

Governor Bush Announces Appointments to New Emerging Technology Commission

~~Commission to make recommendations for Centers of Excellence~~

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TALLAHASSEE--Governor Jeb Bush today, moving forward with his initiative to build research-based Centers of Excellence within Florida's university system, announced his appointments to the nine-member emerging Technology Commission.

"The first in building world-class research centers is to find stellar individuals who represent our state's vibrant and diverse technology industry," said Governor Bush, "These five professionals bring the background and insight necessary to carry out this important mission, and will profoundly impact our state's future through thoughtful direction in the development of our Centers of Excellence."

The Governor announced the following five appointments, representing a wide array of high tech sectors-from simulation to biotechnology:

- Joe Lacher, of Miami, president of BellSouth Florida. Lacher will serve as chair of the Commission;
- David Gury, of Boca Raton, DEO of NABI Pharmaceuticals;
- Penny Haskins, of Alacua, CEO of Radiation Technologies;
- Joshua High, of Orlando, CEO of Enterprise Technology Partners; and
- Beverly Kitaoka, of Orlando, group senior vice president of Science Applications International Corporation.

The Emerging Technology Commission will receive proposals from universities and their partnerships. After review they will design and present two to five plans to the Florida Board of Education by February 1, 2003. The plans will serve to guide the Florida Board in its designating and building Centers of Excellence within the Florida's university system. The Commission will hold its first meeting in August.

Both the Speaker of the House and Senate President have appointed two members each to the nine-member Commission as authorized under Senate Bill 1844. House Speaker Tom Feeney has appointed Peter Panousis of the University of Central Florida and Keith Hulbert of Lakeland Electric. Senate President John McKay has appointed Dr. Robert Smallridge of the Mayo Clinic and Ray Bye of Florida State University. Secretary of the Florida Board of Education Jim Horne, Representative Chris Hart of Tampa, and Senator Ron Klein of Delray Beach will serve as ex-officio non-voting members.