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## \$20 Million for USF Lakeland

\$10 million in gifts for new campus in Lakeland is eligible for state match.

**S**INCE HIS ARRIVAL, USF LAKELAND CEO Marshall Goodman's tagline has been "Dream no small dreams." Lakeland and Polk County listened and responded.

President Judy Genshaft recently accepted two gifts totaling \$10 million, given to support the construction of USF's new campus in Lakeland. Two of the region's premiere economic development organizations, the Central Florida Development Council (CFDC) and the Lakeland Economic Development Council (LEDC), each

gave \$5 million to construct the campus along I-4 in the heart of Florida's High Tech Corridor.

Both gifts are eligible for a 100 percent match through the State's Courtelis Matching Gift Fund for academic facilities.

"These gifts are further evidence of the incredible generosity of our friends in Polk County and affirm the university's role in our region's economic vitality," says Genshaft. "Both gifts further strengthen our partnership with these organizations and the communities they represent."

State Senator J.D. Alexander, a longtime supporter of USF and champion of the new campus, was pleased with the announcement: "These gifts from within the region are very helpful as we move forward in Tallahassee with the campaign to make this polytechnic campus a reality."

CFDC's executive director, Tom Patton, expressed high hopes for USF's presence in central Florida. "We see the campus as a magnet for the kind of high-skills, high-wage jobs that our

communities want, and we can't think of a better way to invest our economic development resources than in making USF's vision a reality."

Goodman described the gifts as "critical" to the University. "The magnitude of this generosity is tremendous. But what these gifts mean for us is even more inspiring. We have seen the communities we serve step up to the plate and say 'Yes, USF is our university.' That support is both humbling and exhilarating."

Steve Scruggs, LEDC's executive director, positioned the gifts in historic context: "Few of us will ever have a chance in our lifetimes to be a part of something as important for our communities as this project. We couldn't waste time. We've got to get this done now."

- David Steele