MEMORANDUM

June 4, 2014

Dear FIU family:

I’m thrilled to be sharing some great news with you about our FIU!

Governor Rick Scott has signed a budget that recognizes the importance of higher education to the state of Florida. The budget includes a significant increase in funding for higher education, including $200 million for performance funding (FIU is receiving $18 million in incremental performance funding) and strategic investments in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) facilities.

Among the FIU initiatives and projects that were funded in the new state budget:

- $10 million for our Strategic Land Acquisition initiative to assist in our continued efforts to expand our footprint in South Florida by relocating the Fair and gaining access to the 86 acres adjacent to our main campus.
- $6.8 million for the completion of our Student Academic Support Center, which will have a significant impact on the academic success of our students as well as the improvement of graduation rates and job placement for our graduates.
- $12.5 million for Fixed Capital Outlay projects including Critical Deferred Maintenance, Renovation, Remodeling and Repairs, and Capital Improvement Trust Fund requests.
- $188,000 for the final year of state funding for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, bringing the total amount of state support to $28 million.
- $3.1 million in hurricane mitigation research projects including the Wall of Wind and Public Loss Model.
- $1 million for FIU Health Embrace, to provide medical and behavioral health care to adults with autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Continued funding for the College of Education’s Panther LIFE program and the Washington Center for Internships.
- Nearly $1 million in new funds for the Aging Institute, the Fostering Panther Pride network, and dual enrollment programs.

We would like to thank Governor Scott for his commitment to education. We get it! We at FIU are working hard to make sure each student graduates in a timely manner and is prepared for the 21st century world of work! We join our sister institutions in the State University System in aiming higher and working harder to make sure our students can compete and succeed. Their success is Florida’s success!
We also would like to give a big thank you to the members of our Miami-Dade delegation! Thank you for understanding FIU’s value to our community and to our state. Thank you for championing our funding priorities during the legislative session. You made this happen! We could not have done this without you! We also are grateful to the House and Senate leadership for making this a reality, as well as the Board of Governors and Chair Morteza Hosseini for their aggressive advocacy before the legislature and the governor.

FIU family, please join me in thanking our Board of Governors and state leadership for all of their good work on behalf of education and for believing in FIU. Thanks to their support, FIU will continue to be Worlds Ahead!

Sincerely,

Mark B. Rosenberg