

The Support Anthropology in Florida Petition is addressed to:

Rick Scott
Governor
State of Florida
Phone: (850) 488-7146
<http://www.flgov.com/contact-gov-scott/email-the-governor/>

Mike Haridopolos
President
Florida Senate
Phone: (850) 487-5229
senate.president@flsenate.gov

Dean Cannon
Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
Phone: (850) 488-1450
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/emailrepresentative.aspx?MemberId=4340&SessionId=66>

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor
SUS Florida Board of Governors
Phone: (850) 245-0466
chancellor@flbog.edu

and To Whom It May Concern:

Governor Rick Scott has stated the following:

If I'm going to take money from a citizen to put into education, then I'm going to take money to create jobs...So I want the money to go to a degree where people can get jobs in this state...Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists? - I don't think so...It's a great degree if people want to get it. But we don't need them here.

In response to these comments, Florida citizens are concerned about the future state of funding for Anthropology education and research in Florida.

This petition addresses the need for more funding for Anthropology departments at state universities across Florida. Encouraging more students to study Anthropology is vital to the growth of Florida's economy.

Anthropology graduates are in high demand and have skills that enable businesses to grow. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, "For Anthropologists and Archaeologists, opportunities will be best with management, scientific, and technical consulting services companies." In addition, the U.S. Department of Labor states, "Anthropologists and

Archaeologists, the largest specialty, is expected to grow by 28 percent, driven by growth in the management, scientific, and (the) technical consulting services industry.”

Many Anthropology students learn foreign languages and all Anthropology students are trained to have excellent cross-cultural communication skills. Training students in this is essential to increasing ties between Florida businesses and markets in other countries. Training more students in Anthropology will enable Florida’s businesses to expand to markets in Latin America and globally.

In addition, Anthropologists are helping businesses to grow by studying consumer behavior and examining how consumers purchase and use products. Anthropologists help to design better products and services which enables Florida businesses to gain more customers around the world. Major corporations such as JCPenny, Proctor & Gamble, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Google, and many more are hiring Anthropologists to design better products and services. Training more Anthropologists will allow Florida to create and attract high-paying jobs.

According to the State of Florida, the tourism industry brings in over \$57 billion dollars to the state every year. Archaeologists help to curate museums and maintain historical sites. Archaeology is integral to attracting more tourists to Florida to visit sites such as St. Augustine, Ft. de Soto, Key West, and the many historic landmarks across the state.

The National Academy of Science and the National Science Foundation both include the Social and Behavioral Sciences in their definition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. The very definition of STEM specifically includes Anthropology which is an additional reason we are requesting more funding. Anthropologists are making great research advances in various fields such as medicine, genetics, forensics, ecology, engineering, and others. Anthropology needs additional funding to offer more classes and create interdisciplinary programs between other STEM disciplines and business schools. This will allow graduates to have the skills that businesses need.

In addition, the AAREA (Alliance for Applied Research in Education and Anthropology) at the University of South Florida, Tampa won a major National Science Foundation grant to find ways to increase student interest in STEM fields and increase STEM graduation rates. Anthropologists are integral in helping to increase the number of STEM graduates and educate Florida’s citizens.

Increasing education in STEM fields is important for the future of Florida’s economy, but not at the detriment to liberal arts education. Instead, education reforms should focus on including STEM curriculum in liberal arts courses and including more liberal arts in STEM courses. To be successful in their careers, graduates need the skills and training that both STEM and the liberal arts provide.