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South Florida gets millions in GPA bragging rights

Known for South Beach sizzle and Palm Beach plentitude, South Florida this week added another superlative to its reputation: a stellar GPA.

That's right, the region's grants per academic institution was impressive this week, with Miami Dade College, Nova Southeastern University and Florida International University disclosing more than \$10 million in cumulative grants in one day.

Oct. 10, the ivory towers not only told of the green flowing toward their campuses, but also of their plans for a type of wind-fall far preferable to hurricanes.



BEST OF THE WEB

ROBIN LONDNER

The most money flowed into MDC. The college, which has its main campus in Kendall, received two grants worth a total of \$5.75 million from the U.S. Department of Education.

The first grant, for \$3.5 million, is to fund building new biotechnology and biosciences degree programs and also bolstering enrollment, stu-

dent retention and job placement in the industries.

The second MDC grant is for \$2.25 million. That money is to go toward improving student success and retention. Ideas include a first-year experience program, tutoring, advisement, new computers and tutorial software.

The business of education continued with the next largest grant going to NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. For the three-year, \$4.2 million grant, NSU is to spearhead a program that also involves Broward Community College, as well as medical facilities.

The U.S. Public Health Services' Health Resources and Services Administration grant is to fund teaching more than 30,000 local health care workers to react efficiently and skillfully in an emergency.

"This program will create a measurable, competency-based model, which will be a leader in the state and, quite possibly, in the nation," NSU Health Professions Division Chancellor Fred Lippman said.

International business profits

That's heavy stuff. But the smallest amount of grant money is also set to deliver a punch – this time helping international business interests.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded \$286,209 to Florida International University's College of Business Administration.

Miami Dade College, Nova Southeastern University and Florida International University disclosed more than \$10 million in cumulative grants in one day.

The grant, combined with funding from Florida FTAA, gives the school \$379,000 to establish the Small and Medium Enterprises Center of Excellence (SMECE) at FIU. The center is to provide business education and executive training both online and on-site to entrepreneurs of small and medium-size businesses in countries that fall under the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

FIU said it expects to train 40 entrepreneurs in the pilot program and significantly more in subsequent years. Recruitment for the initial SMECE program is to begin this month, the Miami-based university said.

With all that academic money in mind, a few more "GPA" suggestions:

- grantwriters' perk area
- gosh, programs advance
- greenbacks pump academics

Oh, and, of course, one that could refer to every piece in the *South Florida Business Journal*: gloriously penned articles.

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