

MEMORANDUM

April 30, 2010

Dear members of the university community,

As we continue to support those affected by the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti three months ago, I could not be prouder of our commitment to a sustained effort for the recovery of the Haitian people.

On April 17, I had the privilege of attending a luncheon with Presidents from universities all over the world hosted by the Clinton Global Initiative University. FIU was given the opportunity to discuss some of the initiatives supporting our Haiti relief efforts, particularly as related to our relationship with the University of Haiti. We had over 15 students in attendance with several of them highlighted for their commitment to Haiti.

Below is a summary of some of the activities that we, as an institution, have been able to accomplish for Haiti by coming together as a team and extending the generosity of our FIU family with our Haitian neighbors, here and abroad.

- Supported over 600 of our students and over 100 faculty and staff who were born in Haiti or are of Haitian descent.
- Supported faculty and staff from varying professions (Physicians, Engineers, Archivists, Architects) who had the opportunity to travel to Haiti to survey the damage, provide support and recommendations for the country's rebuilding.
- Partnered with the University of Haiti through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Submitted proposals requesting federal funding for four research projects that will address some of the critical medical and mental health needs confronting residents of Haiti and the Haitian community in Miami in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.
- Raised almost \$100,000, including the launch of a student campaign which has a corporate donor who will match up to \$25,000 of student contributions.
- Exposed over 250 people in the community to discussions of the country's economic, political, and social reconstruction, as well as its cultural preservation and the public health issues it faces through two Teach-Ins.
- Mobilized over 200 Creole speaking volunteers to support initiatives related to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and educational materials for those on the ground in Haiti.

- Gathered more than 200 FIU Panthers, including trustees, vice presidents and deans to sort and pack relief supplies for Haiti.
- Taken leadership role in an international initiative to save Haitian patrimony through the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC).
- Taken leadership role in community council, *An n Avanse – Let's Move Forward*, to assist the local community with the impact of the Haitian crisis.
- Monitored and attended numerous meetings in Washington, DC through the involvement of our federal relations team.

This has been an interdisciplinary effort with participation from all colleges, schools and units. More needs to be done as we continue to review our resources, partnerships and commitments to a sustainable effort that will make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in Haiti.

We should all be proud of the response of our colleagues to the call for help from our Haitian neighbors. It is during times like these that we see the willingness of our Panther family to give of themselves to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

A special thanks to the FIU Haiti Relief Task Force and the Chair/Coordinator, Sandy Gonzalez-Levy, for their leadership and continued efforts.

I encourage you to visit the website regularly for the latest information on our initiatives: <http://news.fiu.edu/hopeforhaiti>.



Mark B. Rosenberg
President