

FIU thanks legislators for their commitment to education

I would like to commend publicly our elected officials who this year put higher education front and center during the legislative session. They took the first opportunity offered by the improving economy to return funding that had been cut from the State University System and invest in the future of our state.

In fact, this is first time in eight years that FIU has a favorable budget situation. We now await final review by Gov. Rick Scott.

We are very pleased that the Legislature has kept its commitment to restore last year's \$300 million cut, which represents a \$24.3 million restoration for FIU. Additional money has been allocated for facilities and other projects, as well as salary increases for faculty and staff.

Our Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine received funding we requested to continue growing and working in underserved communities in South Florida. Other key projects to our community, such as the Wall of Wind and the Public Loss Model, a computer model that assesses hurricane risk and predicts residential losses and insurance rates in Florida, also were funded.

Florida's elected leaders understand that a more robust public higher education system is one of the best investments a state can make.

-MARK B. ROSENBERG

President, Florida International University