

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**

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Governor Charlie Crist establishes week to highlight contributions of graduate and professional students

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Charlie Crist today announced that he was establishing March 30 to April 3, 2009, as Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week.

The Governor's proclamation was presented to the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida during a discussion of the economic impact of Florida's public universities.

"The graduate and professional students in the State University System make many contributions to Florida's economic security and quality of life," said Sheila M. McDevitt, chair of the Board of Governors. "They are helping Florida be competitive in the new knowledge economy."

McDevitt thanked Governor Crist for acknowledging the importance of graduate and professional students. "These students help our faculty teach and conduct vital research and public service," McDevitt said. "Our faculty members bring in more than \$1 billion in outside grants and awards, from federal agencies and from private industry, and they could not do so without the help of the 65,000 graduate and professional students in the State University System."

A copy of the governor's proclamation is attached.

The Board of Governors is the constitutional body created by voters in 2002 to guide the State University System of Florida.

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CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, a graduate and professional education attracts students from across the nation and across the world to Florida universities for advanced and specialized training; and

WHEREAS, in graduate and professional programs across the state, graduate school educators are providing access to cutting-edge knowledge and analytical skills essential to ensuring that Florida produces individuals at the forefront of their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, graduate and professional students make vital contributions to the teaching and research that underpins the new knowledge-based economy as graduate teaching and research assistants; and

WHEREAS, Florida teachers with advanced degrees are creating environments that will assist Florida's children and young adults to become productive members of the workforce and informed citizens; and

WHEREAS, alumni from Florida's graduate and professional schools occupy leadership roles in school systems, institutions of higher learning, health-related institutions, businesses, government, and politics;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 30, 2009 through April 3, 2009 as *Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 9th day of March, in the year two thousand nine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charlie Crist".

Governor