Ninth-graders do the honors at the
eering of a public high school at FIU's
Biscayne Bay Campus. President Mark
B. Rosenberg, center, and Miami-Dade
County Public Schools Superintendent
Alberto Carvalho, left, in blue tie, joined
the community to celebrate MAST@FIU,
a magnet school in the tradition of the
highly respected Maritime and Science
Technology Academy on Key Biscayne.

Photo by Kristen M. Rubio '11

PRESIDENT’S CORNER
MARK B. ROSENBERG

Orlando Roche '88 is regional president of Sabadell Bank,
headquartered in Miami near FIU's downtown Brickell facility. He
serves on the board of directors of the FIU Foundation, which has
a special mandate: to help FIU raise a record $750 million to build a
more robust and student-centered university that serves as a solution
center for the community.

At a planning meeting early this summer for members of the
Foundation board, we split into groups to discuss what FIU means,
personally, to each of us. As I listened to our thoughtful volunteers talk
about their connections to our institution, Orlando put into words the
essential dynamic that drives those of us who believe in the power of
this university. He said, "If you want to move the needle in Miami, you
have got to be with FIU!"

Move the needle? Yes, that's what we do at FIU! Let me share with
you some examples from this summer.

We moved the needle in our partnership with Miami-Dade County
Public Schools when we admitted a record 27 eligible students from
Miami Northwestern High School. More importantly for Northwestern
High, it saw a record number of students going on to post-secondary
study, in part because the JP Morgan Chase partnership that FIU
established at the school, the Education Effect, has helped build a
college-going culture.

We moved the needle this summer with our first-ever internship
program in Macao—providing state-of-the-art internship experiences
in one of the world's most exotic travel destinations. Eight pioneering
students, giddy with excitement, spent six weeks adding to their skill
sets in hospitality management at some of the world's best hotels in one
of Asia's most dynamic resorts. All I could think about when I met them
there was how unique, practical exposure would set up the Macao
8 (as they were known) for excellent job opportunities in the future.

Our Wall of Wind (WOW) moves the needle, literally. Watch our
Worlds Ahead YouTube video (go.fi.edu/wowchallenge) on our
summer Wall of Wind Challenge. We asked high school teams to
test their flat-roof designs at our WOW research center at the FIU
Engineering Center. The winner: a team from nearby Coral Park High
School. One of their team leaders, Mario Aranaga, started this fall as a
freshman in our College of Engineering and Computing.

As the summer edged into a new school year, we moved the needle
again with a groundbreaking partnership that represents a first for both
the university and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Together we
opened a public high school on FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus that will
link to dual enrollment programs and make possible qualified students'
seamless transition to FIU. This high school initiative is known as
MAST@FIU, a magnet school in the tradition of the highly respected
Maritime and Science Technology Academy on Key Biscayne, and is
part of the university's larger efforts to improve and expand state-of
the-art STEM education within the community.

Orlando Roche has given us a gift through the use of this frame—
"move the needle." It adds to our ethos of applying research and
creative energies to solve community problems. It adds to the notion
that we can and must have impact in whatever we do. So as we
marshal our energies and our forces for this new academic year, we
give thanks for the unbelievable opportunity to educate and empower
our students so they too can move the needle in ways that build the
community—locally and globally!

Be Worlds Ahead