



**College of Engineering and Computing (CEC)
25th Anniversary Celebration**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on November 17, 2009**



This speech was presented to attendees of the 25th anniversary celebration for the College of Engineering and Computing on November 17, 2009.

Good evening, and thank you for joining us to celebrate this milestone for FIU's College of Engineering and Computing.

As we go forward in this new era, FIU's priorities include achieving student-centered academic excellence; enhancing the quality and impact of research and creative initiatives; and engaging the community.

For the past 25 years, the College of Engineering and Computing has been a leader in these areas. Let me share with you some of the ways they have distinguished themselves:

- The College of Engineering and Computing has grown exponentially over the years to become one of the 25 largest engineering schools in the country. Most of its programs are also among the largest in the U.S., particularly computer science, which is the 4th largest in the nation.
- The college has embraced the diverse demographics of our region and today is the largest producer of Hispanic engineers in the continental U.S. and the 8th largest producer of African-American engineers.
- Over the past 25 years it has successfully expanded from a teaching-only college to one where problem-solving research and graduate education is at the core of its mission.
- Overall, the college has made a quality engineering education affordable and accessible in South Florida. We have 13,000 Golden Panther engineer alumni who are a testament to that and many of these graduates continue to support our college, spurring it to greater achievements.

The college has blazed a trail in terms of engaging our community, forming partnerships and harnessing our resources -- which include high-caliber faculty and students --to make an impact on our region's most pressing challenges:

- The College of Engineering and Computing is actively involved as a member of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and participates in events with a variety of South Florida engineering associations. Several of our engineering student organizations also enjoy the support of the Miami-Dade chapters of national engineering associations and competitions.
- The college has an active advisory board, headed by my good friend Adalio Sanchez of IBM that includes the executives of construction, computer, mechanical, and civil engineering companies in South Florida, a number of whom are with us tonight.

- Through its Center for Diversity and my good friend Gustavo Roig, the college has nurtured STEM education with a number of programs such as Children's Trust Miami EnLace and Gear Up.
- South Florida now looks to the College as a resource and think tank on transportation, hurricane product testing, and other technological issues that are crucial for our community. Just a few weeks ago, the college's Lehman Center for Transportation Research entered into an agreement with MDX to find solutions to traffic bottlenecks and improve mass transit. Again, harnessing our resources to solve real-world problems.

Our College of Engineering and Computing has made its mark in engineering education, thanks to the stellar leadership it has had from the start – Founding Dean Gordon Hopkins, his successor Vish Prasad and our current dean, Amir Mirmiran.

Dean Hopkins and Dean Prasad put the elements in place for the college to succeed and Dean Mirmiran is moving ahead in this new era, finding creative ways to grow while forming local, state, national and international partnerships and strengthening ties to our alumni.

The College of Engineering and Computing will continue to play an important role for FIU and for our community as a major research engine and major player in the development of our region.

Congratulations to the faculty, professional staff, students and alumni who have contributed to the college's success this far and we all look forward to the great accomplishments ahead.

At this time, I would like to introduce a longtime member of the FIU family who will soon be guiding our university in his new role as a trustee.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Trustee-designate Michael Adler.