

Florida Atlantic University: The Innovative Choice

Committed to the Success of Every Student at FAU

- Performance funding is the future of public education.
- FAU earned \$1.7M in last year's performance funding model, which tied the University of Florida.
- Several areas are points of pride for FAU. In particular, we are proud of our dual mission of access and excellence.

Access: Longtime Leader

- Florida Atlantic University was built as a commuter school that focuses on providing access to higher education to South Florida's extremely diverse population. Our student population successfully reflects our focus on "access." We are the most diverse university in Florida's system and our student body is composed of people from many races, ages and economic circumstances.
- More than 50 percent of our student body is now represented by minority groups.
- 32 percent of FAU students are 25 or older and 40 percent are part-time students, often because they hold full-time jobs or have children at home. Compare this against the University of Florida, where only 6 percent of students are 25 or older and 7 percent are part-time students.
- Our students attend school as much as they can and often have to temporarily suspend their studies because of life's other demands. These students average less than 10 credit hours a semester, the number needed to meet the 6-year graduation rate required by the new performance measure.
- Due to the non-traditional circumstances of our diverse student body, their success is hard to measure using tools designed to assess the academic progress of traditional undergraduates.

Excellence: FAU Means Business

- Faculty and administrators have taken action. Students who leave for a semester have been called to get them back in the classroom and red tape has been lifted from registration processes.
- The advising office has been retooled to reach students early and often.
- We know that we can do more. To improve FAU's retention and graduation rates, FAU launched a University-wide Task Force for Student Success, led by a recently appointed Assistant Provost.
- The Task Force is developing strategies for Student Success that will be executed over a 2-3 year planning cycle. These include, but are not limited to, 1) a seamless advising system, 2) increased tutoring and supplemental instruction for students in high-risk courses, 3) adopting new scheduling policies for easy access to courses, and 4) increased development of online courses.

Jobs: Top in the State

- FAU is tied for first in the state in job placement: 70 percent of our bachelor's degree graduates are employed full-time in Florida or continuing their education in the U.S., with a median starting wage of \$34,900. Compare that to an average graduate school and job placement rate of 66 percent and median starting salary of \$33,500 for the rest of the SUS institutions.
- Students who receive doctoral degrees at FAU start at an average salary of \$88,000.
- FAU's accounting scholars program has achieved a 100 percent job placement rate.

Higher education has undergone major changes over the last few years. Public institutions are complex organizations that employ thousands of people. We are all working hard to adjust to today's challenges and welcome any efforts to improve the success of students. We look forward to working with our state partners to ensure that accountability measures are both comprehensive in scope and appropriate for our extraordinarily diverse community and special mission.