

PRESIDENTIAL ACCEPTANCE REMARKS
 DR. MODESTO A. (MITCH) MAIDIQUE
 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
 AUGUST 27, 1986

IT IS AN HONOR OF THE HIGHEST ORDER TO HAVE BEEN NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY. THE SELECTION PROCESS HAS BEEN FAIR, OPEN AND EXEMPLARY, A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN THAT PARTICIPATED IN IT AND REFLECTION OF THE QUALITY OF THOSE THAT LED IT: TO DEAN MAU (AND CURRENTLY ACTING PRESIDENT), REGENT MASVIDAL, CHANCELLOR REED, CHAIRMAN SESSUMS AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMITTEES, MY HEARTFELT THANKS.

TO ME, A UNIVERSITY IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE. I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE AS A STUDENT AND A RESEARCHER OR A TEACHER AT ONE OF THE NATION'S GREAT UNIVERSITIES. A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT IS, ABOVE ALL OTHER THINGS, THE CUSTODIAN OF SOCIETY'S GREATEST TREASURE, ITS STOREHOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE.

I FEEL ESPECIALLY HONORED BECAUSE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY HAS, IN LITTLE OVER A DECADE, BECOME ONE OF AMERICA'S MAJOR UNIVERSITIES AND ONE OF ITS 250 LARGEST, AND IN DOING SO, IT HAS COMPILED A REMARKABLE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT. IT HAS ALREADY ATTAINED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Now I'd like to focus on the future.

O Over the next several months, I plan to work closely with faculty, students, the administration and staff as well as with community leaders to shape a set of shared values and a strategic plan for FIU.

O In doing so, I pledge myself to fair and just participation of all in the governance of the university.

O In preparing this roadmap, I plan to work closely with Chancellor Reed, Chairman Sessums and the Board of Regents to build not just a great university in Southeast Florida, but a great university system, for I firmly believe that the whole can be far greater than the sum of its parts.

O During the coming years, I have confidence that as we make progress toward these goals, we will also make major progress in fundraising and that this community will, in the years ahead, rally in support of FIU.

O But, most importantly, I pledge to you today, that I will work with undivided energy, attention and enthusiasm to make FIU a paragon of both academic and administrative excellence -- a model for similar universities in the state and across the nation and around the world.

O I deeply believe that FIU is destined to become one of the world's great universities. Great international centers of trade, finance and

COMMERCE LIKE BOSTON, LONDON, NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO HAVE SPAWNED AND NURTURED NOT ONE, BUT SEVERAL GREAT UNIVERSITIES IN THEIR MIDST.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST VIBRANT AND CULTURALLY RICH REGIONS, IS SURE TO FOLLOW THIS TRADITION. THE QUESTION FOR FIU IS NOT IF, THE QUESTION IS WHEN? WITH YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT, IT WILL BE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.