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HP donates e-mail system to FIU

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by [Brian Bandell](#)

Florida International University's College of Business Administration will have a new and improved e-mail system, thanks to a donation worth \$400,000 from **Hewlett-Packard Co.** (HP).

Announced on Aug. 2, the equipment and software HP is providing will set the business school up with an e-mail server that's separate from the rest of the university. This server will have at least three times the storage space and be backed up by **Terremark Worldwide's** NAP of the Americas in Miami. That will prevent the system from going down after a hurricane, which is what happened to the university's e-mail after Hurricane Wilma last year, said Joyce Elam, dean of the College of Business Administration.

The e-mail will serve the college's nearly 6,000 students, more than 350 faculty and staff and thousands of recently graduated alumni. Students will get to keep their e-mail account for life, which will foster greater communication between the college and alumni, Elam said. She wants to encourage them to come back for graduate classes and participate in surveys for **BusinessWeek** and **Financial Times** rankings.

When FIU's College of Business Administration enters its new building in fall 2007, it plans for the new server to handle more than just e-mail. It is planning to implement a wireless tablet PC in classrooms so professors can save their notes, repost them for each class and put them on the Internet, Elam said.

"The college is very committed to providing our students with an educational experience that uses the latest technology," she said. "The HP gift allows us to put in place a foundation to develop new technology that enables the educational experience."

The donation is part of the longstanding relationship between FIU and HP. The company has FIU interns and its Miami-based VP and general manager for HP Latin America, Rui da Costa, is on the business dean's advisory council.

This is one of the largest donations in the \$7 million HP initiative to give technology upgrades to schools and universities, HP spokeswoman Andrea Padilla said. Four elementary schools in Miami-Dade and Broward counties also received donations.

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