“Hit the Ground Running”
Address at the FIU Student Leader Retreat

Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on May 30, 2009
Thank you, SGA, for this invitation.

I am proud to be your president… and will assume office in August. Miami is where I want to be. FIU is where I want to work. Thank you for all your support and encouragement. We have a partnership to move the university forward!

**Vision:** A leading student-centered urban public research university that is locally and globally engaged.

**Objective:** We are an anchor public institution in South Florida:

> FIU must be committed to affordable quality learning, state-of-the-art research and creative activity, and engagement in community problem-solving.

Four drivers of our approach to hit the ground running!

1. **Revitalize and expand financial base**
   a. Launch a *four-front funding offensive*: private, state, federal, and local
   b. Energize, grow, and focus alumni network around fund-raising and student placement
   c. Improve efficiency, accountability, compliance, shared services and sustainability
   d. Expand need-based financial aid to ensure affordability and access

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*Private—$750 m. campaign, triple endowment; state—stabilize and grow revenue base; federal—enhance competitiveness with NIH, NSF, DOD, Energy, HUD; local—partnerships with DCPS, Public Health Trust, South Florida Water Management, Children’s Trust, Urban League, University of Miami, Miami Dade College, Cities of Sweetwater and North Miami.*
2. **Achieve results-oriented** student-centered academic excellence
   a. Expand minority pre-college programs to ensure readiness for FIU
   b. Enhance learning through new courses, expanded short-term study abroad, select three-year degree programs, expanded student internships with local and global companies and non-profits
   c. Recognize and support innovative technology-enhanced undergraduate and graduate faculty instruction
   d. Raise the six-year graduation rate into top quartile of public urban universities—special emphasis on time to degree, full-time grad rates, minority graduation rate disparities

3. **Enhance quality and impact** of research and creative initiatives
   a. Aggressively seek job creation and commercialization for University research initiatives
   b. Focus and expand research funding around strategic University priorities through multidisciplinary teams of university and community experts (e.g. environmental faculty work more closely with South Florida Water Management District)
   c. Grow and link research to local economic development and problem-solving emphasis on community priorities (e.g. reducing health disparities and environmental hazards in low-income neighborhoods)

4. **Engage the community**
   a. Tie instructional and creative initiatives to local needs and long-term community priorities—especially in the professional schools (e.g. more FIU engagement in failing schools in Miami Dade County; expanded partnerships/common planning in the arts)
   b. Improve neighborhood health in partnership with community health care agencies
   c. Create a public-private high tech corridor focused on biomedical, alternative energy and environmental preservation to enhance employment generation and retention

**How do you fit?**
   a. In my world, every student counts.
   b. In my world, I want to work with you because your collaboration is critical to our success.
   c. In my world, you are why we are here!

**Today, I am here to listen!**