FIU | FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

November 8, 2019

Dear members of the university community,

Today is National First-Generation Day! We are celebrating students, staff, faculty and alumni who are the first in their families to graduate from college.

As the first in my family to attend college, I understand the hurdles that first-generation students face firsthand and am committed to ensuring that our first-generation students receive the support they need to succeed.

At FIU, we are fortunate to have a First-Generation Scholarship that is supported by an innovative matching grant program. For every $1 donated to the scholarship program, the State of Florida matches $2.

The program was sponsored and partly written into law in 2006 by FIU alumna and current Florida State Senator Anitere Flores. Since the program's inception, we have proudly awarded more than 13,000 scholarships to first-generation students! To donate to the First-Generation Scholarship Program, please click here.
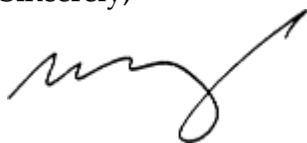
Complementing state-wide efforts, FIU hosts five federally funded TRIO programs to increase access, motivate and support first-generation students in their pursuit of a college degree.

We are unapologetic about our approach to student success by pursuing evidence-based approaches and becoming a model for how to help first-generation students succeed. In fact, FIU is part of the inaugural cohort of First Forward designated colleges and universities in the country. Created by NASPA's Center for First-generation Student Success, the First Forward initiative recognized FIU for its commitment to first-generation student success.

We congratulate those students who work hard every day in pursuit of the dream of being the first in their families to earn a college degree!
To celebrate, be sure to attend the 3rd annual National First-Generation Day Celebration taking place today at the Graham Center at MMC and the Wolfe University Center at BBC. You can find more details here.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Rosenberg
President