At FIU, we are proud of the engaged global citizens we have educated over the past four decades. Our alumni are Worlds Ahead in taking the tools of their education and using them to compete, to succeed and to make a difference.

Some shining examples of this are the many FIU graduates who hold elected office at the state and national level.

For the first time in history, two U.S. representatives have FIU degrees – Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and David Rivera. We are proud of Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen ’75, MS ’87, who has served in the House since 1989 and chairs the powerful House Committee on Foreign Affairs. By ascending to this position, she follows in the footsteps of President John Quincy Adams and founding father Benjamin Franklin. In this role Rep. Ros-Lehtinen is continuing her passionate advocacy for human rights and a free Cuba for which she is well known in our community. However, as chair of the full 45-member committee, she now has a pivotal leadership role in the U.S. Congress on all matters regarding U.S. international relations.

Congressman Rivera ’86, MPA ’94 was elected to his first term in the House last fall and continues to be a strong advocate of FIU just as he was during his years in the state Legislature, where he was instrumental in the development and funding of the FIU medical and law schools.


These alumni helped us kick off this year’s legislative session with an energy-packed FIU Day in Tallahassee during which the state House and Senate passed resolutions honoring our football team for its Sun Belt championship and Little Caesars Pizza Bowl win. Throughout the session, these legislators recognized the importance of higher education – and an FIU education in particular – as vital to economic recovery in Florida. They were critical to our success and were supported by an important cadre of FIU students and recent alumni who served during the session as legislative aides or interns who confidently helped carry the FIU banner. Everywhere you turn, you now find FIU alumni in Tallahassee who, during the legislative session, organized a new FIU alumni chapter.

The FIU alumni who have been elected to office demonstrate the value of an FIU degree. Through their leadership and commitment to public service, they are illustrating how individuals can bring about change. Their accomplishments demonstrate how far an FIU education can take you and serve as an example to all FIU students that with their education they, too, can make a difference.

We are proud of all of our alumni who have answered the call to public office. We congratulate them on their successes and look forward to their many future Worlds Ahead endeavors.