MIAMI, November 18, 2005 – Florida International University’s College of Business Administration today held a groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction of the college’s new $45 million building complex, which will house the Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business and select undergraduate programs in the R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business.

More than 100 contributors, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the University’s Board of Trustees and administrative leaders attended the historic event. College Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam and University President Modesto A. Maidique spoke about the significance of this milestone in the College’s growth.

“Our business school has grown as an institution of higher education through the caliber and contributions of its faculty, staff, students, and alumni,” Elam said. “But today would not have been possible without the strong support from our many friends and supporters in the business community.”

Elam and Maidique highlighted the profound impact the new business building complex will have on students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners of the College—as well as on those who live and work in South Florida and beyond.

College benefactor R. Kirk Landon, member of the University’s Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board and said he is proud to be participating in the development of the business school.

“It’s clear to me that the College is one of the country’s leading business schools, and I’m delighted to be supporting the future business leaders of South Florida, the Americas, and the world who are earning their degrees here,” said Landon.

Landon added that the College’s phenomenal growth and the inspiration it has given to so many young people in the region has been a great source of satisfaction and inspiration to supporters of the institution.

The modern, state-of-the-art building complex to be constructed will be comprised of:

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Academic Hall—which will feature 60-person tiered classrooms, collaborative learning classrooms, study rooms, computer and research laboratories, and a three-hundred-seat auditorium, which can be converted into a 75-seat tiered classroom.

Student Hall—which will house the Admissions and Career Services offices located on the first floor and upstairs will feature a multipurpose room to be used for small and large gatherings.

Commons Hall—a building that will offer student spaces, study rooms, and a coffee shop.

Faculty and Research Center Hall— which will house faculty offices, instructional and technology spaces, and administrative offices for the College’s research centers.

The renowned architectural firms of Kohn Pederson Fox Associates and BEA International designed the building, which merges the identity of the school and its strong ties to the Americas with the actuality of a modern and dynamic facility. They worked with a concept developed by the collective desires of the College’s students, faculty, staff, alumni, administrators and business partners, who wanted a facility oriented towards building a strong sense of community among all those who teach, study, work, return to, and visit it. The new complex expresses a geometry of interlocking forms that spiral upward in clockwise and counter-clockwise directions created to do just that.

“We are honored to break ground on this architectural gem and look forward to its completion, when we can share it with our community—both locally and internationally,” Elam said. “From within these future walls will emanate the business, civic, and political leaders of tomorrow.”

To fund the project, the University secured $15 million from the State of Florida. The College kicked off the public phase of its “Building for Business” campaign on March 10, 2005 (the private phase has been under way for about two years) to raise $15 million in private funds, to be matched by another $15 million by the state of Florida. To date, the College has raised more than $9 million of the $15 million needed to complete the complex.

Major donors to date include:
- R. Kirk Landon
- Alvah H. Chapman, Jr.
- Ocean Bank
- Armando Codina
- Bank of America
- Regions Bank
- Wachovia Foundation
- Morris, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP
- Guarded Networks, Inc.
- Graham Family
- IKON Office Solutions
- Kaufman Rossin & Co.
- Augusto L. Vidaurretta

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About Florida International University’s College of Business Administration

Florida International University’s College of Business Administration, South Florida’s leading business school with unique expertise in international business, entrepreneurship, real estate, and information technology (IT) strategy, is the largest of the University’s professional schools. Among the College’s more than 30,000 alumni are some of South Florida’s most successful business leaders and entrepreneurs. It is one of only 15% of all business schools globally that is accredited by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Approximately 6000 students are enrolled in undergraduate business courses in its R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business and more than 900 graduate students study in its Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., Graduate School of Business every year. Another 1,000 participate annually in one or more of its professional and executive education programs.

*U.S. News & World Report* (2006) ranked the international business programs in the College’s Landon Undergraduate School of Business the 7th best in the nation, and its graduate international business program in the Top 25 in the U.S., while *BusinessWeek* (October 11, 2004) ranked the College among the top 68 graduate business schools in the U.S. and in the top 25 among public business schools. Also, *Hispanic Business* (since 1998) and *Hispanic Trends* (since 2003) have placed the College among the top 25 business schools for Hispanics, most recently in the top 10.

For additional information about the College, its Landon Undergraduate School of Business, and its Chapman Graduate School of Business, please visit the College’s Web site at [http://cba.fiu.edu](http://cba.fiu.edu)

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