

**South Florida
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

Florida university commercialization agreements grow

South Florida Business Journal - May 29, 2007

Public and private sector investments in research at major Florida universities totaled more than \$1.6 billion last year, up \$36.5 million from the year before.

That's according to a survey by technology transfer directors at 13 Florida research universities coordinated through the Technology Transfer Office at Florida State University.

They said licensing income increased for Florida universities, and university researchers applied for and were issued more patents than in 2005.

Florida university researchers were issued 156 U.S. patents in 2006, up from 132 the prior year.

The survey reported 337 licenses generated revenue for universities last year, up from 321 in 2005.

Licensing income totaled more than \$47 million, up more than \$3.7 million from 2005. Invention disclosures were down slightly, to a total of 636 filings, from 687 in 2005.

David Day, director of technology licensing at the University of Florida, said inventions run the gamut from lifesaving drugs to alternative sources of energy.

More state companies are also getting in on the action.

Universities executed 40 agreements with Florida companies in 2006, up from 28 in 2005.

"Florida's universities continue to play a vital role in the economic future and global competitiveness of this state," said Jack Sullivan, president and chief executive officer of the Florida Research Consortium. "The steady increase in Florida's patent and licensing

activity each year and the ever-greater number of startup companies created by partnerships between entrepreneurs from in and outside of academia help drive Florida's innovation capacity and create high wage, high value jobs here."

Universities participating in the survey included Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Nova Southeastern University, University of Miami, Florida A&M University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of North Florida, University of South Florida and University of West Florida.

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