USF entrepreneurship program ranked No. 1 in the nation

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**TAMPA, Fla. (Feb. 5, 2004)** - The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship has recognized the Life Sciences Entrepreneurship program at the University of South Florida as the number one specialty entrepreneurship program in the country.

USASBE commended USF's program as a national model exportable to universities across the country. USF's 2004 top ranking follows Stanford University's number one ranking in 2003.

The first place award recognizes USF's innovative and nationally benchmarked research, education and training programs in life sciences entrepreneurship. University officials says it is the result of strong collaboration among the Center for Entrepreneurship, the Health Sciences Center, the Honors College and the colleges of Business Administration, Engineering and Arts & Sciences.

"This top national ranking for the Center for Entrepreneurship's program in Life Sciences Entrepreneurship at USF could not have happened without the encouragement, support, and ongoing commitment of President Genshaft, Interim Provost Khator, Deans Anderson and Martin-Vega, Associate Dean Sanberg and the center's board of advisors," said Michael Fountain, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship. "These combined efforts have enabled us to reach our goal to create the nation's premier program for excellence in Life Sciences Entrepreneurship."

The award comes after an intensive competition by 26 major universities that began in October 2003 and culminated with finalist presentations in Dallas January 16. The three finalist institutions were USF, Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Hawaii. Each finalist presented its program before a panel of judges for final selection as the premier program in the country.

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