DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

South Florida, with an estimated population of over four million people in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties in 2010, is one of the most artistically expressive, ethnically diverse, and cosmopolitan regions in the United States. As the gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean, it is a global center for trade, finance, manufacturing, tourism, and health care.

In this milieu, Florida International University (FIU) was chartered by the Florida Legislature in 1965 to offer upper division and graduate programs. FIU opened its doors in 1972 to the largest opening-day enrollment in the history of American higher education. Initially a two-year upper-division school with limited graduate programs, FIU added lower-division classes in 1981 and received authority to begin offering degree programs at the doctoral level in 1984. The University has two main campuses, the 344-acre Modesto A. Maidique (MMC) campus in western Miami-Dade County, and the 200-acre Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) in northeast Miami-Dade County.

Committed to both high quality and access, FIU meets the educational needs of full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students, and lifelong learners. Reflecting the vibrant ethnic diversity of South Florida, FIU students are 61% Hispanic, 15% White, 13% Black, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 7% other minorities.

FIU is a public research university offering a broad array of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in carrying out the University's mission of "high-quality teaching, state-of-the-art research and creative activity, and collaborative engagement with our local and global communities" in eleven colleges and schools: College of Architecture and the Arts, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, College of Education, College of Engineering and Computing, College of Law, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Robert Stempel School of Public Health and Social Work.

Through these colleges and schools, FIU offers more than 175 bachelor, masters, and doctoral degree programs and conducts basic and applied research. Interdisciplinary centers and institutes conduct collaborative research to seek innovative solutions to economic, technological, and social problems. Numerous programs are also offered at off-campus locations and online. With a student body of over 46,000, more than 800 full-time instructional faculty, and over 8,000 degrees awarded annually, FIU is the largest university in South Florida and one of the 25 largest public universities in the nation. More than 110,000 FIU alumni live and work in South Florida.

Ninety-seven percent of FIU full-time tenured or tenure-track instructional faculty members hold doctorates or the highest degree attainable in their fields. FIU is the only urban public university in the state to be a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest scholarly honorary society. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies FIU as a Research University/High Research Activity. The University's annual research expenditures exceed $100 million.

All academic programs of the University are approved by the Florida Board of Governors and the FIU Board of Trustees. The University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award bachelor, masters, and doctoral degrees. SACS reaffirmed FIU's accreditation in December, 2010. Degree programs at FIU are accredited or approved by the appropriate specialized accreditation agency.

On August 28, 2009, Florida International University's fifth president, Mark B. Rosenberg, took the oath of office. Rosenberg is former chancellor of the State University System of Florida and the first FIU faculty member to ascend to the presidency of the University.