



September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

To the Student Body at Florida State University:

Earlier this morning, President Thrasher alongside Provost McRorie announced that Florida State University has emerged to No. 18 among Public Universities in the United States, soaring 8 spots from No. 26 in 2018. This is a major milestone in Florida State University history, which was sparked by our designation as a preeminent university by the state legislature in 2013.

There is a famous quote that is engrained above the entrance to Dodd Hall, that exemplifies the purpose of this historic news, “The half of knowledge, is to know where to find knowledge.” There is no better place, to be illuminated by knowledge, than Florida State University. Our institution enables students to learn, to grow, to continually live up to our values, portraying Vires, Artes, and Mores; Strength, Skill, and Character.

This dramatic rise in our national ranking – and our national reputation – over the past several years didn’t just happen, It is the direct result by so many people, including many of my predecessors, former Student Body Presidents, and fellow student-leaders who have and will continue to collaborate across campus, and engage in initiatives to ensure student success remains strong and resilient.

Student Government Presidents and leaders all across campus have been at the forefront of student success. They have supported student research through the Student Council for Undergraduate Research & Creativity, enabling students to be engaged within transformative research. Ensured students have access to higher education through the Office of Governmental Affairs, by lobbying for the expansion of Bright Futures, and for student-veteran support. The Student Foundation, has fostered a spirit of giving back, which continues beyond graduation and our student leaders continue to serve as ambassadors for Florida State University across the globe. Our students have emphasized the importance of Mental Health, through Remove the Mask: Mental Health Council, removing the stigma surround mental health to ensure the wellbeing of students is represented, and ensuring students are academically succeeding. Among many other initiatives that have played apart in our institution’s success.

Your fellow students are doing their part, our undergraduate and graduate students are dedicated to performing at the highest level. From Schwarzman Scholars to Gubernatorial Fellows, our students are creating change all across the world, as well as creating change, right here in our beloved State of Florida. Florida State University has a four-year graduation rate of 72% the highest in the State of Florida and among the Top 10 of public universities in the country, as well as one of the highest student-veteran graduation rates in the nation of 86%. Florida State University was also ranked No. 1 in Florida for Veteran Success.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
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None of this could have been accomplished without the support of our partners in the State Government & Legislature, It is vital as a university, and as a student body to receive the necessary resources, that have enabled our institution to become No. 18 among public universities. From attracting world class faculty and improving class sizes to continuing to ensure students have deep-rooted connections with professors.

In June 2019, Florida State University added an experiential learning requirement, to enable students to apply and bolster our knowledge through ‘hands-on’ experiences. We are encouraged to participate in experiential learning, to engage in transformative opportunities, to develop student talent, to learn, to grow, to continually live up to our values as an institution. It is opportunities like this, that make our educational experience at Florida State University unique and world-class.

As the Student Body President, I personally can’t say thank you enough to all of the Faculty, Staff, and Administration that have dedicated their time and energy to enhancing our National Rankings and National Reputation. Today’s news is evident of how deeply our Faculty members and administration care not only about the success of our students, but about the holistic wellbeing of our Student Body, and that is what makes FSU great. Thank you Provost McRorie and President Thrasher for continuing to Raise the Torch, and guide our institution to new heights. As Student Body President, I am excited. I hope you are just as proud as I am to be a student at Florida State University.

In Seminole Pride,



Evan Steinberg  
Student Body President