Dear members of the university community:

This week we had the pleasure of formally welcoming global construction multinational Obrascon Huarte Lain (OHL) to the FIU family. OHL has partnered with our College of Engineering and Computing to create the OHL School of Construction, the first named school in the history of the college.

On Tuesday we celebrated this milestone with a dedication ceremony. The ceremony was followed by an inspiring lecture by President and Chairman of the OHL Board of Directors Juan-Miguel Villar Mir, titled “OHL Group – A Case Study in Entrepreneurial Success.”

This was an incredible opportunity to hear the insight of Dr. Villar Mir, who has made his mark internationally through his entrepreneurial leadership in engineering and construction. Dr. Villar Mir also served as Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Finance in the first government following the Franco dictatorship in Spain. He acquired Obrascon when the company was on the verge of disappearing in 1987 and, through a series of mergers, restructured the activities of the company and created the OHL Group, which is now a multinational traded on the Bolsa de Madrid with sales in the order of $6.3 billion.

We are thankful to Juan-Miguel Villar Mir and Agustin Arellano, founder and president of Arellano Construction, part of the OHL group. Agustin is a longtime champion of FIU who made this partnership possible. We are thrilled to have Juan-Miguel Villar Mir, Agustin Arellano and everyone at OHL on our team.

Our partnership with OHL will make our School of Construction stronger. The OHL School of Construction already is Worlds Ahead in its integration of research and real world experience. It is the largest construction management graduate program in Florida.

The OHL School of Construction also advances one of the pillars of our strategic plan – globalization. It does this through its ethnically diverse and international student body, as well as the overseas graduate programs we have established in the Dominican Republic and Panama.

We are excited about the future of FIU’s partnership with OHL and Arellano Construction. Arellano Construction already has begun transforming our campus, with the spectacular renovation of the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Soon they will be building
the Management and New Growth Opportunities building, which will help us expand our reach in this community.

Thanks to OHL’s generous gift, we will be able to continue educating students for the careers that are most needed in our community and in the world, helping to address the demand for diverse construction industry professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We look forward to a long relationship with OHL and Arellano Construction that will be a model of groundbreaking, problem-solving, Worlds Ahead engagement.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Rosenberg
President