

# South Florida CEO

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orates with professionals to design its offerings, such as a master of business administration in real estate development. "From our board of governors to our 100 corporate partners to young entrepreneurs, we work closely with South Florida's business community," Preston Jones, executive associate dean, says.

In Palm Beach County, Northwood University has developed programs specifically devoted to international business and entrepreneurship. "These themes are woven into the entire curriculum," academic dean Cheryl Pridgeon says. Northwood offers several study-abroad programs, in which students can learn firsthand about various cultures."

Northwood's entrepreneurship program is designed to take students from concept to reality with their dreams of starting their own businesses. From ana-

lyzing a market niche, through risk analysis and sources of capital, to managing people and to succession, the program covers the life cycle of the entrepreneurial endeavor, Pridgeon says.

At Carlos Albizu University in Doral, working business leaders teach students the complex skills necessary for success, including communication techniques, salesmanship, workplace protocol, professional ethics, presentation styles and conflict resolution. CAU's undergraduate and graduate degree programs include MBAs in organizational management, non-profit leadership and entrepreneurship.

With these innovative approaches, South Florida's colleges and universities – whether large or small – will continue to make important long-term contributions to the business of education.

## Florida International University: The perfect place for an International MBA



Strategically located in Miami, Florida International University (FIU) has the advantage of being at the crossroads of the Americas.

Created with South Florida's global connections and cosmopolitan reality in mind, FIU's 12-month, accelerated international master of business administration (IMBA) reflects the region's cultural diversity.

"To be competitive in today's workplace you have to think globally," José de la Torre, dean of FIU's Chapman Graduate School of Business, says. "Students come to FIU from all over the world and are taught by professors from many countries, as well as the United States."

The IMBA program, now entering its eighth year, has been consistently recognized and praised. *U.S. News & World Report* recently ranked it 18<sup>th</sup> in the United States. (*America's Best Graduate Schools*, 2007).

The one-year, full-time IMBA is completed in four quarters. All core courses, including a foreign language – Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese or Advanced Business English – are taken during the fall, winter and spring quarters, leaving students the summer quarter to do a business internship, take specialization courses at FIU or study abroad with academic partners in countries that include Spain, Argentina, France, and China.

FIU offers an IMBA China Track for business professionals who want to understand Chinese culture and communicate in this environment. The track allows students to complement their Chinese classes with a study abroad program in China, which includes intensive language and cultural classes, as well as business classes taught in English at partner universities in China. For more information, visit [www.fiu.edu](http://www.fiu.edu).

## Miami Dade College: Meeting Workforce Needs

Miami Dade College has a long history of offering academic and training programs that meet the needs of South Florida's evolving workforce. The largest college or university in the United States educating 163,000 students on eight campuses and numerous outreach centers, it has admitted more than 1.5 million students since opening in 1960.



"Whenever a business or organization is in need of training, we are right there," president of the North Campus José A. Vicente says. "We have the flexibility to develop programs that meet specific requirements, including scheduling and on-campus or on-site location."

For example, the college's School of Entertainment Technologies launched a telenovela writers program, with the Spanish network Telemundo, in 2005. Now in its second year, the course drew more than 4,400 applications for 30 places in the nation's only digital media Spanish program, Vicente says. The college also offers English as a second language and associate degree programs for employees seeking to improve their academic credentials.

Recently, the college gained approval for a new bachelor's degree, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Public Safety Management with 10 career tracks. Classes will begin this fall. In 2003, the college began offering bachelor degrees in education to address the critical shortage of teachers.

The college offers more than 150 associate degrees, 50 fast-track vocational training programs, a full complement of adult education classes, GED preparation classes, and classes for fun and recreation. For more information, visit [www.mdc.edu](http://www.mdc.edu).