

## PROPOSED LETTER TO CHANCELLOR ROSENBERG

December 12, 2008

Chancellor M. Rosenberg  
Florida Board of Governors  
State University System  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Chancellor Rosenberg:

I am writing to request the Board of Governors consider exempting the University of West Florida from future freshman enrollment freezes. We are the only regionally accredited four-year institution with a broad array of baccalaureate programs and master's degree programs in the Panhandle. This region has a significant military presence and also is comprised of low income families and a diverse ethnic population. We are able to provide a significant educational service to everyone in this area, which not only has a positive impact on the students, but our economy as well.

Our enrollment has recovered from the devastating hurricanes of 2004-2005. Taking action to decrease our enrollment in these times of significant economic stress might irreparably harm our progress and cause further economic degeneration to our region. Because of our class sizes and student-teacher ratios, which are the lowest in the State University System, and because of our physical facilities capacity, we feel confident that the University can serve an increased number of students, and can do so without adversely affecting the quality of education offered.

The University will continue its commitment to accept transfer students from our sister junior and state colleges; will continue to reach out to and enroll First Generation students; will continue to serve the needs of our military; and will continue to enroll a diverse student body. We believe that the continued ability to accept and serve new freshmen is vital to the continued success of our institution, our region, and the State of Florida.

Thank you for your attention to this request. I will be pleased to meet with you to discuss this request as your needs may require.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Bense, Ph.D.  
President