

MEMORANDUM

TO: The University Community
FROM: Mark B. Rosenberg
SUBJECT: Vice President for Engagement
DATE: January 20, 2010

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Divina Grossman, our Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has accepted my invitation to serve as our Founding Vice President for Engagement on an interim basis until Summer 2011. In this position of responsibility, Dr. Grossman will provide leadership for the development and coordination of focused win-win partnerships with key local, state, national and global stakeholders. She will also spearhead a university-wide effort to coordinate and expand internship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students who seek practical experience to augment their formal educations. She will have major responsibility for coordinating FIU's effort to receive the Community Engagement classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement for Teaching.

Dr. Grossman comes well equipped to deepen the institution's engagement initiatives. Having served as both a school director and college dean, she has established leadership skills in the multidisciplinary environments, academic and community, that characterize an engaged scholar-administrator. She has demonstrated an ability to work across a range of private and public sector interests that bodes well for our hopes to "hit the ground running." In particular, Dr. Grossman knows how to build funded partnerships that are consistent with sound academic and research practice and focused on solutions to key community needs. She has utilized innovative methods to fund a full range of nursing programs, drawing on Federal, private sector, and foundation support.

Dr. Grossman was the Director, and later Dean of the School of Nursing from 2000 to 2006, then Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at FIU since that combined unit was created in October of 2006. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing *cum laude* from the University of Santo Tomas (Philippines), a Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Miami, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a Clinical Specialist in Medical Surgical Nursing and is a licensed Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner in Florida. She has conducted research in the areas of blood pressure rhythms and fever management (this

specialization will no doubt help her to cope with the challenges and opportunities presented with this new responsibility!).

Her leadership is recognized nationally and locally. She currently serves as Chair of the American Academy of Nursing's Health Disparities Task Force and co-chaired the Academy's national health disparities project that was funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She also serves on the National Advisory Council of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Nurse Faculty Scholars Program and is Chair of the Florida Association of Colleges of Nursing, Chairwoman of the Board at Kendall Regional Medical Center, and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Health Foundation of South Florida. She has an impressive list of other service appointments and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She currently serves on the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Nursing*.

In this new assignment, Dr. Grossman will be working closely with our vice presidents for Research, External Relations, and Advancement. Her academic leadership skills and her intimate knowledge of our community, coupled with her proven program development track record will help our institution to establish a premier, nationally benchmarked engagement initiative that is grounded in our research and creative competencies. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Grossman to this new position of opportunity for our institution.