FIU’s COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AWARDED GRANT TO FORM ALLIANCE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Alliance Links American and European Business Students to Promote Better Understanding of Global Economy

MIAMI, Fla. – (March 29, 2002) – FIU’s College of Business Administration (CBA) is among eight national and international universities recently awarded a $300,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Approximately 65 percent of the grant will be underwritten by federal funds, with the remaining 35 percent funded by non-governmental sources.

Recognizing that the key to effective cross-cultural preparation of business students is the creation of links between language and business professors, the grant will provide the necessary funding for participating U.S. and European universities to form the Alliance for Cross-Cultural Understanding. The Alliance will serve as a platform for language departments, international offices, and business schools to work together to help prepare students for the global economy through reinforcement of their language abilities and cultural understandings.

“The grant provides CBA students with an exciting opportunity to study abroad and enhance their foreign language skills and cultural knowledge,” said Laura Kozloski, director of the CBA’s International Business Honors program. “This helps deepen their understanding of the global business environment.”

Kozloski, whose students will participate in the project, added that student groups also will work via the Internet on multicultural case studies, take part in Internet roundtables, and make presentations through videoconferencing.

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In addition to the CBA, other participating U.S. universities include Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, La.; University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Ark. and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. European partners include Ecole Superiure de Commerce, Saint-Etienne, France; Hame Polytechnic, Finland; University of Luton, England and University of Vic, Spain.

“With the help of this grant, we can continue to provide our students with globally-enriching educational experiences and give them opportunities to expand their horizons – both in their current studies and in their career paths,” said CBA Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam. “Securing this opportunity for our students is another example of how the College of Business Administration is distinguishing itself as a center for global business education.”

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 411 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 (Oct. 15, 2001) ranked its Global Executive MBA program among the top 25 best online MBA programs. The Sept. 13, 2001, issue of America Economía, 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. It also is one of only 28 business schools to have received a Department of Education grant to establish and support an international business center.

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

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