



**Address at the AHC 5 Opening**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on October 9, 2014**



*This speech was presented to attendees of the Grand Opening of our new building, ACH 5, on October 9, 2014.*

Good afternoon! Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the newest building in our Academic Health Center. AHC 5 is home to our Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work. The name of the Stempel College pays tribute to special members of the FIU family. They are some of our biggest supporters, the family of the late Robert Stempel.

Robert Stempel, or “Bobby,” as we all knew him, was an FIU faculty member who worked with, and in some cases taught, some of our faculty and guests in our audience today. Robert, his father Ernest, and his siblings Calvin, Diana, and Neil, have made an amazingly profound mark on FIU, the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, and the students who benefit from the highly acclaimed college they have helped to establish. The Ernest E. Stempel Foundation, for which Calvin Stempel is a trustee, provided a landmark gift in 2003 to dedicate what was then the Stempel School of Public Health, in memory of Robert Stempel. We are honored to have Calvin and Jennifer Stempel here with us for today’s commemoration, which also honors Robert Stempel’s legacy.

At FIU we pride ourselves on being a solutions center for our community and beyond. We take responsibility for addressing the biggest challenges that we face. Here in AHC 5, our hard-working faculty and students are engaged in problem-solving research. Research is the heart of a university and a key to prosperity for our region. The predominant driver of GDP growth over the past 50 years has been scientific and technological advancement.

Here is a snapshot of the research and academic production here in AHC 5:

1. At the Stempel College:
  - There are 105 faculty members.
  - The College currently has \$19.5 million in active funding.
  - It added \$4.9 million in new funding last year.
  - Faculty last year submitted 75 grant proposals and published 280 research articles.
  - Two successful programs known for their research and engagement in South Florida will make their home here:
    - The Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS & Drug Abuse, known as CRUSADA. CRUSADA has received more than \$17 million in funding from several of the prestigious institutes within the National Institutes of Health.

- The second is FIU-BRIDGE, a university-community partnership with Banyan Health Systems. Banyan is the largest provider of outpatient substance abuse, mental health, and integrated health/behavioral health care treatment in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.
2. The College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Earth and Environment:
    - Includes 31 full-time faculty.
    - Last year, Earth and Environment obtained \$4.8 million dollars in new funding. The funding came from the efforts of the Agroecology Program, STEM Transformation Institute, and the Southeast Environmental Research Center, known as SERC.
    - 9 PhDs graduated.
    - 72 papers and book chapters were published.
    - 35 new grant proposals were submitted.
  3. The Extreme Events Institute and International Hurricane Research Center:
    - Includes space for 8 faculty members and 8 researchers.
    - The annual budget for this group typically totals \$6.5 million.
    - Active larger grants include:
      - The Wall of Wind
      - Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model
      - Coastal and Estuarine Storm Tide (CEST) Storm Surge Model
      - Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas
  4. The Center for Children and Families:
    - Has 37 faculty members who are engaged in research that includes:
      - ADHD
      - Autism
      - Depression and anxiety
      - Other important behavioral and mental health research that benefits children and their families.
    - In the past academic year, CCF had \$7.7 million in continued external funding, almost all of it from federal sources. It also had an additional \$6.7 million in new funding, all from the National Institutes of Health.
    - Faculty members published 116 papers, presented 150 papers at national conferences, and submitted 64 grant proposals in 2013-14.

In the past three years, the Stempel College has graduated 400 to 450 students each year. They include more than 75 graduates in Dietetics and Nutrition, about 150 in Public Health and more than 200 in Social Work. These students and all of the students who will graduate from the programs in this building will put the skills they learn here to work for the benefit of our community and our world.

The research we are doing in these FIU buildings will one day translate into solutions for South Florida, from sea level rise to hurricane mitigation to education.

We look forward to this new era for our Academic Health Center, our university and our community.