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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

October 11, 2011

Rick Scott
Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

We write on behalf of the American Anthropological Association to respond to the comments you reportedly made yesterday, Monday, October 10, stating that the state of Florida "does not need more anthropology majors." It is very unfortunate that you would characterize our discipline in such a short-sighted way.

As an association, we are a group of over 11,000 scholars, scientists, and professionals who are dedicated to studying humankind in all its aspects, including through archaeological, biological, cultural, medical, and linguistic research. And, as a discipline with a rich and robust history, we have made numerous contributions to the study of cultures both foreign and domestic, past and present, helping us all understand humankind in multiple ways.

Perhaps you are unaware that anthropologists are leaders in our nation's top science fields, making groundbreaking discoveries in areas as varied as public health, human genetics, legal history, bilingualism, the African American heritage, and infant learning.

We look forward to meeting with you to share anthropology's contribution to the scientific advancement, economy, and well-being of your state.

Sincerely,

Virginia R. Dominguez
President

William E. Davis III
Executive Director