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June 5, 2003 (St. Petersburg, Fla.) - With recent slashes in the state's education budget, state-funded colleges and universities must be judicious in spending and implement innovative ways to make the tax dollars stretch. USF St. Petersburg is no exception. Facing unprecedented growth and development, the university has conducted a national search for the right person to fill the position of assistant vice president of Administration and Finance. The university was successful in recruiting Abdul Nasser, a seasoned expert in college finance.

Nasser comes to USF St. Petersburg with extensive experience in both administration and finance. He was vice president of Finance and Administration Services at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. He was also vice president of Business and Financial Affairs at Central Washington University in Ellensburg and held several administrative positions in finance, budgeting and grants at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Illinois State University in Normal, and Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois.

"Mr. Nasser comes to us with exceptional credentials and experience," said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. "In this time of severe budgetary cutbacks, USF St. Petersburg must explore all available options, invest in innovative programs, and get the most out of every dollar spent. We needed someone with extensive experience in making sound financial decisions, someone who had a proven record of exemplary decision-making, and someone who was innovative and could think outside the box. We feel we found that person in Abdul Nasser."

"USF St. Petersburg is undergoing a great transition," said Nasser. "The new leadership is in place to accomplish the task. I welcome the opportunity to be on the ground floor to bring about this change. I am very excited to join the team."

Nasser received his bachelor's degree in accountancy and his MBA from the University of Illinois in Springfield. He, his wife and three children are in the process of relocating to the Suncoast and he will put his expertise to work for USF St. Petersburg later this month. "We are all looking forward to making St. Petersburg our home," said Nasser.

The university is in the final phase of hiring 61 new faculty members and 11 administrators – the most extensive growth plan USF St. Petersburg has undertaken. Nasser is the newest member of the administrative team that will take the helm and navigate the university through the waters of change.

— *USF St. Petersburg* —

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