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## **SUPPORTING DATA**

### **1 Academic Mission of the University**

#### **Academic Mission of the University Supporting Data**

The information included in this element was developed by Florida Atlantic University. The purpose of this element is to describe the present and future academic mission of the University, and more specifically, the Treasure Coast Campus.

#### **1. Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions**

##### **1.a. University Mission Statement**

Florida Atlantic University recently adopted the following Mission Statement as a guide to its development over the next five-year period.

#### **Mission Statement**

2000

Florida Atlantic University is an urban, regional research university serving six counties in Southeast Florida. The University is developing as a distributed university that is geographically dispersed by academically, organizationally, and technologically integrated.

The mission of FAU is to provide an enriching, comprehensive academic experience that produces well-informed, productive citizens. Central to this mission is the University's responsibility to develop in students the critical skills and historical perspective necessary to understand and mold a rapidly changing world. The University seeks to engender the qualities of professionalism and leadership for the future through an appreciation of and sensitivity to the multi-cultural society in which we live as well as an awareness and concern for our environment.

The intellectual environment that supports this experience arises from the high-quality degree programs, research and service provided by the community of some 1,378 scholars comprising FAU's faculty. The University is committed to strength in the basic academic disciplines, using innovative curricula and research to meet the changing need of our rapidly growing region and dynamic, international society. By integrating international

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and interdisciplinary emphases into its programs, FAU prepares students for a global economy and a more complex world.

FAU is dedicated to the free examination of ideas in an atmosphere of civil and uncoerced exchange. The University encourages outreach programs to attract women and minority students. To achieve excellence in undergraduate teaching, FAU provides a strong core curriculum and believes that its scholars should maintain active involvement in advising and teaching undergraduates as well as graduate students. Research is an integral part of a quality graduate education. One distinction of the University is its high proportion of part-time working students. The University's strong emphasis on the integration of scholarship and quality teaching enables all students, both traditional and nontraditional to attain their individual educational goals.

FAU is a full participant in the socio-economic development of its service area and the State: The University produces strong linkages with the business, governmental, industrial, educational health, and cultural communities of South Florida. The University believes that learning is a lifelong process, and toward this end the Open University and Continuing Education delivers a wide array of learning opportunities to local and remote locations through innovative means. Central to its commitment to provide educational leadership to the area, the College of Education emphasizes the training of elementary and secondary teachers for the future.

The University continues to develop excellence in environmental and international research and education, while building on its strength in engineering and science and applied research and technology transfer. Selected areas of excellence are stochastics, complex systems and brain science, high resolution video technology, medical imaging, telecommunications, high definition television, alloys and materials sciences, urban and regional affairs, and environmental studies.

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#### **1.b. Definition of University Service Area**

The university's area of concentrated service is Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Hendry (shared) Counties. The target service area for this branch campus is St. Lucie County. As a state university, service is provided as required to meet the needs of all Florida residents.

#### **1.c. Supplementary Policies**

A supplemental policy of the President further defines that the university's mission is to be recognized as the model for urban universities of the future characterized by a distributed structure. Under this model the university will be aggressive in establishing full service educational facilities in St. Lucie County. The university, in cooperation with other urban universities, is committed to the development of distance learning capabilities. The aim of this endeavor is to enhance the delivery of educational programs to the diverse population within our service area and across the state.

### **2. Future Needs/Requirements**

#### **2.a. Changes to the Mission Since Inception**

Legislation was passed in 1961 approving the establishment of an upper division university at Boca Raton. The institution opened in the Fall of 1964 with juniors, seniors, and limited masters' level work in Education. The mission of the university was to provide educational opportunities beyond the junior college level to the residents of Southeast Florida. Up until that point no public education at that level had been available south of Tampa. The university continued with the same basic mission, extending classes throughout Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier, Hendry, Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie, Glades, and Indian River Counties, until Florida International University opened in 1972 and assumed some of the responsibility for this extended service area.

The student body increased in size and the number of programs at the undergraduate and master degree level increased throughout the 1960s and 1970s. By the early 1980s the citizens of Southeast Florida were demanding additional educational services which led to the development of the Southeast Florida Plan in 1983. The intent of this plan was to greatly enhance the availability of graduate programs within Southeast Florida. In addition to graduate program development under the Southeast Florida Plan, a lower division was instituted in 1984, thus establishing full four-year baccalaureate programs at Florida

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Atlantic University. These developments comprised a significant change in the mission of the institution.

The lower division was originally intended to be of modest size and small growth; however, in 1988 the Legislature dramatically increased enrollment caps on the lower division so that FAU's student distribution would become more reflective of the State University System norm.

The Southeast Florida Plan was enhanced and operationalized with the passage and funding of the Comprehensive University Presence Plan in 1985. This plan has led to the implementation of Ph.D. degrees, primarily in the areas of science and engineering; has provided significant funding to the branch campuses; and enhanced the support areas impacted by the new degree programs.

#### 2.b. **Changes to the Mission Since the Last Master Plan**

Since the last Master Plan was approved, FAU has added a 50-acre Treasure Coast Campus for which this master plan is being developed.

#### 2.c. **Fulfillment of Assigned Roles**

The university achieves its assigned role by providing graduate and undergraduate programs throughout its service area; by carrying out basic and applied research; and by providing public service to the State of Florida as needed.

### Background Discussion of Goals, Objectives and Policies

The following excerpts from pages 21-28 of the *1992 Institutional Self-Study Report for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools* describe the current goals of the university. The report is entitled *Florida Atlantic University: Planning Tomorrow Today - 1992*. The new Mission Statement quoted in **1.a** was accomplished as a result of this study.

#### **Section 2: Institutional Purpose**

Each institution in the State University System (SUS) has an official mission statement, which is approved by the Board of Regents and published in the five-year SUS Master

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Plan. The current plan spans the 1993-1998 time period. In it, Florida Atlantic University has adopted a mission statement which refers to promoting the economy of the state by affording opportunities for residents to meet their career goals, and by providing higher education opportunities which would enable local businesses, industries and schools to attract professional employees to the region. Academic goals such as providing our students with a well- rounded education and developing in them the ability to think and adjust to new situations as well as to learn from established knowledge are also addressed. The statement explicitly refers to research and public service as well as teaching responsibilities. It addresses continuing education and outreach, recognizing the service needs of local and regional industry for non-traditional lifelong learning. It also provides a brief statement of associated objectives which indicates the constituencies within Southeast Florida who are served by the University and the ways in which the University is committed to extending the educational experience of those constituencies. Thus, the mission statement is appropriate to collegiate education and to FAU's specific educational role as a multi-purpose institution of higher learning in a rapidly expanding urban environment. It expresses FAU's official stance on teaching, research and service.

In lieu of preparing a new Mission Statement outside of the regular five-year planning cycle, and in compliance with SACS criteria regarding clear expressions of institutional purpose and solely for the Treasure Coast Campus, the Purpose Committee prepared, and the University Senate and President approved, a detailed set of goals (see below). These goals, along with the existing statements, will serve as our guides for the near future. They will obviously be taken into strong account in developing the new mission statement.

Florida Atlantic University is a multi-purpose university with a complex role to play in the development of the region. The character of this role is guided by the Mission Statement. Available resources to carry out the Mission, while strained in the extreme by current economic conditions, are still adequate and appropriate to assure that the University achieves its stated purpose. Programs, services, and resources are successfully carrying forward the mission and objectives of the University.

#### **GOALS**

Florida Atlantic University, consistent with the goals of the Florida Board of Regents will strive for excellence in teaching, research, service, campus life, and resource management.

Florida Atlantic University assures access to the intellectual, professional, and social life of the University community regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, physical

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condition, sexual orientation, or nationality. Maintenance and encouragement of diversity in the composition of the entire University community and regard for the rights and liberties of others are of primary importance at FAU. The goals are listed below and numbered for convenience of reference (not necessarily in order of priority).

#### **A. UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

FAU will

1. Pursue excellence in teaching and research
2. Provide a climate of scholarship and creativity
3. Sustain and promote faculty research and scholarship in solving critical problems, both local and global
4. Foster and improve the quality of existing undergraduate and graduate programs
5. Develop innovative new programs at all levels consistent with the needs of the region
6. Nurture a diversity of teaching methodologies and delivery formats to promote effective teaching
7. Promote knowledge of and sensitivity to the sociocultural diversity inherent in our multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual community
8. Encourage all students, traditional or non-traditional, full-time or part-time, day or evening, and lifelong learners, to be active members in the University community of scholars
9. Foster educational and research alliances with other institutions, business, industry, and government
10. Stimulate community participation and education through a broad range of education, cultural, and recreational offerings.

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11. Attract and retain the highest quality of staff and students.

**B. UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE**

FAU will

1. Address the needs of the people and the institutions of the University's service area and state, national, and global communities.
2. Strive to resolve existing and emerging social, technological, scientific, political, environmental, and educational problems, recognizing their complex interrelationships.
3. Provide professional consultation and assistance to public schools.
4. Meet the needs of its diverse constituencies, especially the underserved groups including handicapped individuals, women, and minorities.
5. Promote lifelong learning.
6. Establish mutually beneficial relationships with organizations in response to identified needs.

**C. UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE IN CAMPUS LIFE**

FAU will

1. Develop and maintain a responsive, caring atmosphere for all students, including opportunities and incentives for further development and advancement.
2. Promote an atmosphere conducive to the development and exchange of ideas among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community.

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3. Support and contribute to the enrichment of the undergraduate and graduate experience.
4. Promote cohesiveness and service availability among the campuses and centers of a growing institution
5. Provide a multicultural and diverse program of co-curricular activities for the University and surrounding communities
6. Contribute to the social, recreational, cultural, and educational development of students, faculty, staff, and alumni
7. Provide a full spectrum of student services, including orientation; counseling; advisement; financial aid; housing; health care; career planning; leadership development; recreational, athletic and social activities; disabled student programs; minority student programs; and student organizations
8. Encourage all students, faculty, and staff to be active participants in University decision-making and governance
9. Communicate campus news, information, and announcements to the University and the community through University resources

### **D. EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

FAU will

1. Manage fiscal, physical, human and information resources effectively and efficiently to accomplish the primary goals of the multi-campus University
2. Establish a formal strategic planning process which integrates the budget process, SUS Master Plan, Master Plan for Facilities, Information Resource Management Strategic Plan, and Enrollment Plan

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3. Utilize delivery systems including library, learning resources, computers and communications to maximize the learning environment
4. Create a partnership environment with business, industry, government and the professions that promotes the mission of the University and meets the needs of public and private sectors
5. Manage physical resources and facilities to foster an atmosphere of collegiality among students, faculty, staff and administrators
6. Develop and maintain a responsive, caring atmosphere for all employees, including opportunities and incentives for further development and advancement
7. Provide an environment for research, scholarship, and creative activity
8. Develop additional fiscal resources, including internal cost-containment
9. Encourage alumni participation and support of the University