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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIMES FUNDED BY EDA TO EXPAND FLORIDA EXPERTNET
Enhancements Expected to Promote Economic Growth

Florida State University's Center for Information Management and Educational Services (CIMES) has received a (2-year, \$200,000) grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The grant is matching existing funds for a project total of \$400,000. The project will provide enhancements to Florida ExpertNet (www.expertnet.org) to make it a more powerful economic development tool.

Florida business, industry, and government rely upon universities as economic engines by tapping into their highly specialized expertise and resources. Florida ExpertNet facilitates the connection to people and resources by providing a one-stop-shop. Driven by the power of the talent within higher education institutions in Florida, ExpertNet provides access to principal investigators, funded projects, leading-edge centers and institutes, commercial licensing opportunities, speakers, and a statewide instructional program inventory.

"The Florida ExpertNet already makes it easier and faster for businesses and other users to reach major groups of faculty in specialized fields in Florida's universities," said Rebecca Augustyniak, director of CIMES. "We will leverage ExpertNet as a collaborative force in economic development by expanding its scope, adding tools, and reorganizing content based on business clusters."

The enhancement of ExpertNet has the potential to contribute substantially to the growth, competitiveness, and innovation of the business sector in Florida. This project will be a catalyst for economic development by providing an easy-access mechanism for finding researchers and innovations in Florida's universities. The resulting partnerships will advance innovation and economic growth.

CIMES operates the Clearinghouse for Applied Research, which developed Florida ExpertNet in 1999. It was the first of its kind in the nation and remains a unique resource for Florida. It encompasses all the universities within the SUS and continues to add other institutions of higher education.

The Clearinghouse for Applied Research

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