

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Valerie L. McDevitt Awarded Registered Technology Transfer Practitioner Status
and Appointed to Serve on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's
Patent Public Advisory Committee**

Tampa, FL – May 9, 2012 – Valerie L. McDevitt has been awarded Registered Technology Transfer Practitioner (RTTP) status from the Alliance of Technology Transfer Professionals (ATTP), the international body for professionals engaged in technology transfer. The RTTP program educates and challenges its candidates to develop their knowledge and skills, and provides international recognition as an expert in the technology transfer profession.

Ms. McDevitt was also recently appointed by Commerce Secretary Carlos A. Gutierrez to serve on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) Patent Public Advisory Committee (PPAC). PPAC is an advisory board consisting of nine members that advise the USPTO Director on management of the patent operations of the office, including policies, goals, budget, user fees, and other office operations. The committee is comprised of U.S. citizens who are selected to represent the interests of the diverse users of the USPTO. The appointed members serve for three-year terms, and Ms. McDevitt was officially sworn in on February 14, 2012.

Ms. McDevitt currently serves as the Assistant Vice President of the Division of Patents and Licensing at the University South Florida, recently ranked ninth worldwide in granted patents among university and university systems. In her role as Assistant Vice President, Ms. McDevitt is responsible for developing and directing all programs, services, and activities of the Division of Patents & Licensing.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. It ranks 50th in the nation for federal expenditures in research and total expenditures in research among all U.S. universities, public or private, according to the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.