



# FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

*Hope, Knowledge and Opportunity*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Approved by Florida Board of Regents, September 1993*

Florida International University (FIU) is an urban, multicampus, doctoral-granting institution located in Miami, Florida's largest population center, with campuses at University Park and North Miami, selected programs offered in Davie and Fort Lauderdale, and off-campus continuing education programs. The mission of this state University is to serve the people of Southeast Florida, the state, the nation and the international community by imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, creating new knowledge through research, and fostering creativity and its expression.

Chartered by the Florida Legislature in 1965, the University opened its doors in 1972 to the largest entering class in United States collegiate history. With strong undergraduate programs centered around a rigorous liberal arts core curriculum, FIU now offers more than 200 baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree programs through its many Colleges and Schools: Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering and Design, Health, Hospitality Management, Journalism and Mass Communication, Nursing, and Urban and Public Affairs. The University continues to balance its programs for full and part-time degree-seeking students and to address the special needs of lifelong learners, traditionally and through distant learning. Campus life fosters a sense of community which provides for the intellectual, aesthetic, social, emotional, physical and moral development of students while providing opportunities for leadership training, awareness of cultural diversity, and a sensitivity to social issues and concerns.

Southeast Florida and FIU are alike in their explosive growth, rich ethnic and cultural diversity, and quest for excellence. FIU is a leading institution in one of the most dynamic, artistically expressive, and cosmopolitan cities in the United States, the gateway for Latin America and the Caribbean. The continued globalization of the world's economic, social and political systems adds to the importance of FIU's mission, and combines with our subtropical environment, and our strategic location to strengthen Southeast Florida's role as an information and transportation center.

From this unique setting we have derived four key strategic themes that guide the University's development: International, Environmental, Urban, and Transportation and Information Systems. We focus on these themes with a commitment to quality management and cultural diversity. To summarize the University priorities: first, to graduate a well educated, ethnically diverse student body by continuing to enhance our teaching and by broadening our graduate and professional programs; second, to promote research and creative activities by nurturing strategically selected disciplines which contribute to the social, artistic, cultural, economic, environmental and technological foundations for the 21st century; third, to solve critical health, social, educational, and environmental problems through applied research and service. These strategic themes and priorities guide our pursuit of recognition as one of America's top 25 urban public research universities by the end of this century.

## THE UNIVERSITY

Florida International University is one of America's most dynamic and fastest growing universities. Since opening in 1972, FIU has achieved many benchmarks of excellence that have taken other universities more than a century to reach. The University has a nationally renowned full-time faculty, known for their outstanding teaching and cutting edge research; students from throughout the U.S. and 110 foreign countries; and its alumni have risen to prominence in every field and are a testament to the University's academic excellence.

A member of the State University System of Florida, FIU is a research university offering a diverse selection of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. Through its 16 colleges and schools, FIU offers baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs in more than 280 majors, conducts basic and applied research, and provides public service. Committed to both quality and access, FIU meets the educational needs of traditional students as well as the increasing number of part-time students and lifelong learners. Research and teaching which address economic and social concerns are conducted by interdisciplinary centers and institutes at the University.

FIU currently has more than 30,500 students, 1,300 faculty and 80,000 alumni, making it the largest public university in South Florida. For the past three years, FIU was ranked among the top 100 public national universities in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual guide to "America's Best Colleges." FIU was the youngest institution in the group. The magazine has reported that FIU students are among the least indebted college students (fifth) in the nation. The magazine has also recognized the University as a "best buy" in higher education. In 1998, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranked FIU as the country's 18th best value in public higher education. FIU was named one of the top 10 public commuter colleges in the U.S. in the 1995 edition of *Money Guide*, an annual report published by *Money* magazine, and has been cited in several other of the country's leading college guides.

## HISTORY

FIU was established by the Florida legislature in 1965. Classes began in September 1972, with 5,667 students enrolled in upper-division and graduate programs the largest opening day enrollment in the history of American higher education. In 1981, the University added lower division classes for freshmen and sophomores, expanding its enrollment capacity. In 1984, the University received authority to begin offering degree programs at the doctoral level; these programs received Level IV accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1986. In 1994, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reclassified FIU as a Doctoral I University. The institutions in the Doctoral I University category offer a full range of baccalaureate programs, graduate education through the doctoral level (and confer doctorates in more than five disciplines), and are committed to research. The University has already exceeded the criteria for it to be reclassified as a Research II University.

The Florida Board of Regents appointed Charles E. Perry as the first president of FIU in 1969. He was succeeded in January 1976 by Harold B. Crosby. Gregory B. Wolfe was named the third president in February 1979. Modesto A. Maidique, the fourth and current president, was appointed to his position in August 1986.