



**Address at the Herbert Wertheim  
College of Medicine's White Coat Ceremony**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on August 6, 2010**



*This speech was presented to faculty, students and special guests at the White Coat Ceremony for the second class of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU on August 6, 2010.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Valued students! I am thrilled to be sharing in today's milestone, a day when 43 bright, hardworking students will take a major step toward becoming physicians. Thank you for choosing to take that step at FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

I had the privilege to be part of the team that crafted the initiative for a public medical school and Academic Health Center at FIU - first as dean, then as provost. Later, as Chancellor of the State University System of Florida, I was part of the team that moved that initiative from concept to reality.

And I am proud to be president of FIU as this dream reaches full fruition and our medical students embark on the journey that will touch - and change - thousands of lives in our community.

Class of 2014, you have accepted the challenge to be a new kind of physician - a culturally competent physician who will work collaboratively with other equally dedicated health care professionals who care and want to make a difference.

At FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, you will have a curriculum that is Worlds Ahead - in its commitment to primary care and to the needs of those who have been left at the margins of basic access to medical and health services.

As part of our innovative NeighborhoodHELP program, our second-year medical students will soon be making their first visits to the homes of medically underserved families in South Florida. In teams with fellow students in nursing, public health, social work, law and other disciplines, they will make a difference in the lives of each of these families. And by joining forces with these allied disciplines, they - and eventually you - will be modeling the collaboration our country's health care system needs in the 21st century.

Along with this groundbreaking curriculum, you will be taught by the finest minds in medicine, who, in addition to being leaders in their fields, are committed to education and to making a difference in our community:

- You will be taught by physicians who are on the cutting edge of their professions. Physicians like today's keynote speaker, Dr. Lynn Harrison, a nationally renowned cardiothoracic surgeon who will be designing your clinical experience in heart and lung surgery.
- And physicians who are dedicated to treating patients with dignity and serving their community with compassion, like Dr. Joe Greer, who is a pioneer in advocating and creating programs for persons facing homelessness and poverty. His life's work has earned him high profile honors such as the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and the nation's highest civilian honor - the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

And through our clinical partnerships, you will have access to the latest techniques and technology and to the top hospitals in our region.

With today's ceremony you begin your transformation into physicians who will do good and do well. We look forward to the great accomplishments ahead of you as you work together to transform our community.

Congratulations, class of 2014!