

MEMORANDUM

February 2, 2016

Dear members of the university community,

We've come a long way at FIU, and we have turned the impossible into the inevitable repeatedly. Today we honor our tradition again: FIU is ranked in the top tier of research universities in the nation -- **R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity**.

During the past six years we have made major investments and strides in research. We have added state-of-the-art laboratories in AHC4 and AHC5, we have built the Wall of Wind in the Engineering Center, we have renovated the Marine Science Facility at BBC, we have acquired the Aquarius Reef Base Facility in collaboration with NOAA and created the Medina Aquarius Program. We have hired 1,020 new faculty, including several strategic cluster hires.

In doing so we are preparing generations of students to take good jobs and to create good jobs. We are a solutions center for South Florida and the global community. Research and innovation are the driving engine of these efforts.

This academic year we have celebrated major accomplishments that are direct results of our investments and focus on research over the past few years. Perhaps the two best examples are the NSF grant that designates the Wall of Wind as a National Hazards Engineering Infrastructure facility, and the large NIH grant to study substance abuse in youths, as part of a landmark 10-year national study.

In 2014 our programs in computer science and psychology were ranked in the top 50 nationally by the NSF, and engineering and social science were in the top 100.

The new Carnegie Basic Classification of universities has been announced and FIU has joined the top tier of doctoral research universities in the U.S. with the designation of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity.

In this designation, FIU now joins University of Florida, Florida State University, University of South Florida and University of Central Florida as the one of the five universities in the State University System ranked in the top tier for research.

This important achievement is the result of the efforts of our faculty, staff and students from 2009 to 2014. The last Carnegie Classification of 2010 was based on 2009 data, and at the time FIU achieved the second tier of "High Research Activity." The just-announced 2015 Classification is based on our research growth accomplishments from 2009 to 2014.

This is still only the beginning for our FIU. Our efforts with the expansion of our campus and the ambitious goals of the *FIUBeyondPossible2020* Strategic Plan will lead to even greater accomplishments and preeminence for FIU, strengthening our ability to serve our students, faculty, staff and community.

Go Panthers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rosenberg', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President