



Address at the Diversity Week Kickoff

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on March 6, 2012**



This speech was presented to the FIU Community at the kickoff event for FIU's annual Diversity Week on March 6, 2012.

What a special and appropriate time to recommit ourselves to diversity. I am proud of our efforts this week and would suggest: we must be even more vigilant; we must be insistent about the basic respect for people that diversity suggests and the Golden Rule demands.

FIU must be an institution that has an unshakeable commitment to doing what's right; An unshakable commitment to insisting on respect for all – regardless of race, creed, belief, gender, class; An unshakeable commitment to the basic rights of people to be who they are. No doubt, many of us are disgusted by the ad hominem comments made recently by a radio commentator about a college student who spoke her mind before Congress: He certainly has the right to disagree with her position; But his evident disrespect for her as a person is one of the low points in this year's political seasons. I want to commend advertisers – who pulled their financial support for this radio commentator.

I want to urge all of us: We must redouble our efforts to understand and embrace the diversity around us – even while maintaining our own personal standards and values. Because, who knows, one day your views may be targeted. Who's to say that you, me, us, them are not the next targets of emotional vitriol that makes the collaboration that we all desire even more difficult. So this week is special; it is a time to pause, to learn, to act: To ensure that we deepen our ability to make the world a better place, indeed to be "Worlds Ahead"