EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Student Involvement & Leadership experienced many exciting changes in 2011/2012. We restructured our office into three main areas: 1) L.E.A.D., 2) Student Organizations & Activities, and 3) Fraternity & Sorority Life. SIL grew from a staff of two to a full staff of five professional staff members with the restructuring. Additionally, a new director, associate director and assistant director were hired for SIL. A new director, Alicia Keating, was hired in January 2012, a new Associate Director, David Bynes, moved from the Broward campuses up to the Boca Raton campus in January 2012 and a new Coordinator for L.E.A.D., Katie Burke (quickly promoted to Assistant Director) was hired in August 2011.

SIL moved offices in December 2011 to help align the new areas of responsibility within SIL and bring the three areas together in the same space. In addition to the physical office move, SIL also knocked out an opening in the wall between rooms 218 and 220 to design a new and bigger office space. A conference room was also created in this office move, which has been utilized for staff meetings, committee meetings and student executive board meetings.

This was another year of increased creativity and synergy in Student Involvement & Leadership across the campuses. For the second year, the SIL offices from around Florida Atlantic University intentionally came together to have real conversations about our offices, the services we offer and how we can best work together to offer the best experience to students. We effectively coordinated the University-wide re-registration process for student organizations, as well partnered on Homecoming Week and the Student Leadership Conference.

This year we celebrated FAU’s anniversary with “Building Traditions for 50 Years” with Homecoming and made some great strides in all aspects of Homecoming. There were more nominations for Homecoming Court and the Student Talon Award from across FAU this year than we’ve ever had. Additionally, we added a new signature event to Homecoming Week with the Homecoming Concert featuring country artist James Otto. Overall, it was an amazing week full of OWL pride and tradition.

Student organizations were extremely active and connected with SIL this year. We surpassed 300 student organizations for the first time at FAU with exactly 302 student organizations registering University-wide. 2012 marked the first year that SIL hosted the Hazing Prevention Summit. Over 300 students were in attendance to hear about the dangers and real concerns of hazing. At the conclusion of the event, student organizations pledged not to haze by signing a banner that was displayed in the Student Union. The Council of Student Organizations (COSO) hosted the 2nd annual SOAR Banquet which received record numbers of award nominations and attendees. This was the first year that students from each of the campuses performed during the SOAR Banquet.
Developing contributing student leaders at FAU continues to be a primary focus for Student Involvement & Leadership. Attendance figures were up by 40% for all of our leadership initiatives, including the Student Leadership Conference, Leadership Institutes and Leadership Reading Circles. Establishing strong partnerships with faculty has been a key objective this year and through the Leadership Conference and Leadership Reading Circles we have been able to partner with faculty to bring these leadership programs to life. SIL also successfully launched the Certified Student Leader Program, a three tiered program focused on training, practice and reflection where students who complete the program receive a notation of Certified Student Leader on their academic transcript. SIL also hosted the inaugural Leader of Leaders Gala where top students from the leadership honor societies advised through the Division of Student Affairs were invited including Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key, Order of Omega, Fraternal Values Society, National Residence Hall Honorary and Elite Owls.

SIL increased its support and advisement of several honor societies this year. Two new honor societies were chartered at FAU and two previously defunct honor societies were re-chartered. SALUTE National Veteran Honor Society was newly chartered this spring at FAU to recognize veterans. Five student veterans were inducted into SALUTE this April. FAU is one of the first 50 universities in the United States to start a chapter of SALUTE. The Fraternal Values Society was also chartered this year at FAU. This group, open to members of the fraternity and sorority community exists to create and open dialogue about the values movement within the Greek community. 11 members were inducted in a meaningful ceremony in November. Golden Key International Honor Society was re-chartered in November at FAU and has inducted 214 members this year, each student with at least a 3.5 GPA. Lastly, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society was also re-chartered at FAU. This organization recognizes the high scholastic achievement of freshman. Successful freshman must have at least a 3.5 GPA to be accepted. 84 freshmen were inducted during the re-chartering and induction ceremony. Phi Eta Sigma previously existed at FAU, but went inactive in the 1990’s. The organization was brought back in order to provide a means to celebrate the success of academically-focused freshman.

2011/2012 has been a successful year for Student Involvement & Leadership, but we eagerly look to 2012/2013 to bring all of our programs to the next level. The SIL offices from across the University will continue to collaborate and bring out the best in one another. Program Board will keep its focus on providing large-scale entertainment to students, but also look to incorporate traditions programming to its calendar. Homecoming will focus on branding Homecoming Week as Owl Prowl and look to successfully work with the newly established model for the Homecoming Committee and Homecoming Advisory Board. COSO will try out a new organization structure model. SIL will look to develop a new leadership development program for freshman and sophomores and aim to increase the number of students participating in leadership programs by 10%. We look excitedly forward to the next year, knowing we have the tools and resources to have another successful year.