Florida International University's Center for International Business Education and Research Awarded $1.4 Million Grant

ATTENTION: Education, Business editors

MIAMI, May 29 (AScribe Newswire) — Florida International University's Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), one of only 30 such prestigious university-based Centers throughout the country, received a grant renewal of $1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Education. As part of the grant's matching program, FIU will generate an additional $1.4 million through state funding initiatives. The money, which will be allocated during the next four years, will be used to support and deliver programs that emphasize the area's diverse community and help ensure its global competitiveness through international business education and research initiatives.

Designed to bring together the needs of the business community with the university's international education, language training, and research capabilities, FIU's CIBER, a division of the College of Business Administration (CBA), was established in October 1995 with an initial grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Since its inception, the Center has made significant progress in carrying out the mandate of its grant by promoting international understanding, enhancing international expertise, and creating broader awareness about the internationalization of business.

"Building on the strengths of our international faculty and staff and our unique expertise in Latin American and Caribbean commerce, our CIBER has become a valuable resource in advancing the study and teaching of international business, particularly in The Americas, and thus preparing our students to become tomorrow's leaders in the global economy," said CBA Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam. "This funding will take us to the next level as we build on the work CIBER has done since its inception and as we continue to expand our role as South Florida's leading resource for international business education."

Through CIBER, the CBA has enhanced its study abroad opportunities for students and its foreign language development programs for faculty. CIBER also has engaged in a host of internationally-driven research projects and established a sophisticated database that provides transaction costs and other import/export price-range analysis for all commodities traded by the U.S. with other countries.

"Under the guidance of our CIBER advisory council, we have designed successfully a broad array of multifaceted programs and activities that not only meet, but exceed the grant's mandates," said Mary Ann Von Gilow, director of CIBER at FIU. "I am thrilled that the U.S. Department of Education has recognized our achievements and once again awarded us this prestigious grant."

Some of the other universities with CIBERs include Thunderbird, Columbia University, Duke University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Michigan State
CIBER's mission is to enhance international business, education, and research by marshalling and augmenting the existing capabilities of the FIU community and to assist faculty, students, and the business community at large to expand their readiness and capacity to engage effectively in economic development goals critical to South Florida. In doing so it seeks ultimately to help improve U.S. competitiveness in the global economic marketplace.

Florida International University's College of Business Administration (CBA), South Florida's business education leader with unique expertise in international business and information technology (IT), is the second largest of FIU's professional schools, enrolling approximately 3,800 undergraduate and more than 900 graduate students each year. It also is South Florida's top-rated business research school and one of only 424 business schools in the world accredited by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The College's Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., Graduate School of Business offers the 8th-largest part-time MBA program among this group, and its IT faculty has been ranked among the top 20 (11th) in the U.S. in terms of research productivity. Its Executive MBA and full-time International MBA programs were ranked at or near the top in recent Executive MBA Council and AACSB International benchmarking studies respectively. U.S. News and World Report (October 15, 2001) ranked its Global Executive MBA program among the top 25 best online MBA programs. The September 13, 2001, issue of America Economia, a premier Pan-regional business journal published by Dow Jones, listed the CBA among the top 50 business schools from around the world for Latin American business students. Hispanic Business (March 2002) ranked the CBA among the top five business schools for Hispanics.

For additional information about the CBA and the Chapman School, please call Assistant Dean Sally Gallion, 305-348-6631.

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