

MEMORANDUM

August 22, 2011

In just a few hours, we commence a new semester. We welcome over 46,000 students to our university! Despite the uncertainty in much of our daily life, one thing is certain: thousands of students are counting on us.



Just a few days ago, I had the opportunity to think about this picture taken around 1970, before there were any students at FIU. This photo shows four of our founders, including President Charles Perry, looking out across an abandoned airfield from the stairs of the Tamiami Airport Control Tower. Their vision was powerful. It was a field of dreams. It motivated each of my predecessors and it continues to inspire me. In four short decades FIU has emerged as a mature and critical resource for our community. We are now living these dreams!

As we move forward with a new strategic plan designed for the 21st century, let us take our inspiration from the vision of the founders and the following generations of faculty and staff who built FIU.

In 1970 FIU was a promise – a university in-the-making. Today, we are a tangible impact on the national higher education landscape with over 160,000 graduates. We are helping to provide research based solutions to critical challenges locally and globally. Thanks to ground-breaking efforts by innovative faculty, we graduate more minority students in STEM areas than any other institution of higher learning in the country. Our strength as an institution is also drawn from our community--the diversity, courage, energy and optimism of the people of South Florida.

Our graduates play vital leadership roles in the life of South Florida and beyond. Albert

Maury, the new Chair of FIU's Board of Trustees, earned two degrees from our FIU. The Chair of the FIU Foundation, Justo Pozo, is a graduate, as is Sylvia his spouse.

Our faculty, students, and staff are investing thousands of hours in engagement and service activities that give hope to our neighbors. We have embraced a Worlds Ahead perspective that embodies our diversity and emboldens our minds and spirits.

So as we welcome our new and returning students, I would like to ask you to take a moment to view an inspiring FIU video featuring one of our graduates, Vivian Macia '93. You can watch the video at <http://go.fiu.edu/c0c> .

An artist and art educator, she is entrepreneurial, skilled, and hopeful. Most importantly, Vivian epitomizes the promise of FIU when she states "I could always get better. I am never totally satisfied..." This perspective epitomizes what we are as an institution just as it illustrates what it means to be Worlds Ahead.

A new academic year is upon us! I know that you will make it count!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Rosenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President