

**BUDGET UPDATE**

February 1, 2012

Dear FIU family:

Last week a delegation of FIU students, faculty, staff and trustees joined me in Tallahassee for FIU Day, our yearly opportunity to impress upon our legislators everything that is unique and great about our FIU.

While we did have a very productive day, our Legislature is in the middle of what is shaping up to be another difficult session. The House released its higher education budget numbers, which were somewhat low, but it is still early in the process. In a few weeks, the Senate will release its version of the state budget, and the hard work of conference will begin.

The House is proposing a state budget reduction for the State University System, which could translate into approximately 8 percent cut to our base. This cut would be offset by a mandated state tuition increase and an anticipated additional locally-approved increase up to the limit authorized by current law. FIU's tuition would remain far below the national average tuition for public universities. The actual increase for an FIU student taking 12 credit hours would be just under \$250.

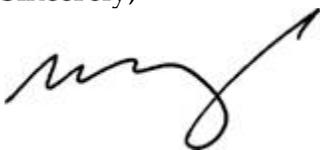
The university is proud of its role as the nation's leader in awarding baccalaureate degrees to minority students, and will continue to work with legislative leaders to prepare students for the global workforce challenges of the 21st Century.

Perhaps the highlight of FIU Day was the reception at the Governor's Club, which was well attended by FIU alumni who work in Tallahassee and have launched an active FIU alumni chapter there. We took this occasion to premier an [FIU video on the legislative legacies](#) that have helped to make FIU a top public urban research university.

FIU Day filled me with pride in seeing so many fine professionals who are using their FIU education in public service for the benefit of our community and our university. Thank you for the key role you play in providing a Worlds Ahead education to so many in our community.

As the legislative session unfolds, I will continue to update you about the key issues that will impact the future of our institution.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Rosenberg