



**The Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Celebrates 30 Years!**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on October 19, 2013**



This speech was presented to the FIU Community at the Nightingala on October 19, 2013; the event celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Nursing at FIU and proceeds from the event benefited scholarships for students with high financial need enrolled in The College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Thank you for joining us tonight as we celebrate 30 years of nursing education at FIU. It is fitting that the name of this celebration pays tribute to one of history's greatest healers, Florence Nightingale. It was Florence Nightingale who said: "Rather, ten times, die in the surf, heralding the way to a new world, than stand idly on the shore."

Over the past three decades, more than 9,000 of our FIU nursing alumni have made a difference. No doubt, if you have been in a hospital in Miami Dade County, you have been taken care of by an FIU nurse. They have cared for countless thousands in our community through quality service, compassion, dedication and leadership. Nurses are the ones who are there 24/7 making sure that you are comfortable. They are the ones who tell you it is going to be ok

We honor and thank them all for their contributions, past, present and future. Tonight, we also pay special tribute to two extraordinary healers of our community, Nicole and Herbert Wertheim, who are very much heralding the way to a new world for future generations of nursing and healthcare professionals. What a privilege to know two individuals, and their daughters, who are not standing idly by!

With their landmark gift to name the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, they are helping us educate students for a new world. In this new world, our faculty, students and graduates will tackle the biggest health issues plaguing our region and our nation. They will engage in groundbreaking, problem-solving research, that will help people live longer, healthier lives. The faculty, students and graduates of our Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences are breaking down the barriers between health professionals, so that they can treat all of a patient's needs.

Look at Cornell, Univ. Southern California, the Indiana University. They were blessed with incredible family support. At Cornell – the Weil Family; At USC – David and Dana Dornsife; At Indiana – the Lilly Family; and at our FIU, we have the Wertheim Family. They have helped us to turn the impossible into the inevitable again, and again and again! They believed in us before we believed in us. They invested in us before we invested in us! They gave us respect before, we gave us respect! And in doing so, they have become forces for good.

All of us at FIU are grateful for Herbert and Nicole's belief in FIU and commitment to our community. This commitment, of course, includes their daughters, Erica Wertheim Zohar and Vanessa Von Wertheim, who will be guiding the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences into the future of healthcare, as part of the college's advisory board. Thank you, Herb, Nicole, Erica and Vanessa. You are helping lead FIU to its Next Horizon. Your singular focus on FIU enables our impact to be that much greater! It enables our reach to be that much further! And it empowers 1000s of individuals who could not achieve their dreams without your belief in them!!

So ladies and Gentlemen, show the Wertheims your love! Let them know how much you appreciate them as they come to the stage! Now, I would like to invite the Wertheim family to join me on stage.

Everyone, please join me in a toast to Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim:

Your commitment to preventive care, to our community and to each other has transformed South Florida and our FIU. We thank you for believing in the faculty, staff and students of FIU and of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences. We thank you for not standing idly by! We are proud to have you as part of the FIU family and look forward to working together to educate thousands of health care professionals for the 21st Century. Thank you for heralding the way to FIU's Next Horizon!