

MEMORANDUM

August 25, 2013

Dear FIU family,

Welcome back to campus for another exciting year at our FIU! This fall we are welcoming 131 faculty members who are joining us for the first time. Your hard work and dedication are the forces that allow our university to *move the needle*, and make our mark as the *Worlds Ahead* institution we are.

Throughout history, our faculty and staff have led our efforts to transform FIU into an impactful public research university. One of our now retired colleagues, Tom Riley, put it this way: "Our story is made up of a crusade of men and women, armed with books, microscopes, ambition, and unending dedication, who were determined to bring academic depth, community service and research excellence to the population of South Florida area." You have made and will continue to have a huge impact on the lives of countless people who entrust us with their educations and their futures.

One of the most significant accomplishments of last year was the graduation of FIU's first class of physicians at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. This is such a gratifying accomplishment and we couldn't have done it without the support and persistence from faculty and staff both outside and within our Academic Health Center.

On a sad note, this summer we said goodbye to several committed and beloved members of our FIU family, some of whom made significant and lasting contributions to the very accomplishments we celebrate today. I want to take a moment to remember and honor these Panthers – particularly Paul D. Gallagher and Butler Waugh – founders of our university.

I want to remind you that in recognition of your hard work and professionalism the state Legislature has kept its promise to invest in higher education and has fully restored last year's \$300 million cut, which represents a \$24.3 million restoration for FIU!

Also, after several years of no state-funded pay raises for state employees, the Legislature is proposing the following salary increases effective October 1, 2013: \$1,400 salary increase for full-time employees making up to \$40,000 annually and \$1,000 salary increase for full-time employees making more than \$40,000 annually. Additionally, we will receive funding from the Legislature which provides discretionary one-time lump sum bonuses of \$600 to a maximum of 35% of eligible employees.

The 2013-2014 academic year promises to be full of its own milestones:

And remember to mark your calendars for our **annual Faculty Convocation event on Sept. 26, 2013**. There we will recognize the collective contributions of our faculty in the areas of teaching, research, service, engagement, librarianship, mentorship and advising.

In consideration of our graduates and their families, **Fall Commencement ceremonies will be held from Sunday through Tuesday, December 15-17, 2013** for the first time. The shift of some ceremonies to the weekend will offer more family members to attend the events without having to take time off from work, and reduce the disruption of day-to-day operations at MMC.

For this new academic year, FIU has now joined Conference USA! Come out and show your Panther Pride during our Week of Welcome taking place this first week of the semester and support our student athletes by attending their games. Most importantly, join us at this year's [Homecoming](#) festivities the week of October 6-12, 2013.

We hope that you will make plans to attend our 2013 **Geopolitical Summit, America at the Crossroads: Power and Strategy in U.S. Foreign Relations, on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013**. This year we are joined by speakers, [Vali Nasr](#), a leading American expert on the Middle East, dean of the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and a contributor at Bloomberg View and [Moises Naim](#), a senior associate in Carnegie's International Economics Program, where his research focuses on international economics and global politics.

Six members of our FIU family will be the first faculty and staff members to reach 40 years of service with us! The contributions they have made to our university are unparalleled, and their commitment is an example and inspiration to all of us. They have been key witnesses and participants in our transformation over the last few decades. In the spirit of recognizing our outstanding faculty and staff, save the date for **Faculty and Staff Recognition Awards on Nov. 7, 2013** to honor these amazing individuals and recognize significant accomplishments this past year.

Another item to add to your calendar is [TEDxFIU](#) on **November 7, 2013**. FIU's ideas are worth spreading, and that is why TEDxFIU is back for its second installment. The search is on for presenters with original ideas that stimulate conversation. This year's theme is *Reimagine Possible*. Tell your friends and encourage your colleagues to [apply](#).

As you walk around our beautiful campuses be sure to stop by the U.S. Century Bank Arena and show your Panther pride by taking a picture with our FIU Panther sculpture and post it on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter with the hashtag #FIUPanther.

Let's do what we do best, and welcome new members to our team and our students into our FIU family.

See you around campus!

Sincerely,

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

Mark B. Rosenberg
President