



**Clafin University**  
**Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program**  
**400 Magnolia Street**  
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May 19, 2021

To: Clafin University-Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Advisory Board  
From: Gloria S. McCutcheon, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator *Gloria S. McCutcheon*

I trust that you are well and are having a safe 2021.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support and hard work during the past 6 years of the RISE program. Your support and participation on the Advisory Board has been invaluable.

As an update and summary report from the Clafin University RISE Program, I wish to inform you of a few items. During the final year of the RISE grant we received a no-cost extension for year six (6).

- 1) Two (2) RISE scholars were selected to participate in the program for the final year. They were both Computer Science Majors with research in biomedical science. Jasmine McKenzie and London Thompson graduated in May of 2021 and have been accepted to a Ph.D. program at the University of Florida, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, Computer & Information Science & Engineering Program.
- 2) We are happy to inform you that we were awarded a U-RISE grant beginning April 15 in the amount of \$2.14 million over the next 5 years after a re-submission.
- 3) We have one scholar in the program as of today, and we are aggressively recruiting sophomores.

Finally, again we would like to thank you for all of your support and hard work over the past 6 years as an Advisory Board member. If you wish to continue on the Advisory Board for the next 5-year cycle or if you would like to make a recommendation, we would love hearing from you. You may contact me at [gmccutcheon@clafin.edu](mailto:gmccutcheon@clafin.edu). We seek individuals who can help develop pathways to PhD programs in STEM.

Thanks again and best wishes.

Cc: Mrs. Carolyn Sherman, Program Manager  
Dr. Samina Assanie-Shivji, Co-Investigator  
Dr. Verlie G. Tisdale, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Internal Advisory Board  
Dr. Derrick Swinton, Dean and Internal Advisory Board Member  
Mr. Michael Ellis, Web Manager  
Dr. Bridgett Dewees, Evaluator