

# LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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When the Governor called a special session of the Legislature last week to encourage the California-based Scripps Research Institute to move to Florida, it appeared to provide the perfect opportunity to secure \$10 million for upgrades needed by the National High Magnetic Laboratory at Florida State University.

Economic development was the backdrop for the four-day session, which convened last Monday and ended on Thursday. And since the Magnet Lab is an established economic and scientific asset to Florida, its presence here likely contributed to the appeal of luring the Scripps Institute to our state.

By the end of the four days, the Legislature sealed the \$310 million deal to bring Scripps to Florida. But the House and Senate wrestled over whether to put other economic development projects in the package, which ultimately doomed the \$10 million for the lab.

The news was not all gloomy for higher education though. A \$31 million unclaimed lottery jackpot turned into a windfall for the State University System and the Community Colleges. \$24 million was appropriated to the SUS Challenge Grant Program, which will help to buy down the backlog that has accumulated over the last few years. FSU will receive 18 percent of the funds, or \$4.349 million.

I've listed the bills that passed during the special session in the **Spotlight on Bills** section of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like copies of the bills and their analysis. I can be reached, as always at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at [kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu).

*Kathleen*

## Spotlight on Bills

### Bills that passed Special Session 2003-E

**SB 6E- Biomedical Research Institution**, by the Senate Appropriations Committee and others, creates the Scripps Florida Funding Corporation to facilitate the establishment and operation of a biomedical research institution for purposes of enhancing education and research and promoting economic development and diversity in the State. The Bill provides for the investment of \$310 million for facilities and operations of Scripps.

**SB 8E - Public Records**, by Governmental Oversight and Productivity and others, creates an exemption from public records and public meetings requirements for certain information held by Scripps Florida Funding Corporation or Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development Office. Additionally, the bill creates exemption from public records requirements for specified research materials and actual and potential trade secrets and for other proprietary business information.

**HB 43E - Lottery/Unclaimed Prize Money**, by House Appropriations Committee, requires that specified unclaimed prize money be transferred to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. The Bill provides a \$30,147,947 appropriation from the trust fund of which \$6,179,148 will be distributed to community colleges and \$23,968,799 to be distributed to the state universities as matching funds for certain private donations based on the university's pro rata share of unmatched private donations received by September 30, 2003.



OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

110 Westcott Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Kathleen M. Daly  
*Director*  
Toni Moore  
*Senior Administrative Assistant*  
Chris Adcock  
*Executive Secretary*  
Lauren Larson  
*Coordinator, Information/  
Publications*