



Remarks from the Past Presidents Luncheon

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on December 4, 2009**



These remarks were given at the luncheon held for past presidents of the FIU Alumni Association and Student Government Association on December 4, 2009.

Good afternoon.

It's such a pleasure to be here with Golden Panther alumni who have been instrumental in FIU's development into the world class university it is today. You all have played a vital role in FIU's history of turning the impossible into the inevitable.

I know many of you continue to be involved with the university, but for those of you who haven't been here in a while, you probably noticed that FIU has changed quite a bit since you were last on campus. This university has gotten better and will continue to get better with your support.

Our alumni are FIU's lifeline for a lifetime and you, who have served as leaders of our student body and our alumni, are a particularly important lifeline.

Your love for this great institution motivated you to take on the responsibilities of leadership.

You gave a voice to our students, who are at the center of everything we do at FIU, and to our former students and others who have a hungry heart for FIU and want to do their part for our university to succeed.

Let me take a few moments to share with you our vision for FIU, a vision that will make us a leading, student-centered public research university that is locally and globally engaged.

This vision is rooted in four main areas: revitalizing and expanding our financial base; achieving results-oriented student-centered academic excellence; enhancing the quality and impact of research and creative initiatives; and engaging the community.

Each of you can play a role in helping us realize this vision.

You can help us enhance the educational experiences of our students by offering internships and other opportunities that will allow them to put into practice what they learn in the classroom and get a head start on their careers.

You can help us form partnerships in the community that will help us address our region's most pressing problems.

You can offer your expertise and work with our faculty in commercializing our research or using it to solve problems in our community.

And you can help us by making a donation to FIU and encouraging others to do the same. By offering your financial support you can help us guarantee a high quality education for our students.

And, of course, one of the main ways you can help FIU is to join our alumni association, if you haven't already, or renew your membership if it has lapsed.

As our alumni, you are our secret weapon and never before have you been so important for our institution.

As graduates of FIU you serve as an example of how well we prepare our students for the challenges of the global marketplace.

Your success has opened doors for FIU graduates and will continue to open doors for future graduates.

Soon we hope to have a concrete symbol of the importance of alumni to FIU. Our alumni center will serve as a home away from home for our alumni and friends and we hope to count on your support to build it. We need your help so that we can build on our accomplishments and take FIU to the next level.

By giving back to FIU, by helping us tell the FIU story, by serving as an example of the cutting edge education FIU offers - you are helping take FIU to the next level.

With your help, and with students at our center, FIU can engage our community like never before, reinforce crucial partnerships, and make a difference locally and globally.

Thank you for coming home to FIU and I hope you will return - to enjoy the many cultural events and lectures on our campuses; catch a game; or just to say hello to your former professors.

We are proud to have you as part of the FIU family and we want you to stay engaged and continue to support your alma mater.

Together, we can continue to turn the impossible into the inevitable.