MIAMI, Fla. – (June 2, 2005) – Florida International University’s Chapman Graduate School of Business and Macy’s today announced they have joined forces to bring the first AACSB-accredited programs to professionals who live or work in downtown Miami.

“As part of Macy’s desire to be supportive of local communities, we welcomed the opportunity to partner with Florida International University to launch a Downtown Graduate Business School Center. Both Macy’s and the business school at the University are entrenched in the South Florida community – so this was a natural partnership,” said N.K. “Trip” Tripathy, president and COO of Macy’s Florida Inc. “We believe the partnership, which is a first for Macy’s, will give students more than advanced degrees – it will provide them with immeasurable networking opportunities with other members of the downtown business community.”

Beginning in August 2005, the Downtown Center, which will be located on the sixth floor of Macy’s Florida corporate offices (22 East Flagler Street), will be the site for a comprehensive new 18-month Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the Executive Master of Science in Taxation (EMST) program, both taught in the state-of-the-art facility by the College’s nationally and internationally recognized faculty. Classes will be structured into eight-week sessions, each consisting of two courses meeting two evenings (MBA) or two mornings (EMST) per week, so students may continue to work while earning their degrees. The programs will include meal service for students, secured parking nearby, and textbooks as part of the total fee.

“We’re confident our programs will bring a new dimension to life in downtown Miami,” said José de la Torre, dean of the Chapman Graduate School of Business. “It’s thrilling to be part of the city’s growth, and we plan to develop additional programs to expand the Downtown Center based on emerging business needs.”

Students will experience the downtown programs as a group, which will provide them with strong teambuilding skills and networking opportunities. Additionally, the business school offers assistance in securing internships and full-time positions for students upon graduation.

(more)
“Many thriving downtown areas enjoy the presence of a major university,” said Dana Nottingham, director of the Downtown Development Authority. “Miami is growing at an astonishing pace. As more companies do business here and more residential opportunities become available in the downtown sector, the incorporation of South Florida’s premier business school into our downtown lifestyle will only further Miami’s image as a great metropolitan city.”

In addition to the Downtown MBA and the EMST, Florida International University’s graduate business school will also offer two programs beginning in January 2006 at its new Downtown Center: a Master of Science in Finance (focused on international banking) and a Master of Science in International Real Estate (a new offering by the College).

Applications are currently being accepted for all four programs. Students interested in learning more are invited to attend a special information session at the Intercontinental Hotel, in downtown Miami, anytime between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28. To sign-up for the information session, or for any additional inquiries, please call 305-CHAPMAN (305-242-7626), or send an e-mail to chapman@fiu.edu.

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About Macy’s and Florida International University’s College of Business Administration:

Macy’s operates 61 stores within Florida, including five furniture galleries. In addition to renowned Florida fashions and sought-after merchandise, Macy’s is active in the communities it serves. Within Florida, the company has sponsored the Florida Department of Education/Macy’s Teacher of the Year program for 17 consecutive years and to date has contributed approximately $1.7 million dollars to Florida’s teachers. Additionally, each year the retailer produces the crowning ceremony for Teacher of the Year, which airs live throughout the state via Florida Public Television. Macy’s supports numerous causes, including the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women movement, United Way, America’s Second Harvest and others. Through Federated Department Store’s Partners in Time volunteer program, the company’s employees also are personally involved in many community service projects.

Florida International University’s College of Business Administration, South Florida’s leading business school with unique expertise in international business, entrepreneurship, and international real estate, is the largest of the University’s professional schools. Among the College’s more than 25,000 alumni are some of South Florida’s most successful business leaders and entrepreneurs. Approximately (more)
6,000 students are enrolled in its undergraduate business courses in its R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business and more than 800 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.

The College is one of only 504 business schools in the world—about 15% of all business schools world wide—accredited by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It ranks in the top 10 among these schools in the number of students it graduates each year, and its Chapman School offers the 6th largest part-time MBA program among them. *U.S. News & World Report* (2005) ranked the international business programs in its Chapman Graduate School of Business among the top 25 in the U.S. (America’s *Best Graduate Schools 2006*). For the past three years, *América Economia*, a premier pan-regional business journal, has rated it among the top 50 MBA schools for Latin American students. *Hispanic Trends* (Summer 2003) ranked the College in its list of the Top 25 MBA programs for Latinos—the only Florida business school to make the cut.

For additional information about the College, its Landon Undergraduate School of Business, and its Chapman Graduate School of Business, please call Assistant Dean Sally Gallion at (305) 348-6631, e-mail gallions@fiu.edu or visit the College’s website at http://cba.fiu.edu.