

# **FIU Alumni & Students**

Dear editor:

I've been reading about FIU and the Fair in your paper the last few months, and I wanted to share my story and why I think as voters we should do everything possible to support FIU - my alma mater.

I grew up in Hialeah. An A student at Hialeah Miami Lakes, the only school I applied to was FIU. My family was here and I needed their support and they needed mine, financially and emotionally. The education I received was top notch. Professors provided hands on experience in ways few universities do. For 15 years, I've had a successful career in construction as a manager. More often than not, I hire FIU graduates because they're the best candidate.

My point is simple. FIU provides South Floridians an amazing education. I read about alumni in your own paper all the time and I can't imagine denying other bright students the opportunity to attend the university. We can't say there's a brain drain in Miami and do nothing to change that. FIU needs to grow. It needs room for more labs and classrooms. It needs the support of people who want to see this community flourish.

Let's get our priorities straight.

Respectfully,



Georgia Aguila  
Class of 1996 and 2000

August 27, 2014

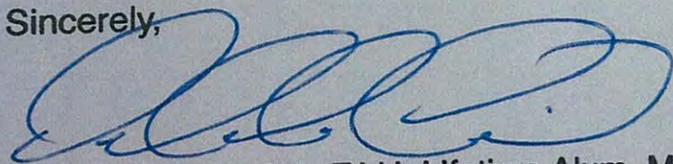
In 1995 I was an incoming freshman within Florida International University's Super Summer Program. It was designed to give an opportunity to students who otherwise wouldn't have been accepted. Fortunately for me my alma mater saw my potential and took a leap of faith on me. They granted me the privilege of seeking higher education at F.I.U. where I then became student body president and graduated with a Finance Degree. Needless to say years later I'm still indebted and appreciative to them for helping me find myself and surpassing my potential.

You might be asking yourself, how does the previously mentioned pertain to the University's expansion into the current Fairgrounds? Well the answer is simple, Florida International has been providing quality education to our community for years and will continue to do so for years to come. Furthermore, they will continue to provide opportunities such as the ones afforded to me. Hence further developing ethical and well educated community leaders who will give back to South Florida. An educational institution as one can observe is much more than a bunch of buildings. It's apart of our community's fabric and we must do everything possible to insure generations to come have a University where all their needs will be met and expectations surpassed.

So now I ask you, how will our community benefit the most? I encourage our local leaders to relocate the Fairgrounds to any of the 3 proposed sites and allow F.I.U. to further satisfy the educational needs of our community. I assure you, Florida International University will make better use of the land and will give us all more to be proud of.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Orlando Amorin", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Orlando Amorin '01, F.I.U. Lifetime Alum, Miami Beach, FL

Aug. 22, 2014

Dear Commissioner Jordan,

My family recently moved into your district. This is where my wife and I plan to raise our children and live for many decades to come. I know you and your fellow commissioners are making some important decisions about the future of my alma mater, FIU, and I wanted to share my story.

I left my home country 13 years ago in search of a better life in the United States. Like many immigrants in South Florida, I was a professional in my country, but here I had to start over again. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to earn a master's degree from Florida International University, an experience that helped me obtain valuable skills that served me well when I subsequently launched a new career.

Today I am a father of two and when I think of my children's future, I am glad that we have an institution like FIU in our community, providing opportunities for our young people to learn and prosper, as well as giving a new generation of immigrants the tools they need to achieve the American dream.

That is why I support FIU's plans to expand. It's great that you and your fellow commissioners have supported FIU's efforts to move to the land next to their Maidique Campus. I hope you will continue to show leadership in allowing us, the people of Miami-Dade County, to vote yes to FIU's expansion.

Sincerely,



Jorge Archilla, M.S. '10  
6121 NW 176 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33015

8/8/14

To the editor:

As a current Miami-Dade resident I am writing to urge other residents to show their support for my alma mater, FIU.

Both my wife and I got our bachelor's degrees from FIU. My hope is that one day my future children will be able to attend.

Like FIU provided me with a great education, it does so for thousands of students every year. The service they give to our community is invaluable. FIU is an anchor institution for Miami-Dade County providing thousands of residents with jobs and helping educate our youth.

They need the land next to the main campus to be able to expand not only literally but metaphorically. Let them expand; expand the services they offer to our community.

FIU deserves all of our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Malta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

8/8/14

To the editor:

I am writing to you to in support of FIU and their plans to expand onto the land adjacent to their main campus. FIU's expansion is about our community's needs.

According to the 2013 United States Census Bureau, Miami Dade County has a population of 2.6 million people. Out of our total population, only 26.3% of people have a bachelor's degree. Compare that to Boston's 43.4%, New York's 34.0% and San Francisco's 52.0%.

Furthermore, 20.8% of our population is under the age of 18. This means that 540,000 kids are going to be graduating from high school in the coming years.

FIU is Miami's four-year public university. It is among the nation's top 10 largest universities and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the state. However, it has the least acreage of all the state universities. FIU's expansion is question of necessity. It is about being able to keep up with the demand and service our community.

As a proud alumna, I must support FIU's endeavor.

Sincerely,

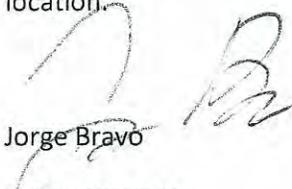
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Erin Kelly', written in a cursive style.

RE: Dade County Fair

Dear Commissioner Diaz:

As a two-time graduate of FIU, I am happy to see that the Miami-Dade Commission supports FIU's efforts to expand into the fairgrounds. FIU is a beacon of opportunity in our community, and it deserves all of our support to keep feeding the economic engine and supporting entrepreneurship. I have enjoyed going to the fair since I was a kid, but I don't mind driving to a different location to enjoy the rides and the elephant ears once a year. FIU really needs this land adjacent to its campus to serve its students and the community. The fair, on the other hand, can move to any number of locations. The fair is a seasonal operation, but FIU serves the community year-round.

I hope all sides can come to an agreement that allows FIU to expand and the fair to continue at another location.



Jorge Bravo

13217 NW 8 St

Miami FL 33182

**August 29, 2014**

Dear Mr. Suarez,

First, let me thank you for your good work and ideas.

I laud you for your support of our County's investment in infrastructure. A good example is the effort behind our Libraries and their better financing!

I want you to note my support for FIU's expansion.

We have a need to do well by our County and its higher learning and research institutions.

I support FIU and UM every year with time and treasure.

I believe that FIU's past and recent administrators have done an incredible job in managing limited resources and have created a great launching platform for an ever improving state research University.

They need space, and quickly!

We have a great opportunity in keeping our talented students in Miami Dade County, and we will be able to do so to the extent that we support improvements and expansion in our growing state University.

Please vote in support of FIU's expansion and help expedite the proposed annexation of land to the Tamiami Campus.

Time is of the essence, we need to keep our talent in South Florida and attract the best students from Florida and beyond. Our local economy needs a well designed and continuously improving research University and this space will allow for such an orderly expansion.

Please vote in support of the expansion and help speed up the process so that we do not miss the Baby Boom Kaboom!

We face a bulging University age demographic, let us do right for ourselves!

Saludos

Digno Caballero

Alumnus

August 15, 2014

To the Honorable Mayor Gimenez and Honorable Miami-Dade County Commissioners:

I write as president of FIU's Student Government Association at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in order to express my support for FIU's expansion into the 86 acres adjacent to the main campus.

For our shared constituents, more than 54,000 students, most of whom work and live in Miami-Dade County, the fairground's 86 acres symbolize our future. As our university offers more opportunity to us and the community, it is natural for FIU to expand in order to provide greater educational accessibility to meet the needs of our current students and of future Panthers.

More than any university in the nation, FIU is a reflection of its local community. We are diverse, vibrant; bursting with dreamers and doers working hard every day to make better lives in South Florida. Over the next decade, 100,000 students will graduate from FIU.

FIU believes in, builds up, and expands the horizons of our community members; challenging and empowering them to reach their highest potential.

It is now Miami-Dade County's turn to do the same for FIU.

Together, we can lift higher the beacon of upward mobility. With an expansion, many more of our community members will be able to benefit from greater access to higher education and from thousands of new, high quality jobs in Miami-Dade County.

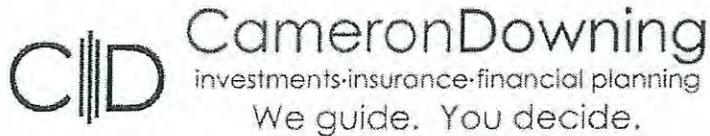
FIU's expansion has a much greater significance for our community than just having to find the fair a new home. Hand-in-hand, we are investing in our future, the future of Miami-Dade County, and the highest good of our citizens.

Expand FIU!



Sincerely,

Alexis Calatayud  
SGA-MMC President  
10865 SW 136 Terr 33176 Miami, FL  
305-877-9828



Jonathan G. Cameron, CFP®  
Registered Representative, Investment Adviser Representative  
Equity Services, Inc.

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Dear Miami Herald:

As an FIU Alumnus (2007), I'm writing to support the proposed FIU expansion into the neighboring Fairgrounds. I don't want to talk about potential job creation, or FIU's main campus currently being the smallest among the 10 traditional state universities in Florida, or the inefficient use of the County-owned, 86-acre property, which only houses the Fair a few weeks out of the year. No: This is about the future of our Miami-Dade community.

It is an exciting time to live in Miami-Dade, as we quickly grow into a world-class place to live, work, and play. The decisions we make now will have a lasting effect on our future identity. We have the opportunity to become a city that is a preferred destination for the brightest minds in the world. Let's give FIU, and ourselves, a chance to be the World City we know we can be.

Best Regards,

Jonathan G. Cameron, Alumnus 2007  
*FIU English Alumni Board, Member*  
*FIU Honors College Community Advisory Board, Co-Chair*  
*FIU Honors College Alumni Chapter, President*

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## **Supporting FIU's Expansion**

The pride that I feel as an FIU alumnus for its research and academic growth is immense! All of my four siblings and I graduated from this fine institution and we simply cannot believe how it has transformed into such an amazing place. This fall, my daughter and my nephew started their journey as freshmen and they simply love it!

I wholeheartedly support FIU's expansion so that more of our youth can also have the opportunity of obtaining such a superior education. The impact this will create economically and intellectually will be enormous in our region and beyond.

I am confident that the Youth Fair officials, FIU and the county will find a suitable new location for the beloved fair and that they will all work together in a solution to the logistics and relocation timing. This is a great opportunity for both to thrive!

Claudia Cancio  
August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
4611 SW 156 Place  
Miami, FL 33185  
(786) 514-0674

August 27, 2014

Good Morning All:

Respectfully, As a long-time observer/citizen/advocate, community leader---at various levels of political/professional Governance, a long-time higher education Professional Engineering Professor at FIU--including my recent FIU/M-DCPS involvement in the "Education Effect" initiatives at the Booker T. Washington Senior High School, and my other ongoing contributions to the growing FIU Dual Enrollment (DE), and Global Learning (GL) initiatives and related community benefits, and as a resident/property-owner of our Miami-Dade County, Florida, I can definitively state that FIU is simply the "best game, institution/resource" that there is in this South Florida community, in several areas/attributes/offerings----all based on my own diverse/personal knowledge/observation/experience ( <http://www.allstar.fiu.edu/aero/carnegie/htm> ). These diverse FIU areas/attributes/offerings include but are not necessarily limited to our community's best/improving: health, safety, welfare, education, business/economic/marketing, technological, science, social, sports/entertainment, hospitality/tourism, ethics/citizenship/values, cultural issues, legal/justice, politics, transportation, engineering, aesthetics, environmental/climate-change---including FIU's ongoing leading edge hurricane research efforts and related safety solutions; and in so many other critically important, and positively/impactful human/societal areas!! For all of these foregoing real reasons, and for the future positive growth/development of our citizens/communities, we all now need to observe and reflect on all of the positive benefits that FIU brings to this community, and to fully assist in and to fully support FIU's expansion into the Miami-Dade County Fair's/Park's Grounds Initiatives/Efforts---pursuant to realizing the true and total and sustainable value/benefit of the FIU's Worlds Ahead Effects/Brands.

Respectfully submitted.

Dr. Claudius A. Carnegie, Ph.D., Ed. D., P.Eng., P. E., M-ASCE, M-ASEE, M-ASME, CMR, CIE, M-ASHRAE;

CARNEGIE ENTERPRISES, LLC,

Entrepreneur, Professional Engineer (P. E., P. Eng.), Commercial Pilot, and Engineering Professor.

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O: 305-542-5883;

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March 15, 2014

Honorable Commissioners:

As an FIU Alumni and a mother, who has a daughter attending FIU, I am writing to express my sincere appeal for you to review the associated facts relative to the land adjacent to FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus. It is of great importance to my daughter's future and the greater public purpose that this land is approved and that FIU receives the necessary funding it needs to continue to grow this vital educational institution for our community.

As I understand it, the University currently serves 53,000 students. I know that with the current demand for world-class quality higher-education that number will increase exponentially over the next few years. FIU has done a great job of maximizing the use of their existing space on the campus but it needs additional land, in order to continue meeting the needs of the South Florida community and the international student base it serves. Providing affordable world-class education with the appropriate facilities to both local and international students, as well as previous students looking to further develop their existing foundations with Master and PhD level programs, this translates into increased economic revenue streams for the South Florida economy. It will also attract and help retain global companies that will want to hire students graduating from FIU.

FIU's expansion will bring an investment of \$900 million in construction to our South Florida community with an economic impact of \$1.8 billion. Moreover, it will have an annual recurring economic impact of \$541 million. It will create a substantial number of new jobs and stimulate economic opportunity.

The land will also allow FIU to expand academic and research space with an emphasis in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, to include much needed classrooms, labs and office space. It will create partnership space to promote the academic and research mission of the university with a focus on economic development for our South Florida community. It will support significant entrepreneurship as well as the commercialization of scientific and research studies.

Most importantly, as a partner to the largest and most prosperous healthcare systems in the state of Florida, Baptist Health, this additional land will accelerate the development of a necessary Medical Center on the campus. A vital and important provision for our aging population in South Florida and for international executives seeking world-class quality health care from a region that serves as the gateway to Latin America.

I ask that you please understand how imperative it is for us as parents of our students currently enrolled in programs at FIU and for the future of our growing global population locally, that FIU receives the funding and land it needs to continue growing the educational excellence of our community.

Elizabeth Cross

Head of Marketing and Communications for the State of Florida

FIU Alum

July 24, 2014

The Miami Herald  
Miami, Florida.  
Via e-mail to [HeraldEd@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:HeraldEd@MiamiHerald.com)

### **"Letter to the Editor"**

As a member of the Miami-Dade community, an FIU's student and father of three, I want to thank the County Commissioners, Mayor Gimenez, and his staff for the support to the FIU's growth.

Education is always the engine of innovation, progress and the driver for a better society. Since 54,000 students attended to FIU, this past spring, and those numbers are rising, the need for space to allocate more students is just obvious.

FIU is facing a great momentum and the time to act is now! If we do not embrace this ambitious project, we should be losing a great opportunity, not only in regards the university momentum, but in regards of the upcoming positive repercussion in the future of our heirs.

Our children, and the children of our children, and so on, will look forward for better education in order to succeed in an always evolving, more competitive and globalized environment. Following that line, supporting the FIU's expansion, it is just the best strategic decision we can make today.

Best decisions don't come easy. Next to FIU we find "The Fair", which it is an icon for our community and holds many memories for so many families. But FIU's expansion does not mean that our beloved "Fair" should disappear. In contrast, FIU's expansion should be the best opportunity for "The Fair" evolution, so we don't have to decide which institution to support, but how to improve the strategic vision of both

Best regards,



Carlos A. De Armas  
Florida International University  
Master of International Business Student  
Home address: 9350 S.W. 118 Place, Miami, FL 33186  
Ph. 786-602-6085  
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August 26, 2014

To the Editor:

As a businessman, I see FIU's proposed expansion into the Youth Fair grounds as good business. It makes sense for the nation's 7<sup>th</sup> largest university and it certainly makes sense for South Florida. My wife is a proud FIU alumni as are many of my friends and family members- all are success stories who owe their careers and livelihoods to Miami's only public university.

I support FIU and urge our elected leaders at County Hall to do the same!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Cabada'.

Ramon de la Cabada

August 28, 2014

The Miami Herald  
Office of the Editor  
Miami, Fl

FIU Expansion to the Miami Dade County Fair Grounds can Make Dreams Come True

Dear Editor,

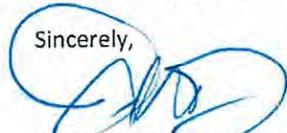
Six Diaz Family children have all successfully become first generation college graduates thanks to Florida International University. As one of those Diaz siblings, I write to you to express how important it is for FIU to continue to expand the educational opportunities for others like me.

In my Marketing Research class at FIU my professor, Dr Nicholls, listened carefully to my interest to one day start my own business. He recommended that I participate in an internship with a local business leader in South Florida who wanted to help and to get to know young potential business people. I successfully completed my internship, and was asked to continue on with the company. I grew through the ranks, and eventually I became the General Manager of the organization. Eight years ago, the company was sold, and I resigned to start my own company and to fulfill the dream that Dr Nicholls and FIU had help me to begin.

Thanks to the education and business foundation I gained through my degree in Marketing and International business, I successfully founded Compass Office Solutions in Feb of 2006. Today, Compass employs 15 full time, high paid South Floridians. We have conducted 4 internships for young University students that have all gone on to very successful new careers of their own. We subcontract hundreds of hourly employees every month. We serve to help grow the South Florida business community through our contributions to the Greater Miami Chamber, Coral Gables Chamber, and Greater Ft Lauderdale Alliance. We serve on the FIU Alumni Board, FIU President's Council and School of Business Circle. We love helping to make South Florida a great place to live and conduct business.

I am sure there are many South Floridians, like me, that will make their dreams come true with the new opportunities that the expansion of FIU into the Miami Dade County Fair Ground will allow. Let's continue our support of our Great South Florida Educational Institutions and support the future success of many future Golden Panthers. Let's help Make our future Dreams Come true!

Sincerely,



Jose Manuel Diaz, Principal

**Compass**  
A Better Way

3320 Enterprise Way  
Miramar, Florida 33025-3939

Tel (954) 430 4590  
Fax (954) 430 4591

I have lived 36 of my 39 years in Westchester, so the Youth Fair dominates my childhood memories. Now, as a father, the Fair continues to provide meaning: I swell up with pride as I see my sons' artworks on display in the Exhibit halls, and I take joy in seeing them "brave" the same rides I loved so many years ago.

As important as these memories are, I cannot place a price on my English degree from Florida International University's College of Arts and Sciences. Even more importantly, the value of FIU to the future of my three children is immeasurable. College affordability and high-quality education are drivers of today's post-secondary education system and FIU is primed to provide both to today's students. But how can the University continue to creatively and efficiently educate its students in six years (for my twelve year old) or in thirteen years (for my four year old)? The answer depends greatly on FIU's ability to evolve.

That is why the proposed 86-acre expansion into the Fair Grounds is vital, particularly to a County in perpetual evolution. This expansion will allow FIU to continue on its path to becoming the best (and most affordable) incubator of jobs and leaders for this community.

To be clear: I do not advocate the demise of the Youth Fair. I believe the Youth Fair must and will remain vital to this community, even when moved to a new location.

Yet this community needs a robust, thriving FIU. It needs an institution that will provide quality affordable education to the thousands of students enrolling each year, for years to come. That is why I recommend this community get behind FIU's proposed 86 acre expansion. As FIU grows and prospers, so too will our community.

**Subject:** Fwd: FIU 86 Acre Expansion  
**Date:** Monday, August 4, 2014 at 11:36:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Madeline Baro  
**To:** Isabel Gamarra, Marlen Mursuli

Sent from Samsung tablet

----- Original message -----

**From:** JoAnn Adkins <jadkins@fiu.edu>  
**Date:** 08/04/2014 10:32 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Madeline Baro <mbaro@fiu.edu>  
**Cc:** Maydel Santana-Bravo <santanam@fiu.edu>, Terry Witherell <witherel@fiu.edu>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FIU 86 Acre Expansion

Another letter from English alumni. I'm following up to ensure he sends to commissioner and mayor.  
Best,  
Jo

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "William C. Diaz-Rousselot" <wcdr43@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 4, 2014 at 9:37:32 PM EDT  
**To:** <jadkins@fiu.edu>, "James M. Sutton" <suttonj@fiu.edu>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FIU 86 Acre Expansion

Good evening. I have forwarded the attached letter to the Herald's editor. I tried to get it to 150 words or less ('tried' being the operative word). I hope the letter does FIU - and the Department - proud.

Sincerely,

William

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** William C. Diaz-Rousselot <wcdr43@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 4, 2014 at 9:32 PM  
**Subject:** FIU 86 Acre Expansion  
**To:** [Heralded@miamiherald.com](mailto:Heralded@miamiherald.com)

Good Evening:

I hope this finds you well. Attached for your review and consideration please find my letter in support of FIU's proposed 86 acre expansion into the Youth Fair Grounds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William C. Diaz-Rousselot  
Phone Number: 786-258-6086

**August 29, 2014**

Dear Mr. Zapata, I am registered voter in your District.

As an FIU alumni, I wholeheartedly support and encourage that you do the same, the FIU expansion into what is now the Fair Grounds.

The University needs this space because our community keeps growing and demanding more from our public universities; and there is no better use for this land then using it to further our County's education.

FIU is a very important part of this community, and my family and myself would not have our way of life had we not received our education at FIU. Education lays the ground work for a successful economic life. As a direct result of my education at FIU I have a successful CPA practice, employing 6 accountants.

My daughter, Veronica Diaz, elected Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge this past August 26<sup>th</sup> is also an FIU alumni.

Thank you for your support,

GABRIEL S.DIAZ-SARMIENTO, CPA



**GABRIEL SERGIO DIAZ-SARMIENTO, CPA, PA**  
**GSDS REGISTERED AGENTS, INC.**

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**5600 SW 135 AVE, SUITE 202-A MIAMI, FL 33183**  
**TEL: (305) 386-0568 FAX: (305) 675-8083**  
**CELL: (305) 479-3213**

## Campus Expansion

Nearly 5 years after graduating from Florida International University in 1999, a work promotion sent me packing for Las Vegas, Nevada. After spending a decade out West, I recently returned to Miami. While I was away, I was kept informed of the changes that were taking place at FIU. My main source of information came by way of social media and colleagues. Since I was now home and settled in Miami, I decided to pay my alma mater an overdue visit.

My younger sibling, who is now entering his junior year at Notre Dame, will be attending law school upon graduation. Curious and intrigued by FIU's growing reputation, I scheduled a private showing of the Law School, which ultimately evolved into an impressive campus tour. My parents were both in attendance, along with my brother, as all three have been visiting different law programs throughout the Country. The personalized attention given to my family coupled with the overwhelming growth was second to none! It is more than apparent; FIU is successfully striving to become an elite University. My family was pleasantly surprised during the visit. Needless to say, FIU soared to the top of their list of Law Schools.

There is something special happening at FIU, and I am proud to call myself an alumnus. In fact, the visit was so eye-opening; I am getting involved with campus life. In a few weeks from today, I will be speaking to a class of undergraduates to share my work-related experiences abroad. Given the opportunity to expand, FIU's incredibly dedicated support system will add insurmountable amounts of value to the local economy. The astounding accomplishments achieved by our team thus far is testament to our potential. Our University's achievements during the past two decades have been truly outstanding given the parameters. Just imagine the success if granted the expansion...

John C. Farias  
President, SPARK Loans



August 25, 2014

Dear Editor:

As a father with a growing young family and a professional in this community, I am invested in what happens here. As a two-time graduate of FIU, I am a proud panther. When I learned about the opportunity for FIU to expand, it seemed an obvious and natural next step for an institution that has such a significant impact on my community both through education and economic growth. Some of our top community leaders and professionals are FIU graduates. FIU not only educates and creates jobs for its students, but its successful Alumni create jobs for our community.

There has been a lot written and said about FIU's expansion, and one theme throughout is that FIU has shown its commitment to work with the Fair and the County to find a location where the Fair's programs can continue successfully. I am compelled to show my support, because I know this is the right thing to do for our community and see it as an opportunity for both FIU and the Fair to continue to evolve for the benefit our community.



J. P. Fernandez, Miami

I would like to applaud the recent endorsement by the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners of FIU's growth plan utilizing acreage formerly used by Dade County Youth Fair. The one proven path to prosperity is education, by growing its footprint FIU will be able to offer more young people an opportunity to earn a college education in an environment of creativity and innovation. Much debate has been made about income disparity, a college education can and will bridge that gap. Way to show vision Commissioners. V/R

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rogelio B. Figueroa', written in a cursive style.

Rogelio B Figueroa 84  
19076 NW 23rd pl  
Pembroke Pines, fl 33029  
954-257-7927

To the Editor:

As a graduate of Florida International University who loves South Florida, I urge the Miami-Dade County Commission to support the expansion of FIU to the 86-acre property occupied by the county fair.

I have been going to the fair since I become full time resident of Miami-Dade in 1997. It is an incredible asset and I would not want anything to hamper its success. However, we must enable our premier public university to continue meeting the growing demands of our community.

Without room to grow, FIU cannot accommodate the 2,000 new students who enroll each year. Without room to grow, they will not be able to enhance programs aligning academics with entrepreneurship and innovation, preparing students to compete in the global economy.

As a proud Panther, I support FIU; as a resident of Miami-Dade, I support the fair. By working together, I believe we can find a solution that benefits both.

Sincerely,



Sharon Fine

FIU Class of 1999, and 2011



Northern Trust

---

**Sharon Fine | Vice President | Wealth Management**

600 Brickell Ave, Miami, FL 33131 | phone (305) 789 1305 | fax (866) 255 8219 | [sf14@ntrs.com](mailto:sf14@ntrs.com)

Please visit [northerntrust.com](http://northerntrust.com)

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NTAC:3NS-20

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Good Morning,

Just wanted to let you know I sent an email to the herald and my city commissioner.

The email is below:

As an Florida International University (FIU) Alumni and employee, I want to thank you for considering FIU's initiative to negotiate with the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition to create a plan for the relocation of the Fair so that FIU can expand onto that 86-acre property, which is owned by the County and leased by the Fair.

FIU brings many positive aspects to all surrounding cities and expansion will only create a bigger positive impact in South Florida.

Thanks again,

Marsha Francois  
Proud Alumni  
786-301-5483

August 27, 2014

I am writing to you in support of FIU's Tamiami Campus expansion.

As well known to all, the State's most populous county, Miami-Dade County, did not have a public four-year higher learning institution for a long time.

As a resident of this county for over 50 years, it was gratifying to finally watch the creation of FIU and to enjoy how it has grown into a quality institution serving South Florida and the international community as well.

FIU's physical plant also needs to continue expanding to meet the growing needs of Miami-Dade County. As a beneficiary of FIU's services, and cognizant that this community must make wise decisions with its limited land resources, I fully support the expansion of FIU's Tamiami campus.

Sincerely,  
Carlos E. Garcia  
FIU degree: 1983 MSM  
2700 SW 5 Avenue, Miami 33129  
305-856-0587

July 30, 2014

To the Editor:

As an FIU graduate and proud Panther, I'm writing in support of the Miami Dade County Commission's decision to back the expansion of the university to 86 acres now occupied by the county fair.

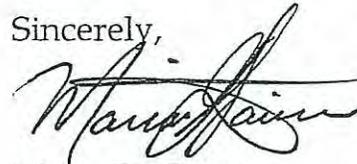
Florida International University is a terrific resource to our community. I was fortunate enough to obtain a great - and affordable - education in an academic setting that has grown to be one of the state's premier higher education venues.

With each new initiative - such as the medical school, now welcoming its sixth class of students, or the law school, which just graduated its tenth class, or the undersea research habitat Aquarius Reef Base, recently used by Fabien Cousteau of the famed ocean research family - FIU is proving its important place in our community.

Expansion can only accelerate this trend, let FIU welcome more students, and help our homegrown, topnotch public university continue being a pipeline for professionals of all kinds who give back to South Florida, thus continually helping our community grow and develop for the benefit of all its residents.

I know if we work together, we can find the right place for the Youth Fair, which is also an important part of our local community and its history, while giving our university the chance it needs to grow and expand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Garcia', written in a cursive style.

Maria D. Garcia  
FIU Class of 2005, B.A. &  
Class of 2008, J.D.

From: Jim Harper [mailto:Jim@Harperfish.com]  
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 at 11:58 AM  
To: Mackenzie King  
Cc: Melissa Brown  
Subject: From: FIU and What's Fair

Begin forwarded message:

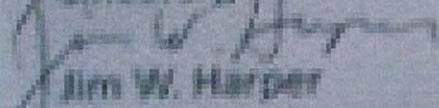
From: Jim Harper <Jim@Harperfish.com>  
Subject: FIU and What's Fair  
Date: July 28, 2014 at 4:14:36 PM EDT  
To: Harold@miamicity.com

Dear Miami Herald,

Anyone who has visited Florida International University's main campus lately knows that it needs more space, and the most logical space is right next door. While this huge field stays vacant for 11 months out of the year, FIU is bustling every single day. While the Miami-Dade Youth Fair migrates to the field every year, FIU cannot pick up and relocate. One of these things is not like the other.

The Fair deserves a fair deal, but it cannot claim that clinging to its current location is justifiable when the 50,000-plus students and employees at FIU really, really need the space. As a former student and employee at FIU, and as someone who enjoys visiting the fair, I trust the county to do the right thing. Find the fair a new home.

Sincerely,

  
Jim W. Harper  
M.S. 2014, FIU

536 NE 128th Street  
N. Miami, FL 33161  
786-423-2665

Jim W. Harper

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing as an active, engaged FIU Alumnus, Chair of FIU's Young Alumni Council and business-person in South Florida. The expansion of FIU is critical to the development of Miami as a global business hub for 3 key reasons:

- 1) International Finance and Banking - having a world class, public institution like FIU backing the development of the financial sector in Miami is critical to engaging the global financial community to invest in Latin America through the true gateway that is Miami. Providing qualified alumni for this sector not only establishes credibility in our workforce but engages much needed, economic and financial change in Latin America that can only happen through a working, transparent financial community. There is much to be gained by this if, and through economics and finance, we can help un-tap the potential that lies to our South.
- 2) Desirability of Our Location - the technology boom has begun to unravel the mindset that work and play do not have to be mutually exclusive. South Florida needs to focus on attracting the tech community to live and play here by producing a workforce that is both qualified and motivated. FIU is at the forefront of this thinking and has begun to entrench itself in the community as a resource for the necessary talent for tech companies to flourish.
- 3) Healthcare is at a Turning Point - politically and economically, our country has not seen such a shift in one industry as the passing of the Affordable Care Act has had in the last 2 years on the healthcare industry. With Florida as a constant target for criticism and scandal, FIU is positioned perfectly to provide the much needed research, resources and thought leadership that will help shape the next 100 years of healthcare in our country.

There is no better time than now to advance the idea that FIU and South Florida are positioned very well to lead in these 3 areas and continue to produce excellence in our community and the world.

Go FIU!

Hiram E. Hernandez

Cell: 786-525-4272

Email: [hiramh23@att.net](mailto:hiramh23@att.net)

The Honorable Commissioner Suarez,

I write to you today in support of Florida International University's desire to expand into the fairgrounds adjacent to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. FIU has proven to be an invaluable partner in our community through its many programs and faculty/student involvement throughout Miami Dade County. I ask for your consideration to this matter in a favorable manner to FIU since our University's long term plans cannot be achieved unless it can begin to implement and expand this very important campus.

Thank you for your continued leadership in our community and please help out this fine institution.

Francois Illas  
Tel (786) 275-5939  
Fax: (786) 513-2719  
e-mail: [francois@illas.me](mailto:francois@illas.me)

1350 Stillwater Dr  
Miami Beach, FI 33141

Mayor Carlos Gimenez  
(mayor@miamidade.gov)

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As a Miami-Dade resident for over 30 years, I support FIU's much needed expansion into the Fairgrounds. As a mother of three future FIU hopefuls, I look forward to FIU providing my children with its top-notch education in all its growing areas.

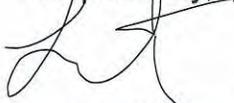
Although FIU has an exceptional and thriving campus, its recent expansion has taken it to the perimeter of their current location. Its continued growth is vital to our future generation.

It always seemed to me that the Fair's use of the land is somewhat temporary. The programs it runs, although very valuable, are intermittent at best.

It seems to me most reasonable to grant such land to a permanent affair as is education.

I trust all of those involved in decision-making of our children's futures will find a suitable location for the Fair to relocate. I am sure all of those loyal constituents will continue to attend Fair events.

Respectfully,



Lorena Kipershmit

Dear Mayor, Commissioners and Local Voters of Miami,

Please consider this FIU expansion. I am a student that has traveled from Orlando to Miami to continue my studies here. I love FIU, it is truly my home away from home. Expanding FIU to the Fair grounds will only increase student involvement, our facilities and our future student body. I love FIU, and seeing it grow will mean so much! Please allow FIU to gain those extra acres that will help the institution in the long run in so many ways!

**Valessi Lalondriz**

*Sports Coordinator*

Delta Phi Epsilon - Alpha Gamma Chapter

Florida International University

c. 407.803.3943

July 25, 2014

To the Editor:

Without a doubt, Miami-Dade County would not be the same without the presence of the Youth Fair and Florida International University. Both have become city-defining in their own way; the Fair with its timeless rides and entertainment, and FIU with its 50-year history of graduating the most amount of Hispanic students in the country. Now, as FIU looks to expand and obtain the Fair grounds, it would seem as if the Fair would cease to be. However, FIU is working alongside the Fair and County Commissioners to move the Fair to another prime location. Supporting the expansion of FIU would bring great benefit to the community. The 86-acre property would give space for new research facilities to be built, producing useful technologies and resources for all to use. Additionally, the community has an ever-growing demand of FIU: over 2,000 new students enroll each year, adding to the already 54,000 students on-campus. FIU has a great need of the mostly-unused property in order to accommodate its growing numbers. Support FIU in its effort to grow and become a true world-class university. Help FIU be 'Worlds Ahead'.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Lombardi', written in a cursive style.

**Giancarlo Lombardi**  
*FIU Class of 2015*  
24325 SW 131 Ave  
Homestead, FL 33032  
Cell: (305)632-8584

1360 Stillwater Dr  
Miami Beach, Fl 33141

Mayor Carlos Gimenez  
(mayor@miamidade.gov)

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I have been a Miami-Dade Resident for over 12 years. As an adult, I visited the FIU Campus and adjacent area and always had the same thought: why all the empty land?

The answer I was given was "Fairgrounds". But one question remains: what happens to the land when the Fair is closed for all those months at a time? It seems like a waste of this resource.

It is amazing to see the progress to the FIU Campus in the last few years. Once barren and isolated, the FIU campus finally thrives as a major University. It is also easy to see it has reached its outer limits of expansion. Continued growth is needed in order to accommodate the many career opportunities for its students and our fast-growing community. It only seems logical to incorporate this wasted land into the FIU Campus.

I am confident our community leaders will find a suitable solution for the Fair to run its very appreciated programs and efforts in an alternative location.

Sincerely,

*Esteban Mancuso*

Esteban Mancuso

cc. Commissioner Sally A. Heyman (district4@miamidade.gov)

July 29, 2014

To the Editor:

I'm writing in support of the Miami Dade County Commission's decision to back the expansion of the university to 86 acres now occupied by the county fair.

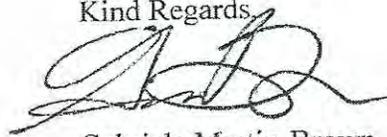
I am an FIU graduate and proud panther. Consistently, when I visit the Modesto Maidique Campus I am amazed by its constant growth and its contagious and vibrant energy that is sensed at every corner. Back when I attended, I felt fortunate to obtain an excellent education taught by outstanding professors. Today it continues to grow and establish itself as one of the nation's best-ranked public research universities.

Moreover, FIU is Miami's only public research university. Its emphasis in research and its dedication to setting new standards is, nothing less than, admirable and inspiring. With each new initiative – such as the medical school, now welcoming its sixth class of students – or the undersea research habitat Aquarius Reef Base, recently used by Fabien Cousteau of the famed ocean research family – FIU is proving its important place in the community. FIU is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest university in the state and 7<sup>th</sup> largest in the U.S. Interestingly, more valedictorians from South Florida choose to attend FIU more than any other university in the country. FIU is the one place where our community's future frontrunners are preparing themselves making FIU an all too important resource for South Florida.

Expansion is the answer for the growth this university is on track for. The unyielding path of FIU's advancement through this expansion would allow this first-class university to continue being a channel for professionals who in return give right back to the Miami-Dade and Broward communities by becoming its professional workforce.

The Youth Fair, has brought much joy and created memories for all of us. It is and will continue being an important part of our community. However, we will all work together to find a better home for it. FIU's unswerving growth more than justifies this expansion and I fully support it, hopefully, encouraging others to do the same.

Kind Regards,



Gabriela Martin-Brown

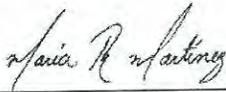
14849 SW 35th St., Davie, FL 33331

## **FIU Dade County Fairground Expansion**

As a recent FIU Worlds Ahead Graduate, I am thrilled by the idea of FIU's expansion plans. FIU's growth opens doors to more of Miami-Dade incoming freshmen to become the professionals that our Miami needs. FIU's expansion guarantees a better quality education for our future professionals. I myself have witnessed all the opportunities FIU brings to our Hispanic community and wish for those opportunities to grow and reach the next FIU generation.

Amazed by all the opportunities and resources FIU had to offer, I decided after only one year of living in the U.S. that I wanted to pursue a higher education at the number one university in the nation in awarding bachelor's and master's degrees to Hispanic students. FIU opened doors for me. While attending FIU, I earned many scholarships and sponsorship from the Hispanic Association of College and Universities to attend multiple conferences throughout the U.S. FIU also opened doors for me to become a NACME, FSLAMP and McNair Fellow and to obtain more than four internships with distinguished civil engineering companies in the U.S. If it weren't for these fellowships, internships, and the numerous resources FIU provides, I would not be standing where I am, about to head to California with a fellowship at Stanford University for my master's and Ph.D. degree.

The same way FIU has helped me to reach my academic and professional goals, it has done so with thousands of students, and will continue to do so as it keeps expanding. Let's all thank the fair and the county for contributing to a solution that will result in a better tomorrow.



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Maria R. Martinez E.I, Civil Engineer.

13141 SW 18<sup>th</sup> Ter.  
Miami, FL 33175  
(305)409-8152

August 28, 2014

To whom it may concern,

My name is Franklin McCune and I represent a true Golden Panther family. I am a twin and my younger brother and sister are twins. Between my wife and my siblings we have 7 FIU degrees. Four baccalaureate degrees and three Masters degrees. FIU means a lot to my whole family especially my immediate family. It was one of my proudest moments to see my wife cross the stage on graduation day and complete her Masters at FIU. We are one big #GoldenPantherNation here.

The chance to expand the footprint of FIU and continue on our path to being the premier public institution in the state is of high value and importance to this community and me. This expansion will allow FIU to reach more students and give them a chance to be successful. The expansion of space will allow for the growth of the Medical School and the community impact it already has. This will help us to continue to keep all this local talent in Miami and doing good work. We urge you as a true family of Panthers, to consider this opportunity for FIU.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franklin G. McCune', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Franklin G. McCune**  
[fgmccune@gmail.com](mailto:fgmccune@gmail.com)  
305-431-4824

-----Original Message-----

From: Merille, Maria

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 10:36 AM

To: 'HeraldEd@MiamiHerald.com'

Subject: FIU South Campus Expansion

Importance: High

I am elated to say the least with the great news of FIU growing more and having the space to do so.

In 1974 I arrived from Puerto Rico with two years of college under my belt and attended FIU, let's say mini FIU.

We had only two building, PC & DM, yet do not let this fool you since I received the best undergrad education you can imagine.

I did not take a break and continued towards my Master in Science, both degrees in Special Education. I attended @ night since I worked full time and had a newborn that at times will take him with me in a wicker basket since I needed to give my mother a break.

That little tiny baby also attended FIU for both under grad and his MBA. He now works for FIU and he loves it. His name is Eduardo Merille, Director of New Media and Communications. .

I am turning 60 years old in Sept and have been very successful in my career, I attribute part of that to the education I received and could afford @ FIU. I am not ready to retire, I am ready to complete my PhD @ FIU in the very near future. And I hope and pray that my grandchildren ages 2,4,6 can attend and benefit from such a solid State University.

Thank You



Maria Merille

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today in regards to the decision Miami Dade County officials have made on the fair grounds. The unanimous vote to relocate the fair is a big win for not only Florida International University, but also the community and the state. FIU's main campus is approximately 349 acres, making it the smallest main campus in all of the public universities in the state. With a population of 52,000 students, FIU needs this land to clear their academic vision for the future. As being Miami Dade's only public research university, we need to support the movement and make sure education is a priority in the state. FIU has the fourth largest population in the country among public schools and second in the state only behind UCF, who has a main campus of approximately 1,400 acres for their students, faculty and guests.

FIU has come a long way in its short history, opening its door in 1965 with one building and today housing over 200 different academic majors with over 50 buildings on its main campus. It is important to keep the building aspect of our university to further enhance education and the overall experience at a research university. The fair has been home to Sweetwater for the last 43 years, and of course it is sad to see them move, but it just shows how much emphasis needs to be put on education and keep the continued growth of our university so we can have over 60,000 students at our school. Now more than ever, FIU needs the public support in this move to make the school one of the finest institutions in the universe, and with that, Miami deserves a primetime public university.

Thank you for your time and I hope as a student of FIU, and a future resident of Sweetwater, we see the academic and economic expansion of the community. This is not only a win for the university, but also a win for our community.

Dillon Montes de Oca  
Current resident of Weston, FL  
Future resident of Sweetwater, FL

I am thrilled of the idea of seeing my Alma Mater continue to offer educational and employment opportunities on an expanded level. I can think of no better visionary to make this become a reality than under the very able leadership of its President, Dr. Mark Rosenberg.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Murado  
Class of 1990

August 1, 2014

To the Editor:

I was raised in Miami, Florida and I earned a bachelor's degree and a law degree from Florida International University. South Florida is my home. I believe it is in the best interest of our community to support the expansion of FIU to the 86-acre property occupied by the county fair.

I grew up attending the fair and I understand that it performs important roles in our community. I do not want its work to be hampered, but we need to find an adequate compromise for the benefit of our community.

FIU is the premier public university in South Florida and I urge the Miami-Dade County Commission to support the expansion in order to meet the growing demands of our community. Without room to grow, FIU cannot accommodate the growing class sizes that apply each year and it cannot enhance its programs to remain a competitive national institution.

As a proud two-time FIU graduate and a lifetime Miami-Dade resident, I support the FIU expansion. I believe our leaders can strategically develop a plan that facilitates the relocation of the fair and provides the necessary room for FIU's development.

Sincerely,



Dick M. Ortega, J.D.  
FIU Class of 2011 and 2014

89 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 101  
Miami, FL 33137

July 24, 2014

Re: FIU Expansion / The Fair Relocation

To Whom It May Concern,

FIU is a reflection of the progressive spirit of the region it serves. Miami is an ambitious community of creative, entrepreneurial, energetic and evolving citizens who will not quit until this region's promise is maximized.

FIU is a mirror of Miami, a meaningful microcosm of that challenger-to-champion narrative that marks so many stories of families of South Florida. We all understand that the world's great cities tout an educated citizenry and the distinguished academic institutions that produce them.

With the charge of educating one of the largest student bodies in the nation on some of the smallest parcels of state university land, FIU, located in our state's premiere international city, must grow. It makes sense to grow next door, to the land The Fair now occupies.

Surely, Miami can have it all on this one. We can relocate the county fair while helping unleash the region's largest public educator of Miami's deserving masses. From what I understand, all parties agree not to have the county incur costs as part of any arrangement that successfully transitions The Fair while expanding FIU. If this is indeed the case, and it appears it is, then we can have it all.

Sincerely,



Alberto Padron  
Volunteer, FIU Alumni Association  
FIU '98, MBA '09

July 25, 2014

Dear editor:

As a current student at Florida International University I am writing to share my support for the Miami-Dade County Commission and their recent decision to support FIU's expansion to the land occupied by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition.

Born and raised in South Florida, I have been going to the fair since I was a child. It is an incredible asset and I would not want to see it disappear.

However, FIU needs the room to grow. FIU's expansion will allow the university to enhance current programs, create more jobs for our community and provide more and more students with the opportunity to obtain a college degree.

Let's find the Fair a new home.

Sincerely,



Erik Perez

11379 SW 239 St  
Homestead, FL 33032  
305.915.3053

August 28, 2014

Dear Editor:

Every time FIU takes on a project they come out ahead. My husband is a graduate from the first class of Law school and he was the top student from the night division at the age of 45. FIU not only gives a chance to the younger generation but also for those of us that want to change our careers and better ourselves. The only way that FIU can grow is with expansion and that is why I strongly believe that we need to take over the Fair Grounds. In the long run it is the best that we can do for our community.

Sincerely,  
Isabel Perez-Medina  
Alumna

Dear Commissioners,

When my heart first chose FIU, I was a freshman in high school, entranced by the university's energy. I saw FIU as a university *on the move* and I wanted to come be a part of that. However, nothing would have prepared me for how strongly committed FIU is to growing, developing and becoming a place where students from every corner of the Earth can come to be educated.

I came from a Haitian family, with a father who was never educated through grade school and a mother who worked as a certified nursing assistant. The humble life my parents were able to offer me taught me that obtaining a quality education was key to being able to succeed in life. With this background, FIU's expansion means that more students like me can expect to be served here at FIU with a *Worlds Ahead* education but still at an affordable cost.

During my senior year in high school, I pursued and was awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. With these funds, I had the option of attending any university in the country, but I was searching for the place where I could best develop professionally and academically. FIU has an environment with many resources available for us students to discover. With a new center for innovation and research, I cannot begin to imagine the endless the opportunities FIU would be able to provide its students. Building new biomedical engineering and health centers will call more fellows and scholars from across the country to learn at FIU how they can contribute to servicing Miami citizens and the globe.

As a student, the FIU expansion onto the fairgrounds also means more housing and parking! Meaning, I, and students after me, will not have to worry about not being able to safe place to live as we matriculate through our four years here at FIU. Plus, no more parking tickets! The expansion will offer well-needed convenience and comfort.

Ultimately, the accrual of this land is vital to university's successful growth in our pursuit to continue being *Worlds Ahead* in our *Next Horizons*. As FIU's proudest panther, I support FIU's expansion onto the fairgrounds.

Medjy Pierre-Louis

Sophomore

Florida International University

Gates Millennium Scholar

Ronald E. McNair Scholar

August 28, 2014

To the Editor:

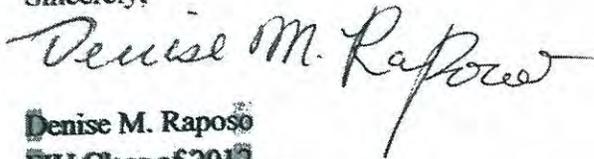
As an FIU graduate and proud Panther, I'm writing in support the expansion of Florida International University in to the 86 acres adjacent to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

What some may not fully realize is what a valuable resource Florida International University is to our community. I was fortunate enough to obtain a great – and affordable – education in an academic setting that has grown to be one of the state's premier higher education venues.

With each new initiative such as the medical school, now welcoming its sixth class of students, FIU is proving its important place in the community.

Expansion can only accelerate this trend, let FIU welcome more students, and help our homegrown, topnotch public university continue being a pipeline for professionals of all kinds who give back to the community.

Sincerely,



Denise M. Raposo

FIU Class of 2012

Elementary Teacher

9351 sw 16 st

(305) 979-3497

August 28, 2014

To the editor:

I write to you as a current FIU graduate student to show my support for FIU's expansion into the 86-acre land adjacent to its Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

For FIU students like me, those 86 acres are not just a parcel of land, but signify so much more. In the future this land will help employ thousands of people, will be home to the labs that breed scientists and engineers, and will be used to train future business owners.

You see, the impact of FIU's expansion has a much greater significance for our community than just having to find the Fair a new home. We are investing in our future, the future of Miami-Dade County.

Expand FIU!

Sincerely,



Diana L. Raposo

9351 sw 16 st.

(305) 562-6911

8/28/2014

To whom it may concern:

Florida International University is the seventh-largest state university in the US, based on student enrollment. Although relatively young - FIU opened in 1972- the university has become a beacon of hope for the South Florida community in regards to helping create opportunities for advancement through education.

In order to maintain this upward momentum of being words ahead, FIU need to continue to embrace the community and continue provide an educational outlet to families in South Florida. The current campus capacity is quickly becoming too small to support our growing student masses. By utilizing the often-vacant open land of the Youth Fair, FIU's increased capacity will provide a world-class college education to a greater number of young men and women in our community.

Best of all, this expansion will not cost any money to the Miami Dade county nor the students as FIU would finance this entire operation. I believe that this expansion will be a win-win situation for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rigaud, Class of 2001  
Phone: (305) 348-3078  
Email: [mrigaudr@fiu.edu](mailto:mrigaudr@fiu.edu)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Victor Rodriguez** <[vrodr075@fiu.edu](mailto:vrodr075@fiu.edu)>  
Date: Wed, Jul 23, 2014 at 4:44 PM  
Subject: Special Attention: Concerned FIU Student  
To: [heralded@miamiherald.com](mailto:heralded@miamiherald.com)

July 23, 2014

To the Editor:

I am a current Student Leader at Florida International University and am writing in support of the proposed expansion to the 86-acre property where the county fair now operates in the spring.

I like many students at FIU attend the fair every year. It's fun and an important venue for the kids and teens of the county to showcase their accomplishments and talents. Yet it's so important for Miami-Dade County to support expansion of the university, which is key to the growth of the region. Although, I do love the fair, students agree that it causes a lot of strain to our education during the times the fair is open, from parking to traffic to even safety issues.

People might not understand how much FIU contributes to the community. Students like myself know better. Our professors and faculty are conducting cutting edge research; our medical school is now sending doctors into the community, and teachers from FIU are educating the next generation and our student community raise over 200,000 dollars for philanthropies and contribute more than 100,000 community hours yearly.

But we can do even more! With more space maybe we can graduate more teachers and have more important researchers come to Miami, or help create more businesses to employ more residents. As well as improve FIU. If we were to expand, FIU would truly become a force in the public's eye in regards to state schools, although we have reached many milestones, the space issue also limits our students, faculty and staff potential.

I hope the Miami-Dade County Commission will continue to support the expansion to the 86-acre property while seeking a new venue for the fair that will work for everyone.

I'm very proud to be an FIU student and I do love this county, this is why I agree with expansion, because a thriving university will positively impact the community.

Victor Rodriguez  
FIU Class of 2015  
5700 SW 131st CT  
Miami Florida 33183  
786.877.2527

July 23, 2014

Dear editor:

I've recently read the story about FIU and their expansion plans in your paper.

I was raised in Long Island, NY and didn't grow up with the Miami-Dade County Fair, but I comprehend people's nostalgia towards this family tradition.

However, I think it is important that we analyze the true worth and use of the land they currently occupy. The expansion of FIU is natural event, as the university continues to grow, the more space they need to serve our community.

Let's find a win-win solution in which both the Fair and FIU are able to come to a consensus.

As a proud FIU alumnus, I urge others to show their support for FIU.

Sincerely,



Luis Roedan

12740 SW 119<sup>th</sup> St.

Miami, FL 33186

305.773.0860

7/22/2014

Dear Ms. Sosa,

I write to you as an FIU Alumni, mother of a Senior Honors Student at FIU, and as a forty two year member of this community.

The purpose of my correspondence is to show my support for the FIU expansion to the Youth Fair grounds, currently owned by Miami Dade Country, and to urge you to use your voting and network power to move forward this important project.

President Rosenberg says in a recent open letter that "...great cities deserve great public universities, and our community should expect no less."

Florida International University is already well on its way to become this important icon for the city of Miami, but we cannot stop where we are: We need to aim higher and pave the way to get us there.

The 80 plus acres expansion will not only create jobs in our community for years to come, but most importantly, it will serve to help our community breed future scientist, engineers and entrepreneurs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for all your support. Together We Can!

Sincerely,

Alina Rouch

August 27, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As a graduate of FIU Law and president of the FIU Law Alumni Association, I write in support of FIU's expansion. Expanding the University is vital to its future success and will allow it to continue to provide access to high-quality, affordable education. I, like many others, owe my success to Florida's public university system, and to FIU Law in particular. Expanding FIU will allow many others to pursue their dreams, and those who graduate from FIU will give back to our community in ways too great to measure.

If we hope to build a better future, we must invest in education. Expanding FIU is an investment worth making.

Robert Scavone Jr., J.D. '12 – President, FIU Law Alumni Association

To the editors,

I am an incoming graduate student attending FIU's Masters of Finance program at the Brickell campus. As a Miami resident I am writing to you to express my strongest endorsement of the plans to expand FIU to the 86 acre facility currently dedicated to the Miami Dade County Fair and Exposition Center. FIU is a landmark in our community - it is a national leader in student body diversity educating America's future Latino leaders and it is a fountain of youth for a local economy still rebounding from an economic recession. The county, and in fact our country, would be better served allowing FIU to expand to that property so they may develop facilities that will foster growth in STEM fields, academic contributions to economic development and the expansion of their medical program. All of these directives will drive economic growth and the general well being of Floridians. This is a better permanent use of this land and we hope the fair and other activities that take place at that facility will find a new home in an area more suitable for the purpose they serve. FIU is a responsible and ever present partner in our county it is to our benefit to promote this expansion and, as a community, reap the benefits.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Silva', written in a cursive style.

Fernando Silva

August 28, 2014

### **Designing a better future for Miami**

Employers like Zyscovich Architects need employees who can think beyond the edge – who have new ideas, and can innovate at all levels. Without a university like FIU providing more workforce-ready graduates, Miami won't be able to continue to develop or thrive.

And without the ability to expand its footprint, FIU won't be able to keep up with the demand our local, regional and national businesses have for highly-qualified graduates. I applaud the Miami Dade Commission's support of FIU's growth and am confident the county, Fair and FIU will find the right solution.

As I often say, today's world is all about talent and creativity. And I can't imagine my life without the amazing FIU professors who nurtured mine, and paved the way for a successful career in interior architect and design right here in the heart of Miami.

If more students are able to go to FIU, and have exposure to the arts and learn the critical thinking skills FIU teaches, I know together we'll design an even better future for Miami.



*Anabella V. Smith '81, FIU alumna, partner at Zyscovich Architects*

Sergio Tigera  
9970 SW 20 Street  
Miami, FL 33165  
August 4, 2014

Miami Herald:

My name is Sergio Tigera and I am writing to offer my full support for FIU's expansion into the Dade County Youth Fair Grounds. As a former Student Body President at FIU, and current member of the Board of Directors of the FIU Alumni Association, I know how much of an impact the university has had on our community and the families in Dade County

I grew up in Miami and had a great time at the fair each year, but going to the fair at Tamiami Park or Tropical Park or anywhere else wouldn't have really mattered to me. I simply enjoyed going to the fair. The Fair is important, but where it is held is not. Let's keep the fair but move it elsewhere. FIU provides too much value to be held back by a two-week event.

I urge our leaders to do everything they can in their power to help this opportunity become a reality. The impact that FIU will make in our community per square foot on that location will impact our community immeasurably more than the youth fair will ever generate, and will do so for decades to come.

Please support this initiative. Go Panthers!!

Sincerely,

Sergio Tigera  
Proud Resident of Miami-Dade County and Proud FIU Alumnus

## FIU Expansion

Through the years, I have enjoyed the Youth Fair with my family. I have also been delighted at how much FIU has grown and flourished. I am very happy to know that our mayor and our county commissioners are working together with FIU and the Youth Fair officials to find a new place for the Fair.

I strongly believe the expansion of FIU will be a beneficial one for all. More students will receive an education which will lead to a better-prepared work force. Our businesses will be impacted positively by the growth. And South Florida will be a definite winner overall, attracting students and faculty from other places. The benefits will be short and long term.

Knowing that everyone involved has great team spirit and is working towards the betterment of our community, I am certain that our mayor, commissioners, FIU and Youth Fair officials will find a good place for the fair and that all of the details will be worked out.



Idelsi Tourino  
13910 SW 28 Street  
Miami, FL 33175  
(786) 424-7407  
8/28/14

August 29, 2014

Good afternoon Commissioner Suarez,

I am one of your constituents in Miami-Dade County. I am also a life-long resident of Miami-Dade County and a graduate of Florida International University. Thanks in large part to the education and business connections that I received through FIU, my business partner (who also graduated from FIU) and I have been able to own and operate a relatively successful boutique law firm in Miami-Dade County. My story is that of hundreds, if not thousands, around this County and beyond. FIU has always been an essential partner in our community and of Miami Dade County. I am sure that a significant percentage of County employees received an excellent education through this fine institution in our own back yard. There is no better engine for innovation, jobs creation and access to education than our own public university, FIU. In its 40+ years of offering university-level education services, it has more alumni than any other institution in South Florida (including my other alma mater, University of Miami).

I urge you and the rest of the Commissioners to support the expansion of FIU into the Tamiami Park area in order to provide one of the largest universities in the country room to expand and grow to its full potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
William Trueba

FIU graduate from the College of Engineering 1990.  
FIU Alumni Association Past President (2005-2007)

**William R. Trueba, Jr.**  
*U.S. Registered Patent Attorney*



**Espinosa | Trueba<sup>PL</sup>**  
[www.etlaw.com](http://www.etlaw.com)

1428 Brickell Avenue, Suite 100 | Miami, FL 33131 | v (305) 854-0900 | f (855)854-0900

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August 28, 2014

Dear Editor:

I believe it is of paramount importance for Dade County that FIU grows physically in order to reach its potential in educating thousands of Dade County residents, while forging partnership with local high schools and other institutions for the betterment of our community. FIU's student enrollment (over 55,000) is the second largest in the state, yet it has the smallest "main" campus of all State Universities. FIU's research and development investment, with its new College of Medicine, is poised to explode exponentially within the next decade or so, meaning hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars in economic development for the county and state. We need to correct this issue and provide FIU the space, tools, and means to reach these goals. One logical way is to expand into the land occupied by the Youth Fair 3 weeks a year. A better FIU means a better Miami.

Roberto Valcarce  
12937 NW 7 Ln  
Miami, FL 33182  
787-398-9756

**August 29, 2014**

Dear Editor,

It is first time I bother you and I would like it worth it. As you may know, the County Commission will be discussing the project for expand FIU onto land adjacent to FIU's campus. Although you probably know it very well, I would like to highlight that this expansion will enhance the university's ability to create new jobs for the South Florida economy and produce greater student talent in engineering, the sciences and entrepreneurship.

There is no better leverage to impulse the development, economical growth, and reducing inequalities than through education. I am a very good example of it, and as a Miami citizen, I am committed to help our community to be the best city in the world. No other strategy will result on better results than give our main higher education institution, the opportunity to expand and create more and more value for our families, our community and our city.

I hope you think the same, so please help us to create awareness and support for the expansion of FIU.

Thank you.

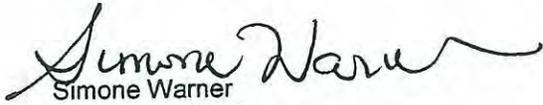
José Miguel Varela G.  
12996 SW 133rd Terrace  
Miami, FL. 33186  
Cell: 1-305-7945643

## Yes For Expansion

I first visited Miami in 2002, when my husband was attending FIU. That was also my first visit to The Fair. It was an exciting experience, coming from someone who doesn't particularly enjoy such activities. Over the years our family has grown and all our four children have attended The Fair. It is a part of our community and greatly appreciated, but not as much as I appreciate FIU.

My husband and I are both FIU graduates, and our daughter just completed her freshman year. We hope our three sons will also attend FIU in the future. I have watched the growth of this university with the pride and joy a mother has when her child takes his first steps. But the future of our community depends on the expansion of the university. The expansion will create jobs - not only for the surrounding community - but also for our graduating students. While humans love what is familiar, strengthening our community will only come from further growth, allowing FIU to continue to be Worlds Ahead.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simone Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simone Warner  
FIU Alumni 2012  
12345 SW 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 214  
Miami, FL 33175  
Contact: 786/973-6155

Hi!

My name is Nicole Rodriguez and I am an FIU student. I strongly believe that my university can use the ~~land~~ extra land to help ~~the~~ further the academic growth of this wondrous university!

Thank you for your time!  
- Nicole Cristine  
Rodriguez

As a senior at FIU, something that has been instilled in me is progress. Every year FIU progresses to be better, stronger, greater and more impactful on our community. Allowing FIU to acquire the fairgrounds will help with that progress. Progress for not only FIU students, for our parents, local business owners, our future generations to benefit from the progress that will come from FIU and its expansion.

Thank You

Alanna Lopez

I believe FIU needs to expand to better the education of my community.

This land has a more useful use if it is used to further educate my community. FIU will use this space with more value & will give it a future. —An

I am an FIU student, my university needs more land for classrooms, parking, and housing.

- Laura Vazquez

Dear Mayor,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for listening to fellow students requests. As an FIU student, I think that further expansion to Fair grounds would better are parking and overall stress level.

A lot of times many students are late due to the fair so more parking garages for the growing FIU would be a great investment.

Warm regards,  
Shani

- Florida International University should expand to the fair grounds because our school needs more classrooms. As students we need less crowded classes.

- I am an FIU student and our school will benefit greatly from the fair ground space.

Thank you,

Jaqueline Castro

I am an FIU student and I feel that my university needs the extra Land in order to accommodate the growth of our student population. We have moved up to the 3rd greatest campus in the nation therefore there is a need to expand parking space, academic space, and etc.!

thanks!  
Francis/zquierdo

I am an FIU student & I support FIU expansion because my education is important & so is the education of those who come after.

A student's appetite cannot be confined within the past walls built when our education is reaching greater heights.

Thank you,  
Ivania Gutierrez

As an FIU housing student, I do not feel comfortable with the amount of random people that come onto Campos during the fair.

It causes too much chaos within the housing area with less parking.

-Vivian Castro

Johanna Trivino

I am an FIU Student and  
would truly appreciate if we  
had extra land to accomodate  
the growth of our community  
for our incoming students. Many  
times the traffic from the fair  
is dangerous and has caused accidents  
while also preventing students from getting  
to class.

I am an FIU student and really feel extra land would only better the learning opportunities for Miami, South FL, Florida, and International students.

At this moment, the fair traffic has impacted my learning by preventing me from getting to class.

- Jacklyn Vargas.

My name is Veronica, and I am more than an FIU student. I have lived in Miami for more than 10 years. Even as a young adult I understood that The Fair was a problem and now as a student I fully understand. I am so thankful that FIU is given the opportunity to expand to a better future.

-Veronica Quinto

Dear Mayor,

Please consider my request. As an FIU student, I feel extremely ~~an~~ unsafe while the Fair is going on. I would really like to have \$ property used for school-related purposes, not for frivolous activities. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the betterment of our community.

Kind regards,

Ailys Toledo

I Support FIU'S expansion because I am an FIU student and I believe that the addition of land will better my experience at the university. Also, the fair attracts the type of people that makes me feel uncomfortable when I'm on campus at night.

Amanda Macet

To whom it may concern,

I support FIU's expansion to the Tamiami Fair Grounds because it will not only support my education and give me better opportunities to learn but people and traffic that the fair grounds brings to my university makes things chaotic and me feel unsafe.

Sincerely,

Katrina Thompson  
FIU Student

Hello,

I am an FIU student who will be affected by the voting decision. I am in favor of removing the fair from the grounds in question for the following reasons:

1. the overcrowding of non-students during operations
2. the population makes me feel unsafe walking around campus after classes
3. more space allows for better, newer facilities to help expand university resources.
4. and, lastly, a better FIU creates a better community.

Thank you for your time!

-Natalie Millan

I am an FIU student and I believe that FIU needs the land for various reasons. FIU is lacking on grounds to properly support their growing university. We have an enormous problem with classrooms and parking in that we are extremely lacking.

- Melissa  
Lobo  
C/O 2016

Hello Mr. Mayor,

I am an FIU student and I support the expansion for my university. This expansion will benefit the students of FIU with new education opportunities, residence halls, parking spaces, and many other wonderful experiences for our future students.

Thank you.

- Shadaina  
Dessalines

I am an FIU  
student who  
supports FIU  
expansion on to  
the Miami-Dade  
county landfill.  
Raiza Charca class of 2016

10629 Hammocks Blvd. #111  
APT 612 Miami, FL 33196  
↑

I am an FIU student who  
supports FIU expansion on  
to the Miami-Dade County  
youth fair.

Gustavo Ramirez  
class of 2016

17645 SW 112CT  
Miami FL  
33157

I am an FIU student who supports  
the FIU expansion onto the Miami Dade  
County ~~and~~ youth fair

Rohanie Molabir  
Class of 2016

8818 Dyer Rd  
Riverview FL 33578

I am an FIU student who supports FIU expansion to the Miami-Dade County youth fair.

Kishwar Ahmed

1550 SW 104 Path

Miami FL-33174

I am an FIU student and I support  
the expansion of the campus to the  
fair grounds.

Rebecca Rodriguez  
C/O 2016  
7575 SW 83 Court  
Miami, FL 33143

I AM AN FIU Student who  
Supports FIU expansion on to the  
Miami-Dade county youth fair.

Samia Tasnim

1550 SW 104th Path

Miami FL-33174

Class of 2017

I am an FIU student and I  
Support the FIU expansion of the campus  
into the fair grounds.

- Rebecca Naranjo  
Class of 2016

6381 SW 157<sup>th</sup> PL  
Miami, FL 33193

I AM AN FIU student  
who supports FIU expansion ~~at~~ on  
to The Miami-Dade County  
Youth Fair.

LAUREA UCROS  
Class of 2016  
3873 W. WhiteWater Ave  
Morton F.

I am an FIU student who  
supports FIU expansion on to  
the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair.

Maria Silva

Class of 2017

8381 NW 114th Path  
Doral, FL 33178

I am an FIU student who support FIU Expansion  
on to Miami - Dade County Youth Fair

Eddy Jerome  
501 NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Street Miami, FL 33162

Graduate: 2016

I am an FIU student, and I support the expansion of the FIU playground.

Carmoih Scott  
100 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
CarmoihScott@yahoo.com

I am an FIU student  
who supports FIU expansion  
onto the Miami Dade County  
Youth Fair

Rosemarie Derosier

2016  
9721 SW 9th CT  
Pembroke Pines FL 33095

I am an F2U student who  
supports F2U expansion on the  
the Mia Dade County Youth Fair

Xinghua Gu

student of F2U

Address: W Park DPA

I am an FIU student who support  
FIU expansion on to The miami  
dad county youth fair

Ruth Valle  
class of 2016

8540 SW 212 St Apt 104  
cutler bay FL 33189.

I am an FIU student who  
supports the expansion on  
MDC Youth FAIR :D

Alexandra Quinto

Class of 2018

6344 SW 162nd PATH  
Miami, FL 33143

I am an FIU student and I a prove to  
expand the fair grounds

Jeffrey Pierre  
13280 NW 29 Ave  
Opa Locka, FL 33082  
Class of 2016

I am an FIU student and I support  
the expansion policy to the fullest. I am  
in the class of 2018, live at 14203 SW  
24 ST.

Sincerely,  
David Gonzalez

I support the FIV expansion  
into the fair grounds.  
I am an FIV fresh man class  
of 2018,  
Sincerely,

Mathewia Balle  
Katherine BOSTON

I am an FIU student and I support FIU  
expansion into the Fairground.

Javier Perez

15711 SW 54th Ave, Miami, FL, 33193

Class of 2017

I'm an FIU student and I support expanding  
to the fair grounds.

Roland Brandon

646 SW 148th PL  
Miami, FL 33194

Class of 2018

I am an FIU student and I support  
the extension to the fairgrounds.

Jorge Perena

12740 NW 22 St

Class of 2018

I am an FIU ~~student~~ student and I  
Support the expansion of FIU  
into the Fairgrounds.

Stefany Nicastri  
11431 NW ~~43~~ LN Doral, FL 33178  
CLASS OF 2017

I am an FIU Student who supports  
FIU expansion on to the Miami-Dade  
County Youth Fair.

Kevin Nicolla  
Chair of 2017  
7989 NW 116 AVE  
Miami FL 33178

I support the fairground expansion  
and it is necessary to solve  
the parking issue-

Ausa Agudo

CLASS 2015

I'm an FIU student & I support  
the expansion!

Carmen Zuniga  
10240 SW 162nd PL  
Miami, FL 33196  
c/o 2014

I am an FIU Student who  
Supports FIU expansion  
to the Miami Dade  
County Youth Fair

Aliyah Hasan  
Class 2017

16453 SW 104th  
Miami FL 33196

I am an FIU student & I support  
the expansion into FIU grounds.

Genesys Giraldo

11390 NW 82<sup>nd</sup> Terr  
Doral FL 33178

I am an FIU student who  
supports the expansion  
ON MCE South Fair

Heidi Chico

Class of 2

3430 W 1st AVE  
WALKER FL

I am an FIU student who supports FIU expansion on to the Miami Dade County fourth  
Fair

Ramone Spabing  
Class of 2018

Lakewood South "FIU Housing"

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
MIAMI

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

2017

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR  
MAY 12-13, 2017  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR  
MAY 12-13, 2017  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR  
MAY 12-13, 2017

I am an FIU Student who  
Supports FIU expansion on to  
the Miami-Dade County Youth  
Fair

Quanteria Oubrice  
FIU Housing  
CLASS OF 2018

To whom It may concern,

The FIU expansion is important because FIU is a growing community. More space means more ability to house more people who would be the future of FIU, and the future of the world. I am an FIU student and I think it would better this university

Thanks for your time,

a concerned student  
and citizen of  
Miami Dade, Florida

God Bless America!

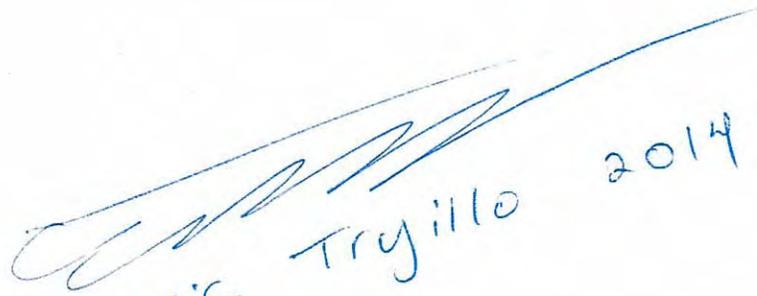
To whom it may concern,

I am an FIU student and I strongly believe in FIU expansion. I know it will positively impact our community and be beneficial for everyone involved. Expanding FIU into the fairgrounds is a win-win situation and will be good for everyone in the long run.

- Reed Davidson

*Reed Davidson*  
Class of 2016

I am an FIU  
Student and I  
believe in my  
schools expansion

  
ERIC Tryillo 2014

I am an FIU Student  
and I believe in the  
FIU expansion into the  
fairgrounds.

Sincerely, 

Samir A. Jean

Class of 2017

---

Hello, I do not believe it  
Should take 2 hours to find  
Parking at my HOME School.

Sharing is Caring.

Jonathan Cedeno, Senior FIU.

To whom it may concern,

I honestly believe in FIU's plan to expand. I am currently an FIU student. I am a Junior and while I may not be able to enjoy the immediate benefits of FIU's expansion, I hope that one day FIU will become the go-to University for students around the world.

Johari Corty

- Johari Corty  
FIU Student

I'm an FIU student and as one, I believe in FIU's expansion plan into the fairgrounds.

Sincerely, ~~Daniel Bustillos~~

→ Daniel Bustillos

Class of 2016

To whom it may concern,  
I believe in the FIU expansion into  
the fairgrounds because it is a very  
large inconvenience every year and FIU  
needs more space.

- Zachary Riggsby  
FIU class of '17

To whom it may concern,

My name is Froylan Remond and I'm a student Florida International University. I'm on pre med track and very much looking forward to this expansion. I can't think of any cons of this expansion. More jobs, more money for the community, better campus.

This is the future of your kids and mine. In addition the parking issues this creates for us students is unheard of. Having strangers come ~~entop~~ on to our campus is very unnerving.

Froylan Remond



8000 SW 149th AVE  
Apt #A204 Miami, FL  
33193

To whomever it may concern;

The expansion into the Fairgrounds by FIU is a crucial move in order to benefit the community. I believe it will allow for a larger impact on the community/education.

Sincerely yours  
Manuel Gonzalez  
FIU '18  
BET  


Dear F.I.U.,

This expansion will change our University for the best. Expansion in the fair grounds is the next step to become World's Ahead. Thank you for those involved to make this possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Denton'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Mark Denton

Dear To whom it may concern,

I support the expansion of FIU because I have no parking, I would like more options for residence hall, and lastly this will expand our student body



Christian Tennant

To whom it may concern,

I believe that there are many reasons to why we should expand our University. It offers the opportunity for FIU to add degree programs in the future. It also provides more jobs to the South Florida Community. This is not only a great opportunity for FIU, but also for Miami-Dade County to be "Worlds Ahead."

Ricardo Fernandez

FIU Student



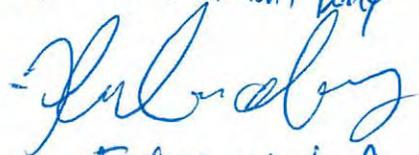
To whom it may concern,

There are various reasons as to why it's such an amazing opportunity to expand our beloved University.

To begin with, with the expansion of the University, our degrees will be worth a lot more in the near future.

In addition, the amount of recognition will be tremendous alongside the ability to compete with local and out of state universities.

Last but not least, the recruitment to better the student body of the University.

  
F.L.U. Student.

To whom it may concern,

I'm a student at FIU and I strongly believe our school should expand into the fairgrounds. Not only would it allow for the expansion of the student population as well as the expansion of buildings. This would foster diversity and the pursuit of knowledge.

Sincerely,



Allan Valiente  
FIU Student

To Whom It May Concern,

I think FIU should get the  
Fees and know it's an expensive  
University and a lot of students want  
to come here.

Sincerely,

Joanna Pineda  
FIU student

- Make the Campers larger and more beautiful
- Expanding the area in which learning can occur.
- Larger amount of classes

Mitchell C. Zurbaran  
2900084

To whom this may concern,

we should expand because:

1. Bigger campus

2. more parking

3. smaller classes

Thank you

Alberto Muñoz

To whom it may concern,

Tamiami Park should be expanded into FIU  
has potential to become one of the best schools  
in Florida. The space should be used to  
expand FIU's facilities.

Thank you,

Curtis Mizell Jr.



To whom it may concern,

FIU should expand to Tamiami Park because it would allow more space for the already overpopulated school, accessible facilities, and allow students to study in a more free environment.



- FIU Student

To whom it may concern,

FIU should be expanded into Tamiami Park on the condition that there will be available space for Greek life to tailgate. As FIU expands I believe Greek life should have an equal opportunity to expand its endeavors.

Thank you,

Anthony Cercone  


To Whom it may concern,

I would like to say that I am content with the decision that was made to expand. This will greatly help FIU. Being a bigger school will better our reputation as well as provide facilities for other majors.

I wish the best of luck,

Diego Cardenas,  
F.I.U. Student.

To whom it may concern,

I believe Fiv should expand to the Fairgrounds because it will give it more of the college feel. Expansion allows for more positive publicity for Fiv. I also believe it will bring in more variety of students as well.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "John", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

To who it may concern

I feel as if it would be a great leap for not only FIU, but ~~to~~ the entire south Florida area if FIU were to be given the opportunity to expand because ~~it~~ ~~the~~ it would provide our community with a greater educational tool ~~that~~ that would promote economic growth in the future.

Roberto A Barry

FIU Student

## EU's Expansion

The Old EU Huber and Socially Unorganised  
I completely support the expansion. I will  
find the gains to grow. We can benefit  
from work and the right to work join  
our country.

Paola Spina

To Whom it may concern,

As a Senior student at Florida Int'l University I have been fortunate to see the expansion of programs, buildings, and enrollment on the MM Campus. Despite this, it's evident that FIU currently does not have the space it needs. I hope that the fair grounds will be available for FIU in the very near future.

Best,  
Tamara Gonzalez

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the FIU community I would like to voice the concern for expansion. Thank you for considering our request to expand. I just wanted to take a moment to tell you how important expansion would be to me. Each year FIU grants students with degrees to go back into their community & make a difference. Being the 4th largest school in the nation, FIU has no other option but to expand in order to continuously provide the elite education it has been providing to future students to come.

Thank you!

-Krystal Olivera

Dear Editor,

I read the Miami Herald article titled "Ranking 10th of 118 metro areas, South Florida had 18,617 student visa holders in 2008-12, a study found. But it lagged in drawing foreign students in STEM fields" and it surprised me. I am a female Electrical Engineering student of Haitian origin, and the first thing that drew my interest in Florida International University when seeking a university for my graduate studies was the number of international and minority students I met at the Engineering Center. I, myself, started pursuing my master's degree at this institution thanks to a LACC scholarship, dedicated to international students from the Caribbean and Latin America. I am now doing research towards a PhD with the support of McKnight, which also addresses the needs of minority students. This shows FIU's effort in terms of finding funding for international or minority students. The Bio-MEMs and Microsystems group I am part of is mostly made of international students, and about 50% of the graduate students in that group are females, and are interested in different aspects of micro- or nano-engineering. I continue to be greatly impressed by how quickly my intellectual and financial needs are always quickly addressed here. Therefore, I can personally testify that FIU has provided me with great opportunities to pursue a career in STEM as it has done with countless other students with similar backgrounds and aspirations.

Best regards,

Ange Marie Fievre

PhD Candidate

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

FIU

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### **Letter to the Editor**

My name is Karina Rincon and I am a female Hispanic Biomedical Engineer pursuing my graduate degree in Electrical Engineering at Florida International University (FIU). I would like to share my thoughts in regards to an article titled: "Miami draws big share of foreign students," which was published in the Miami Herald by Nancy Dahlberg. Even though the article mainly focuses on student visa holders, the author forgets to mention that there are several opportunities for foreign students, who are US permanent residents or that have become US citizens through naturalization, to pursue their higher level degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Throughout the years, FIU has been growing and expanding and the resources and opportunities that are available for students, especially for minorities, have increased. I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, and today I am honored to be a fellow belonging to the very first cohort of the Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Bridge to the Doctorate (FGLSAMP BD) Fellowship Program at FIU, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The goal of the fellowship program is to assist universities to increase the number of minority students completing graduate degrees in STEM.

There are a total of 17 students that are currently part of the fellowship program at FIU. Every student has a different background and research interest, and together we form a diversified family with majors in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Physics, etc. From the total number of fellows, eight are female, which shows the interest of women in pursuing higher education in STEM careers, and who are taking advantage of the opportunities and resources that are being offered at FIU. As a fellow, I have attended several workshops, conferences, networking events, professional meetings, and I even had the opportunity to participate in a Summer Internship Program with the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. Additionally, the diversity in terms of the areas of research that each student is exploring at FIU is truly amazing. There are students working in neural interfaces, cancerous cells, biosensors, among many others. One of my coworkers and closest friend, who is a female Hispanic Biomedical and Electrical Engineer fellow, is currently trying to commercialize a technology that measures levels of cortisol, the stress hormone. This would have a huge impact in elite athletes, since high levels of cortisol have been correlated to fat accumulation in the abdomen and muscle loss. Additionally, it could also have a significant impact for military personnel who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). My area of research is focused on the development of an optical and electrical sensor that will measure skin water content. This technology could also have a tremendous impact, not only for athletes, since it would provide an accurate tool to measure hydration levels, but also for people who suffer from lymphedema, since it would provide a tool to measure how much water is accumulated in the tissue. Lymphedema is a medical condition where excessive amounts of fluid are accumulated in a tissue due to a compromised lymphatic system. This condition is commonly seen in women who have had breast cancer, after they are treated with chemotherapy, surgery, and/or radiation.

To conclude, the FGLSAMP BD Fellowship Program offered at FIU is enabling students to pursue higher level degrees in STEM disciplines. This program is also offered at University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, FL. People may think that there are no opportunities for minority students. However, the reality is that the opportunities exist, but nobody is aware of them because they are not advertised or communicated

to the students. In the published article, the author fails to mention that universities like FIU are working hard in the implementation of new programs that can benefit minority students, and as a matter of fact, I am proof of their efforts.

Thank you.

Best regards,

*Karina Rincon*

**Karina Rincon**

Graduate Student, NSF FGLSAMP BD Fellow  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Florida International University  
10555 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33174  
Office: EC 3860  
krinc005@fiu.edu

Letter to the editor,

I am sharing my opinion on Nancy Dahlberg's piece about the lack of opportunity in STEM fields for foreign students in the article "Miami draws big share of foreign students". The article supports Miami's rank as the bottom ten as nonexistence opportunity land for foreign students within STEM discipline. Contrary to this argument, I would like to point out there are opportunity the general public is not aware of but could have been presented within this article. For instance, I fit the statistics Dahlberg is focusing on. I was born and grew up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I am currently pursuing my masters in Electrical Engineering at Florida International University with Bridge to Doctorate NSF funded fellowship. This fellowship is awarded to minority students to pursue a higher degree within STEM discipline. I want to point out that there are other abundant fellowship, scholarship and programs for students going into STEM discipline at FIU. I would like to point out too that 90% of FIU's graduate student make-up is international. Students come from the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America. We need to keep in mind the lack of interest and initiative in the STEM field in this country to begin with. Dahlberg is quick to conclude the absence of opportunity based on general statistics however, fail to mention the efforts and initiative being presented in colleges such as FIU.

Thanks,

**Yemeserach Mekonnen**  
**Graduate Research Fellow**  
**Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering**  
**Florida International University**