



Coalition of Urban Serving Universities



Getting Better At Getting Better: President Mark Rosenberg, FIU, on Advancing Student Performance

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February 2015

One of the lessons that I learned as Chancellor of the State University System of Florida (2005-2009) was how to listen better than I had ever listened before. In essence, not to be “tone-deaf.” Throughout this country, there is continuing concern for the shape of things to come in higher education. Our new Provost, Ken Furton, suggests that the changes in higher education will be dramatic, perhaps the most profound that we have ever experienced. Our public urban universities have an unprecedented opportunity to deepen our role and primacy in developing solutions to America’s higher education dilemmas.

As anchor institutions in urban areas, we have the unique opportunity to move the needle given the scale of our institutions and our student’s deep talent. But we must do better in so many areas – keeping the access doors open for so many first and second generation students who need advanced education to take or create a good job in this century; retooling our curriculum to take better advantage of new learning and evaluation techniques; and perhaps most important, to mobilize fully all faculty and staff to accept the rapid change that is upon us with a rededication to retaining and graduating students who are the key to our future well-being.

I am so proud of our collective efforts in USU. We are not tone-deaf to the growing demand for greater accountability and success in our endeavors. We realize that we can do a much better job of assessing and evaluating best practices that accelerate student achievement; we understand that there is an urgency to work more collaboratively to assure timely review and implementation of new approaches to student success; and most of all, we carefully listen and learn from each other in a genuine collegial effort to enable our timely responses to rapid disruptive changes that are widening opportunity and income gaps.

So let’s go! We welcome your participation and engagement! Take a look below at how we work together.