



**Address at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Torch Awards**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on March 19, 2016**



*This speech was presented to the FIU Alumni and guests of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Torch Awards held at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach on March 19, 2016.*

The Torch Awards have been celebrating our Worlds Ahead alumni for 15 years! Just look at some of the amazing accomplishments of the alumni we are honoring tonight.

They have done well and they are doing good. They have changed lives through their dedication to entrepreneurship, health care, education, communications, construction, architecture, and athletics. All of them have demonstrated the importance of paying it forward – using their success to make a difference in this world and leaving it a better place than they found it.

One of our honorees was the first inaugural poet graduating from FIU. Richard Blanco's "One Today" was a powerful poem that focused on what brings us together as a nation, rather than on what tears us apart. His poem is as relevant today as it was when he first recited it, as we reflect on who we are as Americans, what our values are and as we make decisions about who we want to lead us.

"One sun rose on us today..." We are proud of all of you, our torchbearers!

You are shining examples of what it means to be an FIU Panther! Your accomplishments are many. But there is still work to be done...You know this. Your connection to our FIU gives you special responsibilities...special opportunities.

You have done well. Now do good. Help us move the needle. What can you do?

Recommit to investing in our FIU through our campaign. We need to build our Alumni Center. Recommit to investing in our First Generation students. In a few years, they have to be sitting with you and you CAN help.

Thank you for being with us today!