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## Wertheim family pledges additional \$1 million to Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences

**MIAMI (April 30, 2018)** – The Wertheim family, longtime benefactors of FIU, have pledged an additional \$1 million for the [Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences](#).

Dr. Herbert Wertheim made the surprise gift announcement during a ceremony to unveil a commissioned portrait of his wife, Nicole Wertheim, for whom the college is named. In 2013, the Wertheims donated \$10 million to name the college and support the strategic development of its health and research programs, bolster scholarships for students, and sponsor professional advancement for faculty.

“The Wertheim family’s impact on FIU has been transformational,” said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. “Their contributions over the years have helped us prepare health care professionals, entrepreneurs, artists and many other specialists who have made a difference in our world thanks to an FIU education made possible by the generosity of the Wertheims.”

The family and their Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation have made many contributions to the university since 1988 when Dr. Wertheim joined the FIU Foundation Board of Directors.

Their involvement also includes Dr. Wertheim serving on FIU’s Board of Trustees; helping to build the Wertheim Conservatory and Lecture Hall; creating a visiting professorship in the College of Business; establishing the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center; and constructing the concert hall’s extraordinary pipe organ, named in memory of Dr. Wertheim’s late mother, Sydell Ida Wertheim.

In 2009, the Wertheims announced a \$20 million gift to the FIU College of Medicine, the largest cash donation in university history. The gift was eligible for the State of Florida’s Major Gifts Challenge Grant Program, making its total impact \$40 million. In recognition, the college was



*Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim*

named the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. The FIU Board of Trustees also named him founding chairman of the medical school and Trustee Emeritus.

“The Wertheims have been unwavering in their support of FIU, and this latest gift to our college reaffirms their inspiring vision to encourage superior education, research and practice, as ways to break down barriers to high quality health care,” said Ora L. Strickland, dean of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences. “We are grateful for the Wertheim family’s gift and their commitment to positively transform health care in South Florida and beyond.”

In addition to their contributions, Dr. and Mrs. Wertheim serve on the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences Dean’s Leadership Council along with their daughters, Dr. Vanessa Wertheim and Erica Wertheim Zohar, who have extensive nursing and business backgrounds and expertise.

The Wertheims and their foundation have supported hundreds of additional educational and healthcare initiatives in South Florida and around the globe for more than 40 years.

As Herbert and Nicole Wertheim approach their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences commissioned a portrait of Mrs. Wertheim to hang on the walls of the student wing of the Academic Health Sciences 3 Building.

David Y. Chang, Frost professor of art and chair of the Department of Art and Art History in the [College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts](#), created the portrait. His work has received international acclaim and is included in private and public collections such as the Frost Art Collection, the Sennelier Art Collection in Paris and the Smithsonian National Art Gallery Collection.

**-FIU-**

#### **About the FIU Nicole Wertheim College Nursing & Health Sciences**

*Established in 1982, the School of Nursing at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami was elevated to the [College of Nursing and Health Sciences](#) when it joined with the School of Health Sciences in October 2006. It was renamed as the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences in September 2013. The college offers undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, baccalaureate completion and specialty programs in [nursing education](#); bachelor’s and master’s degrees in [Health Services Administration](#); entry-level master’s degrees in [Athletic Training](#), [Speech-Language Pathology](#) and [Occupational Therapy](#); and [a Doctor of Physical Therapy](#). The college’s Graduate Nursing program is ranked No. 66 in the U.S. News and World Report 2019 Best Graduate Schools listing.*

#### **About FIU:**

*Florida International University is classified by Carnegie as a “R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity” and recognized as a Carnegie Community Engaged university. It is a public research university with [colleges and schools](#) that offer [bachelor’s](#), [master’s](#) and [doctoral](#) programs in fields such as business, engineering, computer science, international relations, architecture, law and medicine. As one of South Florida’s anchor institutions, FIU contributes almost \$9 billion each year to the local economy. The university received honors in all categories of The Chronicle of Higher Education’s “2017 Great Colleges to work for.” FIU graduates are consistently among the highest paid college graduates in Florida and are among the leaders of public and private organizations throughout South Florida. FIU is Worlds Ahead in finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission with [multiple state-of-the-art research facilities](#) including the [Wall of Wind Research and Testing Facility](#), [FIU’s Medina Aquarius Program](#) and*

the [Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute](#). FIU has awarded more than 220,000 degrees and enrolls more than 54,000 students in two campuses and centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell, FIU@I-75, the Miami Beach Urban Studios, and Tianjin, China. FIU also supports artistic and cultural engagement through its three museums: [Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum](#), the [Wolfsonian-FIU](#), and the [Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU](#). FIU is a member of [Conference USA](#) and more than 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>.