

MEMORANDUM

August 20, 2012

Dear FIU family,

What a special August we have had here at FIU! We welcomed our first full 120 student strong medical school class on Friday, August 10, 2012. Then we graduated over 2,000 students the following Monday and Tuesday in six energized ceremonies. During this period, we hosted dozens of “new student” and “welcome back” gatherings led by dedicated faculty and hard-working professional staff. And just yesterday afternoon we welcomed over 4,000 new students at our Freshman Convocation and sang together our new FIU Alma Mater.

Today, we are so pleased that thousands of students have so much faith in us that they will either commence or continue their educations at FIU. We are placing special emphasis on improving retention and graduation rates. We know that we can do more to help our students graduate in a timely manner (four years) and to involve them in research, internships, and study abroad. They are as aware as we are of the fact that the bar of global competitiveness is rising and that now, more than ever, they must be well prepared!

In recognition of your hard work and professionalism in advancing the education of our students, our Board of Trustees has authorized a two percent across the board salary increase for our eligible faculty and staff. In addition, a one percent merit bonus pool will be available to recognize the outstanding efforts of our committed faculty and staff in attracting and serving our students, conducting groundbreaking research, and inspiring innovation and entrepreneurship. This merit increase will be awarded in December 2012.

This first week of the Fall semester is special as well – it is Welcome Week, and there are countless activities for our community to share the joy and hope of the new academic year. Don't miss our [“Welcome Back” video](#). Faculty Convocation will be September 27, 2012, Homecoming week begins on October 7, and then for the first time ever, we host [TEDx](#) on November 15, 2012. The theme of this special gathering is “Beyond the World You Know.”

A friendly reminder that we are about to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Andrew – a devastating storm that disrupted our community. As Floridians, we all know the importance of being prepared for hurricanes. We ask that as part of your preparations, you take a few minutes to review and update, if necessary your

contact information for text message notification in case of an emergency. To review and update your phone number, please access the following link:  
<https://myaccounts.fiu.edu/itim/self/ViewChangePrfofile.do>

Finally, we ask you to reach out to our new students, faculty and staff to ensure that they situate themselves quickly to our amazing university. The energy and dynamism of our community will help us to ensure that 2012-13 is our best year yet for FIU!

Sincerely,

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

Mark B. Rosenberg