



**Address at the Doral Business Council Signature Breakfast**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
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*This speech was presented to the attendees of the  
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It's great to be back here in Doral to share exciting news about FIU.

We see our university as a solutions center for the community. Our mission is intimately linked to our geography and our demography. Indeed, our geography and our demography are our destiny.

We understand that we are a beacon of hope and opportunity for this community. We see ourselves as a force for good! We understand that we have a sacred obligation to prepare our students to make a good living; to either take a great job or to create a great job. But we also understand that we must prepare our students to make a good life. The life of the mind is also about aesthetics, ethics, civic engagement and social responsibility. As an anchor institution, we are willing to take responsibility for our community. We are committed to providing access to higher education and to provide high quality educational opportunity to all young people in our community who have the preparation, drive and determination to pursue a university degree.

So what does FIU look like today in terms of students?

We enroll nearly 54,000 students. We are the country's fourth largest public research institution in terms of enrollment. We are the country's largest majority-minority university. We are the shape of things to come for public universities in the US. We graduate nearly 12,500 students annually. In the next ten years, nearly 130,000 students will graduate from FIU. Most will stay here in Miami.

Our graduates are among the best paid in the State University System. According to the latest figures we have, most of our students who graduate with bachelor's degrees find jobs within a year of graduation. On average, they earn close to \$40,000 a year at those jobs. Most of our master's degree graduates find jobs as well. Their earnings after graduation average \$60,000 a year. We hold the #1 ranking for the percentage of IT-related graduates employed in the state of Florida in their first year after graduation.

We award more bachelor's degrees to minorities than any other university in the country. We're a national leader in awarding STEM degrees to minorities. We award more than \$170 million dollars each year in scholarships and financial aid. We spend more than \$85 million dollars each year on goods and services from local businesses.

We also create jobs.

With more than 8,000 faculty and staff, we are one of the top 10 employers in Miami-Dade County. We have created 1,000 new, high-paying jobs in the last five years – including over 500 new faculty members. For this academic year, we have hired 74 incremental faculty, 79 replacement faculty, and 131 new administrative employees. The average annual salary for our new 9-month faculty is \$76,067 (\$66,845 average for 12-month faculty). The average salary for our Administrative employees is \$56,527 (\$33,018 for new staff members). Our new professors at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine average \$169,600 a year. 35 percent of Miami-Dade County public school teachers are FIU graduates. 37 percent of Miami-Dade County public school administrators are FIU graduates.

We have also helped create jobs *within the community*.

Since 2009, we have started and completed or started and/or have under contract \$349 million in construction, including nearly 250,000 feet of state-of-the-art science research facilities. The \$349 million translates into about 6,000 construction jobs. Also consider that the \$349 million includes investments in Health Care, Research Labs and Classrooms. Those investments are expected to create permanent jobs because of greater student access, improved retention and graduation rates, research enterprise development and innovation. This could mean another 2000 to 3000 jobs over the next few years.

Those are just some of the ways FIU is having a positive impact on our community and our workforce. Now, let me tell you how we're having a positive impact right here in Doral.

During the last academic year, about 3,700 of our students called Doral home. That's an increase of 41 percent since 2009. That number includes 1,250 new FIU students who live in Doral. As of the last academic year, 640 graduates from Doral high schools were studying at FIU. Additionally, 296 students from Doral high schools (including Doral Senior High and Doral Academy) participated in dual enrollment at FIU during the last year. They are earning college credits before their high school graduation. That's 3 times as many students as just 5 years ago!

Last year, we awarded almost \$33 million in financial aid and scholarships to Doral residents. During the past academic year we awarded bachelor's degrees to 654 Doral residents and graduate degrees to 226 Doral residents. Almost 7,000 FIU alumni live in Doral. 55 FIU alumni own or run businesses in Doral!

As a university, we've spent almost \$3.5 million dollars over the past five years on goods and services from more than 100 Doral businesses. We have more than 500 Doral

residents who work at FIU as faculty and staff. They spend their hard-earned money right here in this city!

We have forged important partnerships with companies headquartered in Doral that include the Carnival and Badia Spices.

Carnival has been a long-time supporter of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Carnival's generosity has included investing in the Carnival Student Center and the Carnival Gold Scholars program, which provides full scholarships, including room and board.

Badia Spices, also a supporter of our Chaplin School, has launched sales of a student-inspired spice formula in 86 countries. Alumna Jenifer Bound was the winner of a competition hosted by Badia and the Chaplin school last fall. Her winning spice mix, "Holy Smokes", was launched at the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by FOOD & WINE in February.

But, since we're talking about healthcare today, let me tell you how we are changing and improving healthcare in our community and beyond.

You may have read or seen national television reports about FIU's Dr. Aileen Marty. She's a professor of infectious diseases at our Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. We just welcomed her back home after she spent 31 days in West Africa, on the front lines of the worldwide war against Ebola. The World Health Organization asked her to serve with their Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. The current outbreak of this devastating disease has killed more than 2,600 people, sickened thousands more, and destroyed families in its wake. During her time in Nigeria, Dr. Marty was instrumental in setting up entry point controls in an effort to contain the epidemic and prevent new infections. She also treated patients and met with government and private industry representatives in an effort to organize the resources necessary to eradicate Ebola. She is passionate about helping others. She is a shining example of how FIU's professors are committed to changing the world and are using their skills to bring about that change.

At FIU, we have an Academic Health Center that brings together the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, and allied disciplines. We currently have almost 5,000 students enrolled within these 3 colleges.

You might have recently seen an article in The Miami Herald about our innovative Green Family NeighborhoodHELP program. Through this program, our medical, nursing, social work and law students, along with students from other disciplines, work with underserved families in our community. Since September 2010, our students have

conducted 3,489 visits to 526 households. In the process, they have impacted the lives of more than 1,000 people!

Our FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine has created a comprehensive, integrated care model, FIU EMBRACE. FIU EMBRACE was created to provide medical and behavioral health care to adults with autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Our doctors treat these patients with their specific needs in mind. Our care philosophy recognizes that people with developmental disabilities deserve to be treated as individuals with personal patterns of talents and challenges. This is just one more way our medical school is breaking barriers for the good of our community.

Our Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, in partnership with the Miami VA Healthcare System, recently received more than \$8.5 million in federal funding to implement the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academic Partnership. FIU is one of just three universities in the nation selected to launch this innovative five-year program. The purpose is to promote recruitment of VA nurses and increase enrollment in the undergraduate nursing program. The initiative is also aimed at developing inter-professional education and promoting skills specific to military health concerns. Our future nurses will learn about the unique issues involved with caring for our veterans. That includes post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, suicide and other mental health issues, chemical exposure, major traumatic limb loss and rehabilitation. Our veterans need us. Our VA healthcare system needs us. And FIU is responding to the call!

At FIU, we are also building new facilities in support of our health disciplines. We recently completed two buildings that make up part of our Academic Health Center, the 136,000 square-foot Academic Health Center 4, and the 120,000-square-foot Academic Health Center 5. Although these buildings are not yet fully occupied, significant research is already taking place in them. The research includes areas such as:

- Mental health, including ADHD, Anxiety and Autism Disorders;
- Brain mapping, Alzheimer's and other brain-related research;
- Aging and neuro-cognitive disorders;
- Biomedical engineering;
- HIV/AIDS;
- Adolescent substance abuse
- And research by our Extreme Events Institute and International Hurricane Research Center.

For the current fiscal year this represents approximately \$54 million in research funding from federal agencies such as:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH),
- The National Science Foundation (NSF),
- The US Department of Education,

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
- The Coulter Foundation,
- The Ware Foundation,
- And the Florida Department of Public Health.

We also are building an Ambulatory Care Center, in partnership with Miami Children's Hospital. This center will house South Florida's first dedicated pediatric ambulatory surgical center.

As you can see, we are a public institution that forges win-win partnerships in our community that engages in problem-solving research, and prepares our graduates with the skills they need to compete. FIU's success is our community's success.

But to increase our capacity to provide a world-class college education to a greater number of young men and women, we must grow. FIU is on the cusp of doing even greater things.

Our proposed expansion onto the 64 acres adjacent to the FIU Maidique campus will enhance our ability to create new jobs for the South Florida economy. We'll be able to produce greater student talent in engineering, the sciences, and entrepreneurship-areas that are state priorities and keys to economic development.

Our proposed use for the land includes expansion of our academic space, including the College of Engineering and Computing. Other uses being considered include research space, our academic health center, an incubator to support entrepreneurship, student housing and support space, and parking.

This initiative is important for our institution *and* our community.

Here's what FIU's expansion will mean:

- An initial economic impact of \$1.8 billion and an additional annual recurring economic impact of \$541 million to our community. That's above the \$8.9 billion FIU already provides.
- Job creation to support FIU's expanding student population.
- It will be done at *no cost* to Miami-Dade County or our students. We will raise funds for the expansion without affecting tuition.

Last month, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding with FIU, laying out the framework for a transfer of the Fair property to FIU. For more on our expansion plans, I encourage you to visit [expand.fiu.edu](http://expand.fiu.edu).

This is about the greater public purpose. This is about a win-win-win solution for everyone involved. We're excited about FIU's future, which will impact the future of our entire community and our workforce.

We won't do it alone.

We need the support of all of you in this room. We need you to support the good work FIU is doing for our students and our region. We need you to support the good work FIU is doing to improve access to high quality healthcare in our community.

Help us continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for South Florida. The consensus in our community is that world class cities deserve world class universities.

Help us build a world class university!