including the Science and Technology Building, and the University Student Center, both LEED Certified, sustainable buildings. During her tenure, USF St. Petersburg acquired Harbor Hall, home to the Department of Verbal and Visual Arts. HarborWalk, the university’s interior green space, was completed, featuring what is now a beloved icon for the school: The Debbie and Brent Sembler Family Fountain. Last fall, Sembler participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a much-needed building for the Kate Tiedemann College of Business.

“We are truly grateful to Trustee Sembler, for her hard work and dedication to USF and USF St. Petersburg,” said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. “Her commitment to higher education and her passion for student success will be felt by this university long after her years of service have ended.”

A formal unveiling of the Debbie Nye Sembler Student Success Center is slated for spring.
Debbie Nye Sembler, USF Trustee and USFSP Campus Board Chair, and Jozef Gherman, USF Trustee and USFSP Student Body President