Address at FIU’s Repopulation Webinar

Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on February 10, 2021
Good morning!

This Coronavirus…it has been a most disruptive force.

Disruptive at the global level. Disruptive at the national level. Disruptive at the state level. Disruptive locally.

It has killed millions, made countless millions sick and touched everyone’s life in profound ways.

Make no mistake—the Coronavirus is our enemy.

For us at FIU, we have been disrupted profoundly, no doubt. Our Provost earlier predicted rapid change for this decade. No doubt, we have seen a decade’s worth of change in one year.

Yes—it has been one year. 12 months…

I feel good about what you have accomplished during this period. I am proud of all the efforts that you have made—large and small—to promote learning and research. We have had a very good 12 months when we look at our data and metrics.

We have reorganized ourselves. We have re-educated ourselves. We have essentially turned our lives upside down—of necessity.

Our space—as the data show—whether at home or work, is being used differently—if at all.

But data is one thing…Finding a way to get the full measure of our efforts and leverage the incredible resources of our place…that is another.

And no doubt—the Coronavirus has imprisoned our better angels. We have to liberate them and us from the grip of this disease. We must take back our space.

We must go on the offensive, safely. We must reclaim our lives and our relationships. We must understand our purpose as a community. We must start our independence from this horrible condition—carefully, safely, using best practices, sound judgment and our sensibilities.
Good people and purpose-driven people work at this institution. That, in part, is why in we have such a low positivity rate on-campus.

We must take back our university and put it to work even more effectively.

That is why I am asking us all—effective next week—to come back. To leverage the incredible asset—human and material—that is our place called FIU.

We want this to be done safely and that is why we are meeting today.