

MEMORANDUM

January 5, 2012

Dear members of the FIU community:

Please join me in congratulating our colleagues at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, who have received great news regarding the academic performance of high schools in the district, where many of the schools saw their grades improve.

Some of the most dramatic improvements were realized in high schools where FIU faculty and students are providing instruction and support. For example, Miami Southridge Senior High improved from a D to an A and Miami Northwestern Senior High went from a D to a B.

A greater number of accelerated and dual enrollment courses are being credited for helping boost the schools' performance. FIU is proud to partner with M-DCPS through ACCESS (Achieving Community Collaboration in Education and Student Success) to offer increased opportunities for high school students to participate in accelerated programs. In the last two years alone we increased our dual enrollment registrations from 500 to almost 3,300 a year.

"Much of our success in improving high school grades can be attributed to our partnerships with higher learning institutions like Florida International University," said Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho. "The ACCESS partnership is achievement-oriented and combines our strengths with the university's to improve student learning. Through dual enrollment opportunities provided by FIU, students are able to get a head start on their college careers, as well as contribute to their high schools' performance grades."

Dual enrollment programs are key to student success. A University of Minnesota study indicates that in Florida, dual enrollment courses have been shown to improve graduation rates; increase the likelihood that a student will enroll in college, particularly that they will enroll in a four-year institution and as a full-time student; and increase retention in college two years after graduating from high school. Students who participate in dual enrollment also have been shown to have significantly higher GPA's in college than their non-participating peers.

These are some of the underlying principles of The Education Effect, a program we launched this past fall at Northwestern High School, with help from a \$1 million donation from JPMorgan Chase. Look for the winter issue of FIU Magazine out this week, which features [The Education Effect](#) on the cover.

We also host programs such as [the Academy for Advanced Academics](#), which brings top high school students to our campus to complete their high school studies while taking college courses. Programs such as the [Principals Leadership Development Program](#) and the [CLAVE](#) program undoubtedly contribute to improving our public education system.

As you can see, our determination and hard work in the area of community engagement is bearing fruit and helping move our community forward in meaningful ways.

Thank you for all you do for our community. I'm looking forward to more shining examples of our impact in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Rosenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President