



**Address at the
8th Street Bridge Collapse Vigil**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on March 21, 2018**



Office of the President
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

This speech was presented on March 21, 2018 to the attendees of the 8th Street Bridge Collapse vigil in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

Our shock is deep, our mourning is intense, our sadness is enduring.

We have lost sons, daughters, fathers, brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends – others are injured. Families are shattered. Our hearts go out to you.

Many of you are supporting the families of those lost and hurt -- to provide comfort and help.

We are grateful to the first responders, and those who worked tirelessly in the recovery process – as well as counselors who are assisting others in their recovery. Some of them are here today. Thank you for helping heal our community.

There is much uncertainty – but I know a few things for certain: this is a strong community. This is a caring community that will comfort one another through this.

This is a community that rises – time and again. We will carry the memory of the victims with us, forever.

As we gather here, somewhere else in this community family members and friends are gathering to honor their loved ones at funeral services. And other families will follow.

Now is the time to grieve together. To heal together. Let our sadness galvanize us to stay the course on goodness. To stay the course on neighborliness, and to stay the course on promoting hope and opportunity -- that will enable our community to rise stronger, wiser and better as a consequence of this terrible loss.