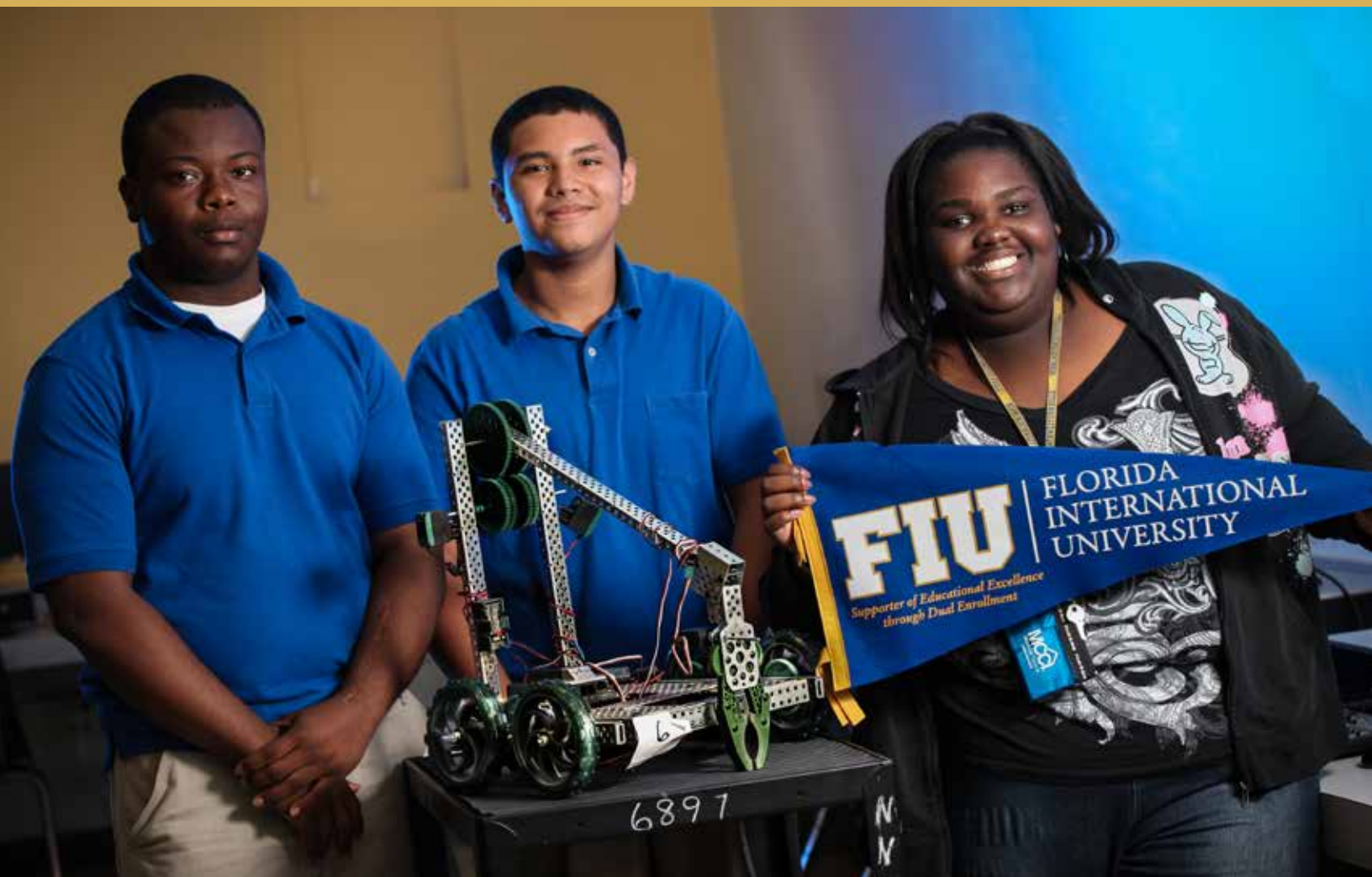


access

Achieving Community Collaboration in Education and Student Success

AN FIU / MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



Students from Miami Northwestern Senior High participated in a robotics competition and took first place.



“As the public university and anchor institution in Miami-Dade County, we have always been committed to providing access to a university education to all of the people in our community who have the preparation, drive and determination to pursue a degree.”

— Mark B. Rosenberg
President
Florida International University



“Education is the bedrock of American Society. It is the great equalizer allowing individuals to rise to their full potential. It is vital that our students are given the opportunities they need in the K-12 classroom and beyond to higher education that will prepare them for success in the global marketplace. Our partnership with FIU is enabling us to provide many of those new opportunities and we are so proud of the successes we have had together.”

— Alberto Carvalho
Superintendent
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

As South Florida's public university and an anchor institution in Miami-Dade County, Florida International University is committed to providing access to a university education to everyone in our community who has the preparation, drive and determination to pursue a degree.

That is where our collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) comes in and ACCESS – Achieving Community Collaboration in Education and Student Success– comes to life. As an achievement-oriented partnership, ACCESS has enabled us to align our combined instructional, research and creative talents to improve the academic success of our K-12 students.

Chaired by the Superintendent of M-DCPS and the President of FIU, ACCESS is designed to improve student success in public schools, increase high school graduation and promote students' transition into higher education. It is made up of 19 strategic work groups, each with its own unique vision and goals, which are overseen by top leadership from M-DCPS and FIU.

We are making progress on all fronts.

In the beginning, we only had 425 public school students enrolled in FIU classes. Now there are more than 6,000 students from our community enrolled in more than 11,000 courses each year.

Instead of lamenting that many young people in our community do not have the skills to succeed at the university level, we are making sure they obtain those skills. We are proud to take responsibility for student success.

We created the Golden Scholars program, a summer bridge program through which we support students making the transition from high school to university life. We welcomed our first class of 39 Golden Scholars last summer and several are already making their mark inside and outside of the classroom, earning scholarships, leadership positions and top grades.

One of the cornerstones of ACCESS is The Education Effect at Miami Northwestern Senior High School where our faculty, staff and students are working to create a college-going culture and make it a district model for school transformation.

The initiative has helped the school achieve a "B" grade, up from a "D." The graduation rate increased from 64 to 76 percent and we have empowered more than 100 students with comprehensive skills in finance and investment through a customized financial literacy program.

ACCESS is an example of how we identified an issue of critical importance to our community – student success, which has social and economic implications for the future of our community – and we formed a partnership to find solutions.

Why is collaboration so vital?

Miami is home to the fourth largest school district in the nation and is regarded as the melting pot of the Americas. With 57 percent of residents being foreign born, the school district here serves students from 160 countries who speak 56 different languages.

We have an opportunity to position these unique attributes and diversity to develop a thriving and emerging metropolitan area and properly prepare our students for the challenges they face in higher education and in this global marketplace.



Ja'Brielle Reese from Miami Southridge Senior High School receives help from an FIU Mastery Math Lab learning assistant.

Work Groups



Articulation

FIU collaborates with M-DCPS teachers to help them improve students' foundational skills and knowledge for collegiate success. Goals include developing a strategic plan to increase dual enrollment in the sciences and other areas; continuing to offer professional development workshops to M-DCPS teachers; and including FIU professors in the review and revision of M-DCPS science guidelines.

Achievements

- FIU has made its Mastery Math Lab available to M-DCPS students on Saturdays.
- FIU has offered multiple professional development workshops and teacher training to M-DCPS teachers on subjects such as writing and rhetoric and science.

Pre-collegiate Preparation

Through innovative pipeline and summer enrichment programs, students acquire exposure to the college experience. This group aims to integrate FIU academic advisors with M-DCPS College Assistant Program (CAP) advisors and arrange for FIU academic advisors to visit high schools and raise students' interest in attending FIU.

Achievements

- Tutorial programs are in place throughout the school year and summer.
- Field trips to FIU are offered during the school year and summer.

Teacher Development in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

FIU offers pre- and in-service teacher preparation programs to ensure that teachers will have grounding in specific subject areas as well as pedagogical theory and practice. The group strives to increase elementary and middle school teacher participation in STEM certificate programs, as well as other professional development efforts.

Achievements

- FIU STEM certificate program has been implemented for K-8 teachers. Eighty-five teachers have enrolled.
- The group has successfully developed and implemented modeling professional development in the sciences.

Dual Enrollment

Through the Academy of Advanced Academics and classes offered in 38 public high schools, students enroll in FIU courses and receive both high school and college credit. This group's goals include expanding the professional development opportunities for M-DCPS dual enrollment teachers to become accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) so that they may continue to gain practical knowledge and insight into how to best prepare students for post-secondary education.

Achievements

- From Fall 2009 to Spring 2013, dual enrollment has expanded from 425 to more than 6,000 students, 16 to 127 courses, and 6 to 38 schools.
- M-DCPS and FIU have improved communication with dual enrollment students regarding access to FIU instructional resources, campus sporting/athletic events, gymnasium, on-campus plays and concerts.
- 196 M-DCPS teachers are now accredited by SACS, a required credential to teach college-level courses.



“Having FIU professors come out to the school challenged us a whole lot,” said Angie Fleuraissant, a 2012 graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School. “They were tough on us but they really prepared us for how it was going to be in college. They helped us think outside the box. They brought out our creative side.”

Angie Fleuraissant, 19, entered FIU through the Golden Scholars Summer Bridge Program. Because she took dual enrollment courses at Miami Northwestern Senior High School, she had 27 credits, almost enough to make her a sophomore. A biology major, Angie received a USDA scholarship and won second place in FIU’s Common Essay Contest.

The Education Effect

With funding from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, FIU and M-DCPS are developing a university-assisted community school at Miami Northwestern Senior High School that will focus on teacher preparation, health, safety, and parent and community engagement. Future goals include increased service-learning opportunities for FIU faculty and students; the creation and implementation of a strategic outreach plan to MNW feeder school and a conceptual map for sustainability and scalability of The Education Effect partnership.

Achievements

- Established the first Golden Scholars Summer Bridge Program in 2012 for 40 M-DCPS students. Thirty-nine successfully completed the program and started in Fall 2013 at FIU.
- Supported Miami Northwestern in achieving a “B” grade, up from its historical “D/F” grade
- Increased the percentage of students earning 3.0 GPA or above from 15 percent to 30 percent
- Increased graduation rates from 64 percent to 76 percent

Clinical Internships

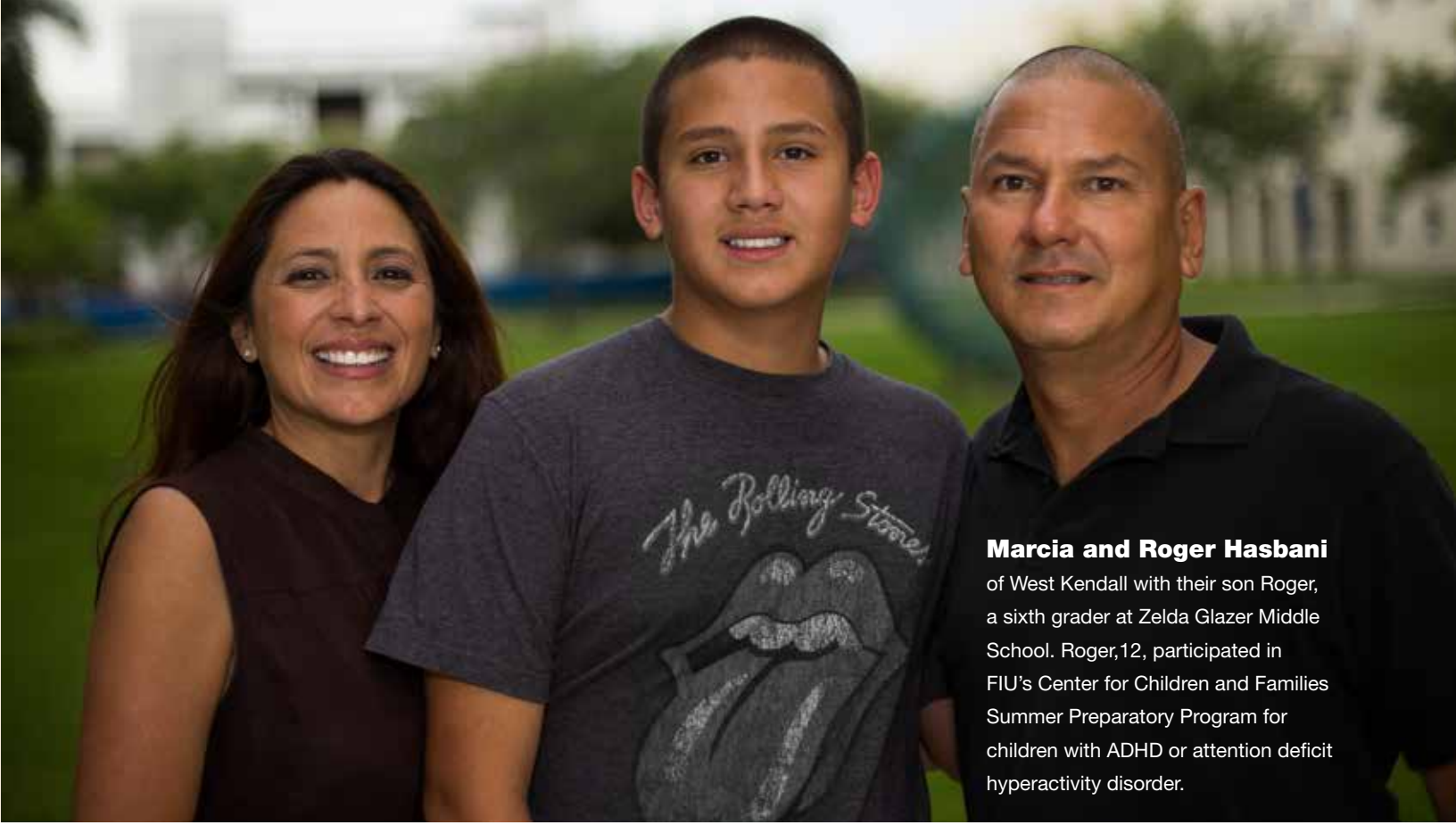
FIU students in speech language pathology, psychology, social work and other professional programs are placed in clinical training internships, with faculty supervision, at M-DCPS schools to deliver screening, intervention and treatment. Goals include identifying opportunities to train and certify M-DCPS special education teachers; identify internship opportunities for FIU students in various disciplines, including nursing, social work and counseling and identify and address barriers that impede internship placement.

Achievements

- FIU’s MS in Speech Language Pathology (SLP) has five student teams supervised by SLP faculty who conduct speech and hearing assessments and institute early interventions in M-DCPS schools.
- Internships in the FIU College of Education include science, music and social studies in M-DCPS elementary schools.

Collaborative Fundraising and Research

FIU and M-DCPS partner on a collaborative research agenda, share resources and develop evaluation methodologies and mechanisms to share and apply research results. The group seeks to identify outside funding sources to generate revenue for the partnership, including collaboration on National Science Foundation and other grants.



Marcia and Roger Hasbani of West Kendall with their son Roger, a sixth grader at Zelda Glazer Middle School. Roger, 12, participated in FIU's Center for Children and Families Summer Preparatory Program for children with ADHD or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

“One of my biggest fears was how would he make the transition from elementary to middle school,” Marcia Hasbani said. “He gets distracted so easily. Would he get lost? But he learned so much through FIU’s summer prep program – organization, time management, independence, structure – that he is able to do so many things now on his own. At his new school, he knew exactly where to go and what to do. And he is maintaining his grades, another outcome of the summer program.”

Disruptive Behavior, Violence Prevention, Social and Character Development

Researchers study the etiology, mechanisms and treatment of mental health and learning difficulties of children and adolescents. The initiative provides education and services for the families and professionals who work with them and seeks to obtain collaborative federal grants offer the program to more parents and children.

Achievements

- FIU’s Center for Children and Families offers a Summer Transition Program from pre-K to K for behaviorally and academically at-risk children, funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences.
- The Center for Children and Families is working on a project to evaluate a Summer Preparatory Program for middle and high school students with ADHD.
- FIU is working collaboratively with Morningside Elementary School to adapt a school-wide behavioral support program.

Medical Academy for Science and Technology (MAST) at Homestead

MAST at Homestead focuses on biomedical sciences, physical therapy and pharmaceutical sciences, with guidance and assistance from FIU. The program’s goals include increasing student participation in AP Science courses, introducing Dual Enrollment opportunities and developing student internship opportunities for MAST students at FIU in the medical and science fields.

Achievements

- Students from M-DCPS take field trips to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. The trips include tours, presentations and interactive exercises.
- The Annual FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Book Award is given at and end of the year awards assembly.

Matthew Hatcher and Emelyn Frederic celebrate their achievements at Miami Northwestern's Senior Awards Day.





“I am so excited to go to FIU,” said Emelyn Frederic, 18, who was accepted into the Golden Scholars Summer Bridge Program at FIU and plans to study biology. “They actually prepared me for college and showed me how it was going to be and how hard I’m going to have to work. I know it’s going to help me grow as a person.”

Arts and Culture

FIU and M-DCPS collaborate to increase and enrich Dual Enrollment offerings in arts and design, as well as offer customized M-DCPS faculty development opportunities.

Achievements

- The Design and Architecture Senior High School (DASH) partnership has expanded to include FIU Sculpture faculty.
- The College of Architecture and the Arts’ Office of Engaged Creativity successfully launched its “eco-art” collaborative project with 16 M-DCPS schools.

World Languages and Bilingual Education

FIU and M-DCPS collaborate to identify ways to better prepare teachers for bilingual education in the public school system. The group also seeks to develop an instrument or method to monitor the progress of M-DCPS Extended Foreign Language (EFL) program and develop strategies to better educate parents about the benefits of the EFL program in a globally competitive world.

Dual Enrollment - Impact of Accelerated Graduation

- FIU works with M-DCPS to attract Dual Enrollment students to apply to FIU, including exploring automatic admission, similar to what is offered to Academy for Advanced Academics (AAA) students. This initiative also seeks to assess the impact of Dual Enrollment on lower and upper division offerings.

“Our ACCESS partnership provides tremendous value to our faculty and students at FIU, as well as students and teachers at M-DCPS. We are delighted to work hand-in-hand with M-DCPS to strengthen the academic opportunities and accomplishments of our students.”

— Irma Becerra-Fernandez
Vice President for Engagement at FIU

New ACCESS working groups launched in 2013 include:

New Infrastructure and Technologies

The goal of this initiative is to develop the “classroom of the future” by identifying infrastructure needs to teach Dual Enrollment in science, evaluate synergies for shared data networking facilities between FIU and M-DCPS and identify internship and mentorship opportunities for technology/GIS schools and local technology companies.

Fostering Panther Pride

A program to support foster and homeless youth at FIU, Fostering Panther Pride plans to provide customized services for this student population to support and encourage their attainment of a college education. The initiative seeks to hire a full-time coordinator, establish a mentor program, partner with high schools that have high foster youth populations, identify funding sources and research potential housing opportunities.

One Community One Goal and Career Academy Linkages

FIU and M-DCPS will work together to align the Career Academies directly with academic programs in college, including the curricular and extracurricular components that will deepen the purpose of the academy. Ultimately, the Career Academies will align with the seven strategic areas of One Community One Goal.

Collaborative Communication

The goal of this initiative is to develop and share information regarding the partnership between FIU and M-DCPS, including newsletters, news stories, updated information on respective websites, parent outreach and activities where the partners can engage, i.e. football games, band participation, etc.

MAST at FIU/Biscayne Bay Campus

Following the highly successful MAST magnet school model at Virginia Key, Hialeah and Homestead, MAST@FIU will emphasize the sciences and leverage leading FIU faculty in the School of Environment, Arts and Society to enrich the students’ learning experience. This partnership will support State objectives to have more and better qualified STEM graduates in Florida and builds on the successful partnership FIU and MDCPS have enjoyed over the past several years. MAST at FIU/Biscayne Bay Campus will open in August 2013.

Project Panther Life

Project Panther Life is an effort to provide a comprehensive postsecondary transition program and a system of support to students with intellectual disabilities (ID) that will result in a certificate and the achievement of meaningful and relevant employment. Goals include the recruitment, preparation and retention of students with ID that meet project eligibility criteria. The successful completion of the program by students with ID and the paid employment of students with ID are the expected outcomes.

Accounting

The goal of this initiative is to expand opportunities for M-DCPS students from Finance and Accounting academies to successfully transition into the FIU Accounting Program. This includes exploring the opportunity of a Summer Bridge program for M-DCPS students entering FIU in 2014-2015, professional development opportunities at FIU for M-DCPS teachers from Finance and Accounting Academies and potentially guaranteeing access for M-DCPS students to the FIU Masters of Accounting Program through successful completion of the undergraduate program and the Accounting Entry Exam.

access in action

6,000 Students who participated in dual enrollment in 2013 – up from 425 in 2009.

2,300 M-DCPS counselors, psychologists and staff trained in classroom management by faculty from the FIU Center for Children and Families.

300 M-DCPS teachers and administrators who were able to pursue advanced degrees at FIU because of external grants secured by the university.

5 FIU Speech Language Pathology teams in M-DCPS conducting speech and hearing evaluations of students to help diagnose and treat disorders.

50 High school students enrolled in the year-round Upward Bound Math and Science program that prepares students for STEM careers.

100,000 Students who will graduate from FIU in the next decade – most of whom will remain in our community and enter the local work force. Of these, about 68,000 will come from M-DCPS.

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This is a report of our goals and accomplishments as of Fall 2013.

To find out more information about the ACCESS programs,
donate or get involved, please contact the FIU Office of Engagement
or the M-DCPS Office of the Superintendent.

Office of Engagement

Vice President Irma Becerra-Fernandez
Florida International University
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 S.W. 8th Street – PC 100
Miami, FL 33199
P: 305-348-7752
F: 305-348-4334
E: engage@fiu.edu
<http://engagement.fiu.edu>

Office of the Superintendent

Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue – Suite 912
Miami, FL 33132
P: 305-995-1430
F: 305-995-1488
E: superintendent'soffice@dadeschools.net
<http://superintendent.dadeschools.net>



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