MEMORANDUM

February 1, 2010

Dear members of the university community,

I am so proud of the overwhelming response of our university community in the wake of the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti last month.

Our students, faculty, staff, alumni and other friends of FIU have opened their hearts and participated in efforts that have included a teach-in by our experts on Haiti and natural disasters, a day of memorial events organized by our students, training sessions for volunteers who want to assist Haitians applying for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), supply collections, and cash donations.

The latest demonstration of FIU’s commitment to the Haiti relief effort took place on Sunday, Jan. 31. In response to a request from Miami-Dade County officials, more than 200 FIU students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends went to a Doral warehouse to sort and pack donated Haiti relief supplies. Even our trustees, vice presidents, and deans helped out. There were so many of us, in fact, that we got the job done well ahead of schedule.

The supplies – food, water, blankets, medical supplies, clothes, toys – will be distributed by Food for the Poor and Project Medishare, non-profit organizations that are on the ground in Haiti providing food and medical relief.

I know many of you are still eager to do your part, so we are organizing another FIU for Haiti service day. We will let you know when we have a confirmed date. Please visit our Hope for Haiti: Doing Our Part website for the latest information on volunteering.

This united FIU response is just the beginning. As we have discussed, Haiti’s recovery will take years, not months, and FIU is committed to long term relief and rebuilding efforts. For more information on how to help, please visit our Hope for Haiti web site.

Thank you once again for helping FIU demonstrate how much it cares about our Haitian neighbors.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President