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Educational software developer begins incubation process at USF's Tampa Bay Technology Incubator

**By Tracey Swartz
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TAMPA, Fla. (August 28, 2012) – [Lighthouse Guidance Systems, Inc. \(LGS\)](#) has joined USF CONNECT's Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI) at the University of South Florida.

Since 2010, the Florida-based educational technology company has developed tools for academic planning, with the goal of contributing to the advancement of modern education. In early 2012, LGS partnered with the Pinellas County School District to give parents and students the ability to view how the state of Florida, colleges and universities view grades and test scores academically.

[LGS Connect](#) – one of LGS' academic planning tools – is software that provides guidance counselors and school administrators with a new method for monitoring student academic progression. Through its text message infrastructure, counselors can schedule appointments with students and parents, as well as track GPA performance, via text. Using the system, students can create a personalized academic track that tells them what they need to achieve to be accepted into the university of their choice.

“As an emerging software applications company, Lighthouse looks forward to partnering with the University of South Florida and USF CONNECT. USF CONNECT's innovative community, creative environment, and valuable resources will help enhance our growth,” said William Farragut, CEO of LGS.

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[USF CONNECT](#) focuses on the needs of Tampa Bay's technology and bio/life sciences entrepreneurs throughout the business life cycle, providing the facilities, partners and resources for successful business development. USF CONNECT offers access to technologies, workforce programs, technology commercialization, critical research equipment, and incubator facilities, adding value and delivering targeted, high level expertise to its member businesses.

[The Tampa Bay Technology Incubator \(TBTI\)](#) is one vehicle through which USF CONNECT grows successful companies. TBTI supports technology research as a catalyst for economic development and advocates the creation and development of facilities for high-technology companies and related support functions.

[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.

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