MEMORANDUM

To: University Community

From: Kenneth G. Furton, Provost and Executive Vice President
       Andrés G. Gil, Vice President for Research & Economic Development

Date: March 31, 2016

I am pleased to share the Preeminent Programs Guidelines and Appendices for your review, and the application form for consideration.

A Preeminent Program at FIU is a collaborative endeavor that demonstrates extraordinary success in providing unique learning opportunities, pioneering research and engagement while expanding FIU’s financial base. Designation as a Preeminent Program is recognition for outstanding contributions to advancing FIU’s BeyondPossible2020 strategic plan and enhancing the University’s reputation at the national and international level.

The Preeminent Programs Implementation Committee recognized that some programs may be on the cusp of becoming preeminent and that support of that program would be strategically beneficial to FIU, thus creating an Emerging Preeminent Program category. An Emerging Preeminent Program is a collaborative endeavor with high potential to be designated preeminent (as described in the preeminent program definition). With strategic support, an emerging Preeminent Program could potentially build upon its distinctive merits, strengths, and successes to earn the Preeminent Program designation.

Identifying and supporting Preeminent and Emerging Preeminent Programs will strengthen and further FIU’s mission as a leading public research university in the 21st century. Designation as a Preeminent Program or an Emerging Preeminent Program will provide the program with support as outlined in the attached guidelines. We recognize that support will not necessarily be one-size-fits-all as each program will have different needs, and will therefore not need to utilize all available support services.

A Preeminent Program Selection Committee will be appointed through a process outlined in the Preeminent Programs Guidelines and Appendices. The Committee will be charged with reviewing the Self-Evaluation Instrument (SEI) and applications, making recommendations for designation to the President and Provost, and providing feedback to applicants.
The self-assessment rubric and the aforementioned definitions are intended to provide guidelines for eligibility. Completed applications along with any questions should be sent to Mercedes Rodriguez (mercedes.rodriguez@fiu.edu). Applications are due no later than April 29, 2016. We would like to thank all members of the Preeminent Programs Committee and Preeminent Programs Implementation Committee for their efforts on this initiative.