



Employee Holiday Celebration

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on December 9, 2009**



These remarks were given at the annual President's University Holiday Party, sponsored by Human Resources, on December 9, 2009.

Good afternoon!

During this time of year of family gatherings, there's no place I would rather be than with my FIU family, celebrating what we have accomplished in the past year and looking forward to another year of groundbreaking achievements.

Since I became your president four months ago, I have asked a lot of you to come together and work hard to take our university to the next level. I am incredibly proud of how each of you has risen to the occasion.

You have displayed incredible enthusiasm, resilience, and loyalty – all the traits that, throughout the years, have helped us turn the impossible into the inevitable – again and again.

I have been particularly heartened by the way you have embraced our vision for FIU as a leading, student-centered, urban public research university, especially in putting students at the center of everything we do and engaging and giving back to the community.

Today's celebration is a perfect example. Thanks to the generosity of everyone here today we have collected approximately 1,000 toys that will be distributed to children in South Florida. This shows that when each and every person does his or her part, collectively, we can make a difference for those who need us the most in our community.

We thank you for this, and more. To show our appreciation for your hard work, for the third year in a row you will also enjoy an extended holiday break. You have more than earned, and it is my hope that you enjoy this well deserved time off.

And this is just the start. We are still at the beginning of a long journey and as we continue on this journey I will need your continued support in transforming FIU into the university it deserves to be.

So, as I did on installation day, I am challenging you to work with me to keep our university accessible to the best and brightest in our community, to develop private funding and to deploy high tech while not forgetting high touch.

We must continue putting students at the center of who we are. After all, they are why we are here. We are responsible for giving them the ticket to prosperity in the 21st century: a cutting edge university education. We must ensure that they fulfill every bit of their potential and are prepared to compete in the global marketplace.

We must continue to engage our community, using our resources to help the critical problems in our community. Here at FIU we have the brainpower and state of the art research to take on these challenges and find solutions.

And, now more than ever, we must reinforce our partnerships with key institutions in South Florida. Collaboration is what our world needs and what our community demands. FIU is in the perfect position to build and nurture these partnerships, both locally and globally, and to become the go-to transformational institution in South Florida.

I know I have asked a lot of you and will continue to do so, but I also know that here at FIU we have the talent and dedication to deliver.

Thank you for helping me continue to turn the impossible into the inevitable.