



**Address at the Dotson Pavilion Naming Celebration**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on April 21, 2018**





*This speech was presented on April 21, 2018 to the attendees of the Dotson Pavilion Naming Celebration.*

Good evening!

Today, we celebrate a very important family... A family that goes above and beyond for our university and our community. A family that has stood by us and helped us grow into the world-class institution that we are today. A family that has become a part of the very fabric of our FIU.

Anyone who knows Al and Earlene knows they are some of the most decent and honorable people there are... Al has given his time and his leadership to FIU and helped us grow and achieve amazing things. And he's extremely proud of our FIU. He truly loves this institution!

Let me put it this way: He bleeds blue and gold!

I mean, who else do you know who proudly carries FIU lapel pins around with him in his pocket to hand out, wherever he goes?

Al first began his service to FIU in 1983... For more than three decades, he has shown incredible dedication and devotion to this institution. There is no other living community supporter who has stood with our FIU for as long as Al.

It's often said that love is an act. It's in what we do, it's in the path we carve out. The impact we make. The mark we leave on this world.

Al knows this well... This is how he lives his life.

He has always worked hard for us, because he's always known that our university and the future of this community are forever connected. He has always known that when FIU uses the blessings of our talent in research, teaching, and helping others - we move our students and community forward - and leave this world a better place.

Once, Al famously coined the phrase "Finest Institution in the Universe" for our FIU.

Al and Earlene, we're only the "Finest Institution in the Universe" because of your long-standing support, guidance and encouragement. And we will continue to be, because you have passed your love for our FIU on to your family.

FIU is a Dotson tradition – and today is proof of that! Al’s children are following in their parents’ footsteps. This donation is going to support so many different areas – from student scholarships that help our students graduate and go on to the good jobs they need to make a good life – to our outstanding athletics programs. This gift has also allowed us to rename the MARC Pavilion in Earlene and Al Dotson’s name.

Now, we will wear the mark of the Dotsons’ impact forever. It’s carved in stone!

And I know when I pass by it, I will think of Al’s reminder to keep working to build a better world – and be a stepping stone for our students and community.

To Al, Earlene, and the entire Dotson family, thank you again for your stewardship and support and your continued belief and pride in our FIU! With you, our FIU will continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for generations to come!