

President Mark B. Rosenberg



Dear Undergraduate Students:

Welcome!

As I tell our incoming class every year: you belong here! Without you, we're not FIU. You uplift us! You make all our efforts possible and worthwhile! Our entire FIU community is committed to helping you achieve your dreams. At FIU, we have everything you need to succeed - motivated and challenging faculty, courses that will take you to new levels of thinking and analysis, internship and career opportunities that will open doors to your future, and dedicated advisors who are here to help you stay on track to graduate in four years! Our scholarships and financial aid programs will help to start you, keep you, and graduate you timely.

We recently developed a series of "Personalized Education Pathways." This approach allows our incoming students to find their own customized plan that works for them, their lives, and their situations. Panthers, we will do everything we can to help get you to that milestone day when you proudly celebrate your commencement, surrounded by your family and loved ones.

As one of the largest public research universities in the country, FIU plays a critical role in the future of our community and nation. We recognize the many challenges in our world today and we are committed to doing what is right. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni have a shared sense of purpose: we want to leave this world a better place than we found it. Never has this mission been

more relevant than today, when our FIU family is showing up for our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We demonstrate this commitment every single day by standing up to some of society's most pressing concerns – from sea-level rise, to transportation, and more. We have a special kind of drive and determination that takes our research efforts from the Arctic to Aquarius, the world's only underwater laboratory. We're constantly accelerating our research. In fact, FIU is in the top tier of research universities in the U.S., according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Today, FIU is a leading U.S. research university (R1), with a focus on student success, innovation and societal progress. Our university has been ranked 45 times in the top 50 in the nation among public universities, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. We offer nationally and internationally recognized bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral degree programs in business, engineering, nursing, public health, architecture, and other disciplines.

For 4 years and counting, BizBash has named the Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival (SOBEWFF) the #1 food and restaurant industry event in the United States. With this collaboration, FIU students get real-world opportunities to gain hands-on experience in hospitality, including staffing the star-studded events and working alongside the world's best culinary talent and food and beverage industry leaders.

We are committed to supporting the arts and cultural engagement through FIU's three museums: Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, the Wolfsonian-FIU, and the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. And our colleges and programs are continuously taking extra steps to be innovative, relevant, and solutions-driven.

We are so honored to welcome you to the FIU family! I look forward to meeting you very soon.