FIU Appoints Dr. Deborah Sherman Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences

MIAMI (October 18, 2013) – Florida International University’s (FIU) Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences has appointed Dr. Deborah Ann Witt Sherman, PhD, CRNP, ANP-BC, ACHPN, FAAN as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Dr. Sherman will serve in a management and leadership capacity overseeing department matters relating to student advisement, faculty advancement and curriculum implementation, among other responsibilities.

In this role, Dr. Sherman will provide academic leadership for the college’s six disciplines – nursing, athletic training, health services administration, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language therapy. The programs combined enroll almost 3,000 students which include undergraduate, master’s degree, professional practice doctorates (DNP and DPT), and a PhD program in nursing.

Dr. Sherman comes to the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences most recently from the University of Maryland School of Nursing, where she was a professor with tenure focused on palliative care research at the Health Care Outcomes Research Center. During her five-year tenure she also served as Assistant Dean for Research, a member of the Administrative Council and Dean's Committee and Co-Director of the Center of Excellence in Palliative Care Research.

Dr. Sherman honed her specialization in palliative care and academic administration over the 14 years she spent prior at New York University. In that time, she spearheaded the development of a new PhD in Nursing curriculum and helped transition the university’s nursing program from a Division of Nursing to a College of Nursing. She also brought a palliative care curriculum to Tenshi College in Sapporo, Japan, where she continues to serve as a visiting professor. Moreover, she implemented the first Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner program in the country, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and for which she was presented the “Leading the Way Award” from the Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Association.

“Deborah brings forth an exceptional blend of high-level research and practice, along with strong leadership qualities and a true commitment to academia that make her the ideal candidate for this position,” said Ora Strickland, PhD, DSc (Hon), RN, FAAN, Dean of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “Through her expertise and example, Dr. Sherman will propel the students and faculty of our college towards higher levels of excellence and in health care practice and achievement.”
A noted palliative care researcher and author, Dr. Sherman has written or co-edited eight books and more than 85 book chapters and journal articles. She is a three-time recipient of the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award for her books on palliative care. She has also been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Palliative Care from MD Anderson Cancer Center.

She received her PhD in Theory and Research Development in Nursing Science from New York University; her Master of Science in Nursing in Parent/Child Nursing from Pace University in Pleasantville, New York; her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, New York; and a Diploma in Nursing from Beth Israel School of Nursing in New York. She also completed an Aaron Diamond Post-doctoral AIDS Research Fellowship at the City University of New York; a post-master’s certificate as a Nurse Practitioner in Adult Health; and received a Project on Death in America Faculty Scholar’s Fellowship from the Soros Foundation to develop expertise in palliative care; and a clinical fellowship at Mount Sinai, Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute in New York.

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About the FIU Nicole Wertheim College Nursing and Health Sciences:
Established in 1982, the School of Nursing at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, Florida was elevated to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences when it joined with the School of Health Sciences in October 2006. The College is the second-largest producer of nursing professionals in the state, offering undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, baccalaureate completion and specialty programs in nursing education, including the nation’s first, and award-winning, Foreign-Educated Physician to Nursing program. The College also offers a bachelor’s degree in Health Services Administration, entry-level master’s degrees in Athletic Training, Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

About FIU:
Florida International University is recognized as a Carnegie engaged university. Its colleges and schools offer more than 180 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, international relations, architecture, law and medicine. As one of South Florida’s anchor institutions, FIU is Worlds Ahead in its local and global engagement, finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. FIU has awarded 200,000 degrees and enrolls 50,000 students in two campuses and three centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell and the Miami Beach Urban Studios. FIU is a member of Conference USA and has 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. For more information about FIU, visit http://www.fiu.edu/.