



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

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg**  
**on May 30, 2009**



*This speech was presented to student at the FIU Department of Campus Life's annual student leader retreat 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!

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**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.*

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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!**