

**Remarks at Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence,  
Cybersecurity and Computing Announcement**

Delivered by USF President Rhea Law

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

*As Prepared for Delivery*

Good morning! Thank you all for joining us on this historic day for the University of South Florida.

It has been nearly one year since we announced our plans to launch a college focused on the fields of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and computing. Today, we are thrilled to celebrate the largest gift ever made to our university — a gift that will have a transformational impact on our university's growth and will help elevate the Tampa Bay region.

At USF, we are not afraid to go beyond the status quo and pursue innovative ideas. From the outset, our vision for this new college was to develop a hub for excellence that would inspire our students, faculty, and staff to think boldly about the future, collaborate across disciplines, and tackle pressing issues in new and exciting ways.

And that is exactly what we have set out to do. We are proud to be the first university in Florida and among the first in the nation to create a college dedicated to these rapidly evolving fields. And with today's announcement, we are thrilled to hold the distinction of being the first university in the country to have a named college devoted to AI and cybersecurity together.



As new technologies become more prominent in our society, the demand for skilled professionals in these areas will only continue to grow. This generous and visionary gift supports USF's mission to provide solutions to complex challenges and help our graduates thrive in high-demand careers.

At USF, we have the expertise within our faculty, the resources within our robust research enterprise, and the strong connections within the business community to bring our vision for this new college to life.

When you look at the wide array of opportunities available at our university, it is clear that we are uniquely positioned to be a global leader in this space.

The Tampa Bay region is already well-known as a hub for cyber, technology, innovation, and defense industries — and USF is committed to contributing to this strong foundation and taking our collective efforts to the next level.

Arnie and Lauren: From the bottom of my heart, thank you — for investing in our university and our community, for offering life-changing opportunities for our students, and for believing in our vision for this college.

None of this would be possible without your passion and your support, and we are proud to partner with you to help our state and our nation address the unique and emerging challenges presented by AI and cybersecurity.



The launch of the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing is a testament to USF's commitment to providing a world-class education and helping create a brighter future for our region, our state, our nation, and beyond.

Thank you all for your continued support of our great university and your enthusiasm as we continue this bold path forward. Go Bulls!

Now, I'd like to invite our university's Provost, Prasant Mohapatra, to tell you more about the mission of this college and its future impact.