



Item: VII.b.e.

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve naming of the new STEM and Research Center at the A.D. Henderson University School (“ADHUS”)/FAU High School Complex on the Boca Raton campus. The proposed name of the STEM and Research Center will be the “Marcus Research and Innovation Center.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Donation:

The Marcus Foundation is making a gift in the amount of \$2,000,000 for a recognition opportunity to name the new STEM and Research Center at the ADHUS/FAU High School Complex.

Gift Purpose:

The Marcus Foundation \$2M grant will provide much needed support to allow ADHUS and the FAU High School to fully equip its new STEM and Research Center with state-of-the-art scientific research equipment. The Marcus Research and Innovation Center will be the first of its kind in K-12 education, serving as a research training center featuring labs for ocean sciences, neuroscience, electrophysiology, bioimaging, and high-performance computing. The Marcus Foundation’s funding will allow ADHUS and FAU High to equip the labs with a confocal microscope, micro-CT scanner, infrared spectroscopy and plasma mass spectrometry system, high-performance computers, and other top-tier research instruments not found in a K-12 setting. The Center will significantly increase the research scholarship produced by students. In its first three years, the Center is projected to provide in-depth research experience to approximately 300 students, which is expected to yield approximately 100 students working on faculty-mentored research projects, 20 peer-reviewed research publications coauthored by FAU High School students, 60 research grants written by and awarded to FAU High School student

researchers, and 100 research presentations delivered by FAU High School students at research conferences and symposia.

Donor’s Background:

The Marcus Foundation, Inc. was established in 1989 in Georgia by Bernard Marcus, a co-founder of Home Depot, who serves as chairman. The Marcus Foundation supports primarily human services, mental health, Jewish Federated giving programs, education, and public affairs in Israel and the United States. In 2020, The Marcus Foundation donated \$4,000,000 to the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine to launch the Marcus Institute of Integrative Health (“MIIH”) at FAU Medicine, a clinical integrative health practice that utilizes a full spectrum of evidence-based approaches to promote health and well-being. The MIIH has developed integrative health programs, workshops, and classes that are provided free of charge to the South Florida community and to date has hosted nearly 450 health and wellness events, reaching thousands of community members.

Mr. Marcus and The Marcus Foundation’s current investment will expand upon their other philanthropic ventures both here at FAU and at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. Partnerships and collaborations ideas are already underway with the MIIH and The Marcus Neuroscience Institute at Boca Regional. In addition to the unique opportunities for K-12 FAU Lab School students, the key outcomes will include an overall increase in high-quality research publications, creating a pipeline of the next generation of researchers, developing a skilled workforce, and providing the critical space needed to train the school leaders and teachers of tomorrow.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost of signage and installation – TBD

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Implementation date is to be determined.

Presented by: David Green

Phone: 561-297-3015