



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 15, 2015  
9:00 am  
Via Conference Call  
Dial-in Number: 1-800-754-1336 (*Listen-Only*)

**Committee Membership:**

Claudia Puig, *Chair*; Jorge L. Arrizurieta, *Vice Chair*; Sukrit Agrawal; Jose J. Armas; Marcelo Claire; Gerald C. Grant, Jr.

**Liaisons:**

T. Gene Prescott, *Foundation Board of Directors*; Monica Rabassa, *President's Council*;  
Frank Peña, *Alumni Association Board of Directors*

**AGENDA**

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks  | Claudia Puig            |
| 2. Approval of Minutes                | Claudia Puig            |
| 3. President's Remarks                | Mark B. Rosenberg       |
| 4. Information/Discussion Items       |                         |
| 4.1 2015 Legislative Report           | Michelle L. Palacio     |
| 4.2 Expansion Update                  | Sandra B. Gonzalez-Levy |
| 5. New Business ( <i>If Any</i> )     | Claudia Puig            |
| 6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment | Claudia Puig            |

**Conference Call information:**

- Please call 1-800-754-1336, promptly at 9:00 am on Wednesday, July 15, 2015.
- If you are disconnected, please redial the conference call number.
- If you have any problems with the above, please contact the Board of Trustees office at 305.348.6495.

*Approval of Minutes*

**Date: July 15, 2015**

**Subject: Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held January 14, 2015**

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**Proposed Committee Action:**

Approval of Minutes of the External Relations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

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**Background Information:**

Committee members will review and approve the Minutes of the External Relations meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2015**

**1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks**

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' External Relations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Claudia Puig at 8:44 am on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center Ballrooms.

The following attendance was recorded:

***Present***

Claudia Puig, *Chair*  
Jorge L. Arrizurieta, *Vice Chair*  
Sukrit Agrawal  
Gerald C. Grant, Jr.

***Excused***

Jose J. Armas  
Robert T. Barlick, Jr.  
Marcelo Claure

Trustee Alexis Calatayud and University President Mark B. Rosenberg were also in attendance.

Committee Chair Puig welcomed all Trustees, faculty and staff to the meeting. She reminded the Committee of the upcoming FIU Day in Tallahassee, which she noted would take place on March 25, 2015. She stressed the importance of maintaining continued dialogue with local legislators who advocate for the University.

Committee Chair Puig noted that the FIU community joined Steve Sauls in December to celebrate his retirement and remarkable career, noting his many accomplishments and unwavering dedication during his 25 year tenure at the University. She welcomed Michelle Palacio to her first meeting as Vice President of Governmental Relations. Committee Chair Puig noted that Michelle is an FIU graduate and has been with FIU for 10 years.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Puig asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 3, 2014 External Relations Committee meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made and passed to approve the Minutes of the External Relations Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014.

### **3. President's Remarks**

University President Mark B. Rosenberg congratulated Committee Chair Puig and Univision Radio Miami on the success of the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Three Kings Day Parade, noting that FIU was proud to take part in the annual community tradition that wraps up the holiday season. He reported that 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FIU's founding, adding that in celebration of this milestone, the University is challenging FIU students, employees and alumni to "GIVE 50" – 50 hours of service to the community. He stated that this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day of Service kicks off the FIU Give 50 Challenge at MLK Park, further noting that the 2015 MLK Day Parade will salute the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

President Rosenberg added that FIU remains dedicated to the social and economic welfare of its community, reporting that the University is paying close attention to national and critical issues. He noted that on December 17, 2014 the President of the United States Barack Obama announced that the United States would be initiating steps towards changing its diplomatic and economic relationship with Cuba. President Rosenberg stated that as the U.S. reforms policy with Cuba, the Board's External Relations Committee will play a critical role in providing guidance on how the University can participate in a free and democratic Cuba. He added that the University's Cuban Research Institute (CRI) continues its tradition of convening scholars, students, and other persons interested in the study of Cuba and Cuban Americans by announcing its Tenth Conference. He indicated that this year's meeting will be dedicated to Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago in recognition of his multiple contributions to Cuban studies over more than five decades.

President Rosenberg stated that in order to explore the recent Sony issues related to cybersecurity, the University is convening thought leaders from government, business, nonprofits, academia and law for a half-day conference to discuss the facts and prospects going forward. He indicated that as developments regarding Sony, Korea and Paris continue to unfold, security watchers are reporting surges in the spread of ransomware, a type of malware which restricts access to the computer system it infects and demands a ransom paid to the creator of the malware in order for the restriction to be removed.

President Rosenberg noted that FIU students and faculty have discussed current legal issues of the day, such as that of police officer-involved shootings. Trustee Gerald C. Grant, Jr. recommended that the University consider the viability of offering sensitivity training programs to local police units. President Rosenberg responded that the University administration will follow-up as current issues continue to unfold.

### **4. Information/Discussion Items**

#### **4.1 2015 Legislative Priorities**

Vice President of Governmental Relations Michelle Palacio provided an overview of the 2015 Legislative Priorities, noting that FIU asks for support of its advocacy efforts in seeking \$20 million in state funds for the relocation of the Fair and FIU's expansion. She added that recurring funding is requested for FIU programs that serve South Florida's unique populations, such as Panther LIFE, EMBRACE, Center for Children and Families and Fostering Panther Pride.

President Rosenberg noted that FIU continues to deepen its ties with the greater Miami by providing a solutions-center approach to significant problems in the community, adding that the University remains committed to excellence while promoting access and diversity for qualified students. He reported that from fall 2009 to present, dual enrollment courses, which enable high school students to earn college credit, have expanded from 425 to over 6,000 instances of enrollment, adding that the number of courses offered has increased from 16 to 127 and the number of participating schools has increased from six to 38. He stated that Bachelor's degrees awarded increased from 6,267 in 2009-10 to 8,068 in 2013-14.

#### **4.2 Expansion Update**

Senior Vice President of External Relations Sandra B. Gonzalez-Levy stated that Miami-Dade County voters approved a referendum that grants the University the county charter exemption needed to expand to the 64 acres next to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. She added that FIU will continue to work with Miami-Dade County and Fair leaders to find a new, suitable location for the Fair, stating that the University remains committed to working with elected officials in Tallahassee to identify the funds to pay for the relocation. She indicated that costs and timing are important factors as sites are considered for a win-win-win solution. On behalf of the University, she thanked the Board of Trustees and FIU Foundation Board of Directors for their continued support of FIU's expansion efforts.

#### **5. New Business**

*No new business was raised.*

#### **6. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

With no other business, Committee Chair Claudia Puig adjourned the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees External Relations Committee on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 9:30 am.

*There were no Trustee requests.*

*MB 1.22.15*



Board of Trustees

External Relations Committee

July 15, 2015

## **External Relations**

### **JAN - MAY 2015 UPDATE:**

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE:**

#### **MSNBC/ Telemundo immigration town hall with President Obama at FIU**

- New York Times: [Visiting Miami, Obama Presses Republicans on Homeland Security Funding](#)
- Local 10: [Obama visits Florida International University](#)
- CBS Local: [President Obama Talks Immigration While In South Florida](#)
- MiamiHerald.com (blog): [FIU gets TV love before Obama visit](#)
- Univision 23: [Obama visita a FIU](#)
- 7Online WSVN: [President visits Miami for town hall immigration meeting](#)

#### **FIU Expansion**

- Florida Trend: [Sticking point: FIU seeks expansion](#)
- Miami Herald: [As the Miami-Dade youth fair winds down, fairgrounds fight heats up](#)
- South Florida Business Journal: [County suggests four sites to relocate Miami-Dade fair for FIU](#)
- Miami Herald: [Relocate The Fair](#)
- MiamiHerald.com: [Youth Fair refuses to split up its fairgrounds](#)
- Miami Today: [Fair to take time studying offered sites](#)
- WLTV-23: [Frank Pena en Ahora En Nuestra Comunidad](#)
- WLTV-23: [Continúa la controversia sobre la Feria de la Juventud](#)
- WLTV-23: [¿Destino final de la Feria de la Juventud?](#)
- The BIZ 880 AM: [FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg on The Pete De La Torre Show](#)
- Pinecrest Tribune: [FIU expansion serves the whole community](#)
- CBS Local: [Miami-Dade Mayor Meets With FIU & Youth Fair Presidents](#)
- CBS Local: [The Fair Is Back Amid Fairgrounds Battle](#)

### **FIU experts discuss U.S. -Cuba relations**

- C-SPAN: [Washington Journal: Frank Mora on U.S.-Cuba Relations](#)
- NPR: [After Years Of GOP Support, Cuban-Americans Become More Democratic](#)
- BBC World Service: [BBC Newshour: Cuba in transition](#)
- FoxNews.com: [Castro regime making moves to consolidate power in Cuba](#)
- NPR: [Dr. Jorge Duany on NPR News: Summit of the Americas](#)
- NPR: [Dr. Guillermo J. Grenier on Here and Now: Summit of the Americas](#)
- BBC America: [Dr. Eduardo Gamarra on BBC News: Summit of the Americas](#)
- Essence.com: [It's A New Era For Afro-Cubans](#)

### **Green family \$20 million gift for SIPA**

- Miami Herald: [A \\$20 million donation to FIU will expand foreign policy programs](#)
- Philanthropy News Digest: [FIU Receives \\$20 Million for School of International Affairs](#)
- South Florida Business Journal: [FIU nabs \\$20M gift for international and public affairs program](#)

### **FIU experts on sea level rise**

- The Weather Channel : [President Obama to Speak for Earth Day](#)
- NPR: [President Obama To Visit Everglades National Park On Earth Day](#)
- Miami Herald: [Obama to visit Everglades on Wednesday, highlight climate change threat](#)
- Sun Sentinel: [WPBT, FIU produce web series on rising sea levels](#)
- Miami Herald: [Could Miami become a buoyant city after all?](#)
- City of Miami Beach TV: [FIU artist-in-residence Xavier Cortada Unveils Environmental Art](#)
- Al Jazeera America: [Fragile Planet: Sea Level Rise in South Florida](#)
- WLRN: [FIU And Miami Beach Brainstorm More Solutions To Rising Seas](#)
- Sun-Sentinel: [Rising Seas: Inching toward disaster](#)
- Miami Herald: [Beach Buzz: Rising Above summit luncheon focuses on Miami Beach sea level strategies](#)
- MiamiHerald.com: [Climate fix for rising seas could foul Miami's Biscayne Bay](#)

### **FIU research: Dogs and drones save avocado trees from deadly fungus**

- The Associated Press: [Dogs and drones deployed in battle to save the guacamole](#)
- Politico: [Drones, dogs help avocados](#)
- The Packer: [Dogs, drones helping detect avocado tree disease](#)
- WSVN Channel 7: [FIU researchers use dogs, drones to search for diseased beetles](#)
- Phys.org: [Canines, drones battle deadly avocado fungus](#)

### **FIU research: FIU highlights research projects at eMerge Americas**

- Miami Herald: [eMerge Americas conference wins praise](#)
- Sun Sentinel: [eMerge Americas tech conference ready to dazzle the world](#)
- Miami Herald: [Conference will give eMerging businesses the stage](#)
- El Nuevo Herald: [Evento eMerge posiciona al sur de la Florida en mapa tecnológico de las Américas](#)

### **FIU research: FIU-EV3 robotics program/STEM**

- Miami Herald: [Grant lets Miami-Dade middle school students build robots with Lego parts](#)
- Sun Sentinel: [FIU grant will fund robots used to teach middle school students](#)
- Local 10: [FIU uses \\$2M grant to fund robots used to teach math, science to middle school students](#)
- NBC 6 South Florida: [Miami-Dade Students Building for Future With Robotics Program](#)

### **Royal Caribbean/FIU partnership**

- Sun Sentinel: [Royal Caribbean, FIU unveil \\$32 million production studio for shipboard entertainers](#)
- Travel Weekly: [RCCL dedicates new practice theater](#)
- Cruise Critic: [Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Unveils New Production Studio at FIU](#)

### **Planetarium at Booker T. Washington to reopen as part of FIU's Education Effect**

- NBC 6 South Florida: [FIU and Miami-Dade Public Schools celebrate opening of new planetarium](#)
- WSVN Channel 7: [Planetarium opening marks launch of dual-enrollment astronomy magnet program in conjunction with FIU](#)
- WFOR Channel 4: [Sky's the limit for students as planetarium opens in FIU and Miami-Dade Public Schools collaboration](#)

### **Major television stories since Jan. 1, 2015**

- Jan 5 - We placed experts on gay marriage on all stations
- Jan 8- Cuba policy change; our experts were on all stations and called upon by Fox, NBC networks (some of those interviews were canceled in the end)
- Jan 15- Telemundo network interview of Dr. Eugenio Rothe on Americans becoming radicalized by ISIL
- Jan 25- Dr. Jorge Duany on Cuba on Putney's show on WPLG10
- Jan. 27/Feb 2- Dr. Jorge Duany on Univision on Cuba
- Feb 13- Francisco Mora on embargo on CBS4
- Feb 18- Linguistics expert Dr. Phillip Carter looks into latest ISIS video for Univision
- Feb 25- MSNBC/all stations cover President Obama's visit to FIU for town hall



- March 9- NBC6 story on robotics grant
- March 11- Fair stories on CBS4/7
- March 16- Fair story for WLTV23
- March 14- Univision story on STEM programs and MAST@FIU
- April 17- Channel 7 covers dogs and drones story
- April 22- Weather Channel has geologist Dr. Evelyn Gaiser
- May 1-Weather Channel covers sea level rise app story
- May 5- CBS News has Dr. Kenneth Furton for dogs and drones story
- May 7- MSNBC has DeEtta Mills for dogs and drones story
- May 30- Weather Channel has student competition at Wall of Wind story

#### **FIU NEWS AND ONLINE MAGAZINE STATISTICS:**

##### **Google analytics for FIU News (Jan – May 2015)**

- Visitors 387,229 (71 percent returning visitors)
- Page views 559,359 (averaging 25-30,000 page views a week)
- Average visit duration 1:54
- Newsletter subscribers 31,870

*Note:*\* At the start of the spring semester (Jan. 12), we began sending out the newsletter five times a week. This strategy has been a success – our page views are up by 38 percent from the same time period last year. \*\* Fifty-one percent of our readers access the site through a desktop, 49 percent through a mobile phone or tablet.

##### **Google analytics for FIU Magazine (Jan – May 2015)**

- Visitors 9,234 (79 percent new visitors)
- Page views 15,885
- Average visit duration 1:50
- Newsletter subscribers 17,959

*Note:* \* Seventy-three percent of readers access the site through a desktop, 27 percent through a mobile phone or tablet.

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS, PROTOCOL AND SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Community Leaders Summit** – Took place on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Coral Gables Country Club with approximately 100 community leaders in attendance. University President Mark B. Rosenberg spoke about FIU @ 50 / History of FIU and the Future of FIU / our need for expansion. Provost Kenneth G. Furton presented the Strategic Plan: Beyond Possible 2020.

## Speaking Engagements

*Mark B. Rosenberg, President*

- 1/8/2015 Independent Schools of South Florida(ISSF) Meeting
- 2/20/2015 Associated Builders and Contractors Luncheon
- 2/27/2015 Chamber South Goals Conference
- 3/24/2015 Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce Reception
- 4/6/2015 Pinecrest Tribune Luncheon
- 4/7/2015 Community Leaders Summit
- 4/14/2015 Doral Business Council Breakfast
- 4/20/2015 Association of Cuban Engineers Board Meeting
- 6/10/2015 Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- 6/19/2015 Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Pillar Breakfast
- 6/23/2015 FL SBDC Conference
- 8/18/2015 Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce Boarding Meeting
- 9/2/2015 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Trustee Luncheon

*John Stuart, Executive Director, Miami Beach Urban Studios*

- 1/29/2015 Academy of the Arts and Mind

*Fernando Figueredo, Executive Director Career Services*

- 1/30/2015 South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

*Dr. Aileen M. Marty, FIU Health*

- 2/12/2015 Our Lady of Lourdes - Bernadette Scholars Enrichment Block

*Dr. Pedro J. Greer, Jr., Associate Dean for Community Engagement, HWCOM*

- 5/28/2015 Greater Kendall Business Association Luncheon

*Dr. S.S. Iyengar, Director of the School of Computing and Information Sciences*

- 6/18/2015 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Technology and Education Converge Panel

*Joyce Elam, Dean, University College*

- 9/24/2015 Greater Kendall Business Association Luncheon

## **Preeminent Events**

- President Obama's Visit (Feb 2015)
- FIU@50 -FIU Blessing (Mar 2015), Colombian Consulate (Apr 2015)
- eMerge Americas Tech Conference (May 2015)
- Commencement
  - Spring 2015 - 8 Ceremonies to graduate over 4,000 students
  - Tianjin Commencement (May 2015)
  - College of Law Commencement (May 2015)
  - Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Convocation (May 2015)

## **President's Council**

- Current number of members: 111
- New Leadership installed in May 2015

## **Community Outreach**

- South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Health Fair
- Coral Reef Senior High School
- Cybersecurity Event CIO Council

## **Awards and Nominations - 18 Winners (as of May 2015):**

- **FIU Torch Awards**
  - Dr. Laird Kramer, Outstanding Faculty Award
- **Florida Campus Compact**
  - ACCESS, Community Partnership Award
  - FIU, Engaged Campus Award
  - Dr. Joyce C. Fine, Engaged Scholarship Faculty Award
  - Donald D. Roomes, Engaged Scholarship Faculty Award
  - Patricia Temino, Above and Beyond Award
- **Alliance for Aging - Positive Living Awards**
  - Terry Blachman
  - Barbara Bader
  - Dr. Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver
- **In the Company of Women**
  - Dr. Aileen M. Marty, Health Care
- **OWIT International Business Woman of the Year Award**
  - Eileen McHale, Large Business Award
- **Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce HYPE Awards**
  - Rocio De La Grana, Most Valuable Graduate
- **Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Excellence in HR**
  - Division of Human Resources, FIU, Best Change Management Strategy
- **South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Leadership Awards**
  - Roberto Rovira, Sustainability

- **Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce - Green Means Green Awards**
  - FIU Nature Preserve, Leisure
- **Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce - Rising Star Awards**
  - Luis Brignoni, Entrepreneur
- **INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine - Inspiring Women in Stem Award**
  - Dr. Aileen M. Marty, FIU Health

#### **VIDEO AND SOCIAL STATISTICS:**

- Neil deGrasse Tyson (famous Astrophysicist) tweeted a video of our faculty and students at the Miami Beach Centennial and it got about 18,000 views as a result

<https://twitter.com/neiltyson/status/589526292623712256>

- This video is playing in the Everglades national park visitor center and was used at a National Park event. It features six FIU students and one whose life was changed as a result of the experience in the Everglades

<https://news.fiu.edu/2015/04/choosing-a-wild-life/87525>

- Housing at FIU Video Produced in February is doing very well online (5,000 views)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnGUFLzKf5Q>

#### **Analytics for Social Media (May 2015)**

- Facebook - 111% towards goal
- Instagram - 191% towards goal
- Twitter - 69% towards goal

#### **DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS/WEB TEAM:**

##### New Projects:

- Faculty Website Solution - WordPress template created and faculty website directory created on [fiu.edu](http://fiu.edu)
- FIU Alumni Association signed annual maintenance contract with External Relations
- Medicine Family Weekend Event Marketing/Ticketing Site - <http://medicine.fiu.edu/familyweekend/>
- Survival Guide Spring Update - Completed Feb 9th, <http://www.fiu.edu/survival-guide/>

- Annual Report - Foundation site completed January 16, 2015: <http://foundation.fiu.edu/annualreport/index.html>
- Give 50 for 50 - completed - <http://fifty.fiu.edu/service/>
- FIU@50 - completed - <http://fifty.fiu.edu/>
- New External Relations site <http://externalrelations.fiu.edu/>
- New Stempel site - <http://stempel.fiu.edu/>
- Talent Development Network - Built wireframes and site marketing pages that link to the TDN vendor solution- <https://tdnmiami.com/>
- Spanish International Hurricane Center (NHC) site - created new site for Spanish community, partnered with NHC and IHRC at FIU - <http://hurricanes.fiu.edu/>
- Frost site - Created new site for Frost Art Museum - <https://frost.fiu.edu/>
- Campus Maps - Launched new campus maps solution for students - <http://campusmaps.fiu.edu/>
- Web Servers Upgrade - We partnered with IT to upgrade the main FIU site servers. All larger tier one sites moved to new server as well. New servers are backed up in the cloud and are “guaranteed to never have downtime”
- Usability Lab - Created a multi-device lab so web designers from across the University can test their websites on many devices for ADA and standard accessibility validation
- ePub - partnered with Pubs to create new iOS and Android ePub distribution channel for FIU

#### Ongoing Projects (multi-phase):

- Student Affairs - 40 sites redesign, currently in wireframe milestone
- College of Education - full site rebrand and redesign, currently in information architecture milestone
- Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine - full site rebrand and redesign, currently in information architecture milestone
- Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing - full site rebrand and redesign, discover phase now
- SIPA - 40 sites redesign as part of their sovereignty status, discovery phase now
- Institutional Webmaster Resources Review and Audit - 2000 FIU sites currently being analyzed for ADA, usability, and brand compliances
- University Calendar - update in development, will launch for Fall
- Department of Emergency Management - full site rebrand and redesign

- Academic Planning and Accountability/Institutional Assessment – full site rebrand and design
- Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering – full site rebrand and redesign
- President’s Council Website – full site rebrand and redesign
- OneStop – full site rebrand and redesign
- Environmental Health and Safety – full site rebrand and redesign
- FIU Alumni Association – full site rebrand and redesign, also signed multi-year maintenance plan to manage their site
- Brand – full site rebrand and redesign, replaces logos.fiu.edu with new policies and standards for the FIU brand
- First Generation – full site rebrand and redesign

## **Office of Engagement**

### **Talent Development Network**

Since it was formally launched in April, the Talent Development Network (TDN) – a regional internship program that aligns academia with economic development needs – has reached some significant milestones. A press launch for the program was held April 15 and included representatives from six colleges and universities including FIU; the Miami-Dade County Public School District (M-DCPS); and the Beacon Council. The event generated significant media coverage and helped pave the way for additional support from employers interested in recruiting local talent. Already four students have been selected for internships through the TDN program – three with American Airlines and one with the Miami-Dade County Office of Budget and Management.

The online portal for students and employers has launched at [tdnmiami.com](http://tdnmiami.com), allowing employers to easily register, post internships and recruit talent from seven major academic institutions across Miami-Dade County. In addition, students from the six colleges and universities are able to access the portal using their institutions’ login credentials.

Presentations on the program have been given to multiple chambers of commerce and the Career Services teams from each of the academic institutions have formed a Career Services Board to implement a preparedness verification process for students, to be sure top talent is selected for the program. In addition, industry meetings have been held in Information Technology, Banking and Finance and Hospitality and Tourism to further

align industry needs with academic offerings as the program progresses through its two-year pilot phase. The goal is to create 200 new paid internships in two years.

### **U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

FIU has signed a groundbreaking collaborative agreement with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), the first such partnership between the USHCC and a public university in the nation. The agreement will promote both entities' shared interests including research, economic development and legislative advocacy on a local, state and national level. In addition, the USHCC will partner with FIU on increasing student internships, jobs and scholarships. Beyond creating career opportunities for FIU students, the USHCC will connect the University to Hispanic-owned businesses around the United States for possible collaboration. USHCC is the largest Hispanic business organization in the country, advocating on behalf of nearly 3.2 million Hispanic-owned businesses and serving as an umbrella organization for more than 200 local chambers and business organizations throughout the U.S.

In April, a delegation of seven FIU alumni and small business owners participated in the USHCC Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. The summit was an opportunity for FIU alumni to network with key business and industry leaders from throughout the country, as well as government agencies and elected officials such as Congressman Carlos Curbelo, who attended the summit. FIU also participated in the USHCC's Presidential Candidate Q&A series, featuring Governor Martin O'Malley. USHCC President and CEO Javier Palomarez will speak at FIU's Fall Commencement ceremonies. USHCC and FIU also are pursuing joint communications efforts, including guest editorials in national publications.

### **Fostering Panther Pride**

Fostering Panther Pride (FPP), FIU's innovative program to support the academic and personal success of former foster care and homeless youth, continues to make a difference in these students' lives. This spring, more than 80 former foster care and homeless students were enrolled at FIU. More than 50 of these were active participants in the FPP program, meeting with the Success Coach and participating in events and activities. More than 80 percent of FPP students were in good academic standing; 30 percent had a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Nine students from FPP graduated this spring, including two who were named Worlds Ahead Graduates – Kenya Adeola and Ruth Rios, who each overcame significant obstacles to achieve their academic goals. This summer FPP awarded 12 housing scholarships and 14 for the fall semester. Housing

scholarship amounts range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and students are asked to submit essays documenting their need.

This spring, numerous activities and events were held for FPP students, including workshops on time management and study skills; resume writing and interviewing skills; financial literacy, including budgeting, loans and credit; how to complete the FAFSA financial aid form; and how to navigate the transition after college.

Finally, the FPP team has selected three research proposals to receive funding through the program, as part of the state allocation for FPP. One will focus on evaluating and improving the FPP mentor program; the second will investigate the barriers that prevent former foster youth from entering higher education; and the third will assess the academic success of students in their first and second years of the program to increase understanding of the obstacles these students face and to make recommendations for improvement.



## 2015 Legislative Special Session Report

This year, the Florida Legislature provided nearly \$33 million in new and restored funding for FIU. Governor Rick Scott signed the 2015-16 budget June 23rd.

Below are the \$24.5 million in FIU projects that were newly funded by the legislature and approved by the Governor:

- \$11 million net increase in Performance Funding
- \$2.3 million for the Satellite Chiller Plant Expansion at MMC
- \$2.7 million for Renovations, Remodeling and Repairs
- \$3.9 million recurring for FIUnique, which includes: \$1.5 million for the Center for Children and Families, \$1.5 million for the College of Medicine EMBRACE program, \$600,000 for the College of Education Panther LIFE program, and \$300,000 for the Fostering Panther Pride program.
- \$600,000 for the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars of which half is recurring dollars
- \$300,000 in additional funding for the FIU Center for Democracy
- \$3.7 million for Hurricane Research and Mitigation Projects

In addition to these new funds, the legislature also restored proposed budget cuts to FIU:

- \$2.5 million for the College of Medicine's Neighborhood HELP program
- \$1 million for the College of Law's Center for Ethics and Professionalism
- \$500,000 for The FIU Center for Democracy
- \$250,000 for The FIU Center for Leadership
- \$331,451 for the College of Medicine Primary Care Residency Program

The following FIU items were funded by the Legislature but vetoed by the Governor, among the \$500 million in vetoed projects statewide:

- \$5 million for Strategic Land Acquisition (FIU Expansion)
- \$3 million for the FIU-Royal Caribbean BBC housing mold remediation
- \$500,000 for the West End Tech Center, an FIU partnership with Topp Solutions
- \$200,000 for the Applied Research Center

The FIU expansion project has a lot of momentum based on the overwhelming voter support we received in November. In addition, we have received \$10 million toward the relocation project, which was allocated by the Legislature and approved by the Governor last year.

## Sales Tax Exemptions Impacting FIU

The Legislature passed HB33A and the bill was signed into law by the Governor. The bill includes nearly \$430 million in tax cuts and creates a sales tax exemption for textbooks and instructional materials for the entire 2015-16 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. The exemption applies to students who provide their Panther ID and syllabus as proof. The bill also creates the back to school sales tax holiday from August 7-August 16, 2015 in which various items sold on campus including clothing, school supplies and computers are tax exempt. Also included in the bill is a clarification of current law relating to college prepaid meal plans making the plans tax exempt when purchased before or after enrollment, with financial aid or directly from a third party vendor.

A special thanks to the Governmental Relations team, especially Adriana Pereira, Debi Gallay and Lynne Shaw for their hard work and dedication during the legislative session.

We are very thankful to the State Legislature, especially our Miami-Dade Delegation, for championing FIU's priorities and for recognizing that FIU's success is our community's success.