Academic Leaders Council Update

Members

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- Roslyn Artis, President, Florida Memorial University
- Linda Bevilacqua, President, Barry University
- Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Franklyn Casale, President, St. Thomas University
- Eduardo Padrón, President, Miami Dade College
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Talent Development Network (TDN)

The TDN is a regional talent development internship program that will provide undergraduate and graduate students meaningful work experience with industry partners, aligned with the OCOG seven target industries. This initiative will reinforce the OCOG goal of retaining talent in South Florida and more strategically aligning academia and industry.

- The Miami Foundation will provide seed funding on a matching basis to support a two-year pilot program. Funding will support staff and infrastructure to develop and implement:
  - Comprehensive employer education program about internships
  - Technology infrastructure to match students and prospective employers
  - Industry/educational partnerships to inform curriculum development
- The program requires the support of industry partners to contribute financially ($5,000) and by establishing two paid internship positions.
  - Current sponsors include - American Airlines, Baptist Health South Florida, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County District 11, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Shaffer Foundation.
  - Supporting TDN will provide industry partners valuable return on their investment through employer education and assistance in the development, recruitment and implementation of meaningful internships. Additionally, partners will be engaged with higher education institutions in new ways to help shape curriculum to better reflect current trends and industry needs.
- The design of a Request for Proposal for the technological infrastructure has been informed by meetings with FIU’s Office of Engagement and Division of Information Technology, IT representatives from each of the other academic institutions, The Beacon Council, Baptist Health South Florida and SherlockTech.
The Educational Ecosystem: New Challenges

The Academic Leaders Council is an advisory body to the One Community One Goal (OCOG) Initiative. It is charged with monitoring and focusing public and private education institutions in Miami-Dade County around the seven key sectors of the county’s economy that are major drivers of job creation.

The ALC is now in its second full year of deliberations. New and expanded degree and training programs have been planned and implemented as a consequence of OCOG directives. The ALC has asked the Beacon Council to collaborate in the development of internships for students at all levels of the educational spectrum to foster their success in their chosen vocations or career pursuits. Thanks to The Miami Foundation and organizations around the county, a new Talent Development Initiative is now in the works that will provide a pipeline and placement system for would-be interns with eligible organizations following the OCOG approach.

Two challenges that will impact prospects for student success require attention from the business community. There is consensus that each of these challenges has the potential to derail forward momentum for OCOG with significant impact on the entire educational delivery system of our community. What are these challenges?

At the state level, one recent legislative initiative could have negative unintended consequences on both high school and college completion in our community.

Policy FS 100953, promulgated in 2010, but now on the cusp of full implementation, will hurt thousands of Miami-Dade County students who will lose support from the merit scholarship program, Bright Futures.

For the 2014 academic year, the qualifications for a Bright Futures Award will eliminate nearly 75% of those new students who might previously have been eligible. In all likelihood, these students will either need to seek funding elsewhere, reduce their progress toward a degree, and/or take on more debt to underwrite their college costs. Under any scenario, the progress we are making in fostering a more economic development responsive set of educational institutions will be lost as a consequence of the cost-shifting that will take place with reduced support from Bright Futures.

The financial-support-for-eligible students puzzle is further complicated by the Federal penchant to cut Pell Grant support as a consequence of Federal deficit challenges. So far, summer support for Pell has been eliminated, hurting communities such as ours where numerous institutions of higher education are always offering classes, even during the summer. Pell eligibility has been reduced from 18 semesters to 12 semesters (many of our students cannot afford full-time study and need more than 12 semesters to graduate); and criteria for full Pell Awards (up to $5,600) are making it more difficult for needy students to be fully awarded the funding they need to graduate. At FIU alone, nearly 800 current financial aid applicants have two semesters or less left in PELL eligibility and may not be able to complete their degree due to lack of funds.

The urban and international nature of our education system in Miami-Dade County assures that we will always have a demographic that may need more time to graduate, either because prior education preparation was limited, or because our students choose to work, or they must work to support their families.

Under any scenario for our students, the new laws regarding dual enrollment and Bright Futures have negative implications for enhancing student success in Miami-Dade County. Coupled with reductions to and forthcoming changes to Pell, we could be confronting the “proverbial perfect storm” for our students, with or without the One Community One Goal boost.

Action is needed and now.

Prepared by: President Mark B. Rosenberg, FIU
FIU Actions on Target Industries

Creative Design

School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC)
• Organized the first Media Arts Film Festival (MAFF) in March 2013. The next festival is scheduled for June 2014 - a showcase for video, design and media arts projects by FIU students, alumni, faculty and staff.
• Expanding its Digital Media major, with the addition of new students and partnership opportunities, including new partnerships with the digital content divisions at Univision and Discovery Channel. Students are currently interning and working at both companies.

College of Architecture + The Arts (CARTA)
• Signed a new partnership with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCCL) on December 10, 2013. RCCL will build a 130,000 square-foot production, rehearsal and performance facility at the Biscayne Bay campus (BBC). RCCL will provide CARTA with 10 internships per year, master classes and guest lectures. The Department of Theatre along with other CARTA departments will begin offering advanced courses at the state-of-the-art facility.
• Received a Knight Foundation Challenge Grant to grow its Discover Design in South Beach (DD@SoBe) career program. CARTA seeks to be a thought leader and solutions center by developing the next generation of creative thinkers through its summer career discovery program centered on professions in the arts and design for Miami’s high school students.
• A team of design faculty are co-principal investigators on the UniversityCity Prosperity Project, which involves the design and construction of pedestrian-oriented, multimodal and intermodal improvements that will link the City of Sweetwater and FIU and provide a healthy and enriched environment for living, working and learning. As envisioned, The UniversityCity Prosperity Project unites FIU and Sweetwater in an effort to support long-term prosperity in a balanced and sustainable community.
• Continuing its collaboration with YoungArts by having its design faculty serve as founding co-directors of YoungArts’ new design arts program. This new focus area will bring the nation’s best and brightest young creative thinkers to Miami for master classes in the design disciplines every year and expose Miami as a global design capital to these future thought leaders in design arts.

College of Engineering and Computing Sciences (CEC)
• Received United States Department of Transportation funding for the Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center (ABC-UTC).
• Currently monitors Miami-Dade County’s first smart highway bridge at the 826/836 interchange.
Hospitality and Tourism

Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (CSHT)
- Partnered with Diageo to launch *Learning Skills for Life*, to offer job readiness training, certifications and internship opportunities in the hospitality industry to unemployed and underemployed South Floridians. This program is the first of its kind in the United States.
- Launched the Institute for Hospitality and Tourism Management’s Culinary Arts Academy Level 1 Culinary Arts Certificate program in January 2014 with 12 students. This program is designed specifically for individuals who are interested in receiving essential skills and knowledge in the culinary arts in order to obtain entry-level career opportunities in restaurants, hotels and cruise ships.
- The *Plant it Forward* program, led by Dr. Maria Lovett from the Office of Engagement and College of Education and Mr. Mark D’Alessandro from CSHT, expands science, culinary arts, engineering and welding in conjunction with the Aquaponics Lab and Organic Garden at Miami Northwestern Senior High School (MNW). In collaboration with FIU faculty and students, students from MNW will construct three bicycle powered blenders, a mobile fresh food cart and provide cooking and nutrition lessons to neighborhood schools and community sites.

Information Technology

Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work (RSCPHSW)
- Established the Integrated Biostatistics Laboratory. The laboratory is preparing, with the College of Engineering and Computing Science, to become a repository for large health and social welfare datasets.

College of Engineering and Computing Sciences (CEC)
- Together with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The Beacon Council produced a CodeFest Event in celebration of the Hour of Code in December 2013.
- The CEC Discovery Lab and its telebot were showcased by Discovery Channel and *The Miami Herald* for the impact they have had on innovation and the IT ecosystem.
- Started classes with its first cohort of 10 students of Professional Master of Science in Information Technology in January 2014.
International Banking and Finance

College of Business (COB)

- Expanding the Department of Finance Certificate in International Banking, which is currently taught in Panama and the Dominican Republic, to other Latin American countries. Courses were offered in Honduras in September 2013 and in Nicaragua in October 2013. Additional programs are under development for 2014.

- The Department of Finance in collaboration with the Florida International Bankers Association (FIBA) currently offers a certificate in anti-money laundering. The courses are taught online and in the classroom in both English and Spanish; there was a session on January 16, 2014, and the next session will be on March 14, 2014; 278 students have enrolled so far this academic year. They are also planning to also offer certificates in private banking and international trade.

Life Sciences and Health Care

The Education Effect

- In October, as part of The Education Effect, FIU’s partnership with Miami Northwestern Senior High School, the school celebrated the grand opening of an Aquaponics Lab - the largest of its kind in Miami-Dade County - created to help students learn biology, chemistry and science in a hands-on way. The lab has two levels of herbs, vegetables and edible plants on scaffolding and a six-foot-deep water container beneath that to raise tilapia. Water cycles from the fish to the plants, carrying the nutrients from one to the other.

As part of Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF)

- Collaborating with BioFlorida for its inaugural Latin America and Caribbean Life Sciences Conference which will take place at FIU’s Modesto Maidique Campus (MMC) on March 28, 2014.

- Planning the Second Annual LSSF STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium which will take place at FIU’s MMC on April 12, 2014.
  - Fundraising is underway; support has been requested of all LSSF members.
  - Dr. Susan Webster from the Division of Research is leading the planning and coordination of the event.

- Monthly webinars continue to be held on the third Tuesday of each month. January’s webinar featured Dr. Gene A. Lang from the law firm, Saliwanchik, Lloyd and Eisenschenk. The February webinar will feature Dr. Richard A. Houghten from Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies.
Life Sciences and Health Care (continued)

College of Law
- Offers a certificate in Intellectual Property Law. Intellectual property law is relevant to business and global trade and intersects with a number of other fields, including human rights, public health and global development.

Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work (RSCPHSW)
- Partnering with local healthcare organizations to implement health and social welfare outcome assessments. An important part of these assessments is an investigation of the economic consequences of initiatives to improve health and social welfare.

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM)
- Continues to expand the Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP (NeighborhoodHELP), a unique approach to community-based, health profession education and health care that incorporates a household-centered approach into a health care delivery model to improve health outcomes of underserved populations in North Miami-Dade County and train future members of the South Florida health care workforce. As of November 2013, the program has delivered comprehensive primary health care services to 361 households through 916 visits by the Mobile Health Center.
- Launched the NeighborhoodHELP Clinical Collaborative funded by an appropriation from the Florida Legislature, which is a collaborative initiative between FIU Health, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, and the community to establish a community-based integrated health care system.

College of Engineering and Computing Sciences (CEC)
- Department of Biomedical Engineering organized a research day with the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation to assess the commercialization of its various patented or patentable devices and products.
- Together with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs they are developing an advanced retinal implant that could restore sight for the blind.
- Collaborating with the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine to show how a new ovarian cancer treatment succeeds in the lab.
Trade and Logistics

College of Engineering and Computing Sciences (CEC)
- Expanding the Master of Science in Engineering Management with different tracks, including enterprise systems, systems engineering, entrepreneurship and logistics. Work is also underway for a fully online program.

FIU Actions on Business Environment Recommendations

Education and Workforce Development

Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work (RSCPHSW)
- The Department of Health Policy and Management and the Department of Public Administration are exploring opportunities to enhance training in Public Health Management and Administration in the Caribbean and Latin America. The departments are developing Spanish language online programs for public health and public administration professionals.

College of Business (COB)
- Presented a Faculty Development Seminar to approximately 40 educators from Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) as part of the ACCESS initiative, on November 14, 2013. The School of Accounting faculty has agreed to work with M-DCPS faculty to reorganize their curriculum plan.
Entrepreneurship and Innovation

College of Business (COB)

- The Department of Finance will stimulate entrepreneurship by hosting its annual Americas Venture Capital Conference (AVCC) as a part of part of the Technology Foundation of the Americas’ eMerge Americas Conference in Miami in May 2014. AVCC brings innovative firms seeking venture capital funding together with sources of funding in one location. AVCC has assisted innovative companies from South Florida and Latin America in raising more than $40 million.

School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC)

- Secured a $90,000 grant to start the Media Innovation Incubator Lab (MIIL) at BBC. Dr. Susan Jacobson is working with students on different projects, including a Media App Development Class to be offered in Spring 2014.
- DotMIA, an event which occurred on campus in October 2013, in partnership with MasterCard Latin America. At this event, 40 MasterCard employees were partnered with 19 FIU students (including groups from SJMC and College of Business), to develop innovative projects aimed at responding to eight challenges posed by MasterCard. The winning project, a convenient "all-in-one" University ID card for college students will be developed as a prototype by MasterCard.

College of Engineering and Computing Sciences (CEC)

- Launched its first graduate course on Commercialization Innovation in January 2014 with 24 students. The course is taught by an expert in entrepreneurship and innovation.

Development Marketing

College of Business (COB)

- Department of Finance’s network of 23 dual-degree partner institutions with which they collaborate with on programs that allow students to immerse themselves into two different academic and cultural environments is expanding. Dual Degree Network partners include the top business schools in Latin America, Europe and Asia. Nineteen dual-degree international students, including 13 from Guatemala (Master of Science in International Real Estate), five from other Latin American countries (Master of International Business) and one from Morocco (Master of Science in Finance), joined the Chapman Graduate School of Business in January 2014.