Agroecology students at Miami Northwestern Senior High School tend to fish in the school's aquaponics lab, a key initiative of FIU's partnership with the school and JP Morgan Chase.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
MARK B. ROSENBERG

It's a great time to be a part of the FIU family! FIU's students, alumni, faculty and staff are advancing our goals as a solutions center and a beacon of hope in our community.

STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—education is the key to our nation's future, but qualified STEM teachers are in short supply. The National Math and Science Initiative recognized our efforts to educate the science and math teachers of tomorrow with a five-year $1.45 million grant. With this grant we are creating FIUteach, replicating NMSI’s successful UTeach program. We will graduate more than 50 well-prepared math and science teachers each year who, in turn, will prepare children in our public schools for tomorrow's workplace.

We also are forming close ties with the National Academies. I am serving on the National Research Council committee that studies barriers and opportunities related to completing two- and four-year degrees in STEM. We will release a report to the nation in about a year with recommendations to improve STEM education at the college and university level.

FIU researchers are making a difference! About 35 million people in the world – more than 1 million in the U.S. – have HIV/AIDS. Sadly, more than 1 million people die each year from the disease. Professor Marianna Baum is providing hope. Dr. Baum is a dietetics and nutrition professor at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work whose groundbreaking research found that multivitamins combined with selenium delay the progression of HIV. She conducted this research in collaboration with Professor Adriana Campa, doctoral student Sabrina Sales and Harvard researchers. For more on this and other exciting FIU research, visit research.fiu.edu.

The FIU's partnership with JP Morgan Chase and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to create a college-going culture at Miami Northwestern Senior High School (MNW) in Liberty City, is in its third year. Students at MNW are scoring better on achievement tests, graduating at a greater rate, earning scholarships and becoming better prepared for college and careers. This year MNW received its first-ever “A” grade in state rankings.

FIU students are Worlds Ahead! Take Jenifer Bound, a senior hospitality management student. She won a $5,000 Soul of Cooking scholarship from Badia Spices. Her unique spice rub "Holy Smokes" was launched at the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by FOOD & WINE. A percentage of worldwide sales of the spice blend will benefit FIU students in perpetuity and will soon be on shelves at Publix and other grocery stores throughout South Florida. Keep an eye out for it!

Our alumni are making outstanding contributions! One great example is law alumnus Abraham S. Ovadia. He made a milestone gift to fund career planning and placement for FIU law students. The gift is the largest to date from an FIU College of Law alumnus to the law school, and is one of FIU’s largest gifts from an individual alumnus under the age of 30. Abraham knows the value of an FIU education – he has hired FIU law grads to work with him at his firm.

We have so much to be proud of as Panthers. I look forward to bringing you more great news very soon!