Florida International University’s College of Business Administration Receives Largest Gift, Names its Undergraduate School for R. Kirk Landon

MIAMI, Fla. (July 15, 2004) — President Modesto Maidique announced today that R. Kirk Landon, retired chairman and CEO of American Bankers Insurance Group, has given $5 million to the Florida International University College of Business Administration.

His gift qualifies for the State of Florida Matching Funds Program, which will bring it to $10 million, making it the largest cash gift from an individual ever made to Florida International University and the largest in the history of the College of Business Administration. In recognition of his contribution, the undergraduate school of business will be named R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business. The funds will be used to enhance the College of Business Administration facilities and programs. The College of Business Administration is also home to the Chapman Graduate School of Business, named for business and civic leader Alvah H. Chapman.

“More than a gift, I consider this money an investment in the economic future of South Florida,” said Landon, a resident of Coral Gables who has been a supporter of Florida International University since its beginnings, when he became a member of the 1972 advisory board and the University’s Founders Council. “I’ve been observing the
Florida International University College of Business Administration for some time and there’s no doubt in my mind that it is well positioned to become a national leader in the field.”

President Maidique, who has led Florida International University since 1986, said that he’s always been able to count on Landon for council and support.

“A member of our family has come forth to help us solidify our position as an internationally competitive business school, said Maidique, who is also a professor of management at the College of Business Administration. “We are grateful for his generosity and his vision.”

Landon’s gift, explained Maidique, is a measure of the growth and accomplishments realized in the University’s short history in many areas. In the last few years Florida International University has added two professional schools -- law and architecture -- secured a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter, ranked among the best universities in the nation and is home to two important museums and several nationally recognized programs. Work is underway at the University to lay the groundwork for the first public school of medicine in South Florida.

“Our faculty and students will be proud to work within a school that carries the Landon name,” said Executive Dean of the College of Business Joyce Elam. “He’s a leader, whose vision and values will inspire us.”

During his tenure at American Bankers, he implemented company innovations such as creating a pre-school for employees’ children and also made a donation to the Georgia Institute of Technology for the construction of a daycare facility.

The Florida International University College of Business Administration enrolls approximately 6,000 students a year, about 800 of whom pursue advanced degrees in the Chapman Graduate School of Business. The school has more than 25 thousand alumni, among them many of our community’s most prominent business leaders.

The College is ranked among the best in the nation: U.S. News & World Report (2004) ranked the College’s undergraduate international business programs 14th in the nation and, in 2005, ranked its graduate international business programs among the top 25. Business Week (October 21, 2002) ranked it among the best in the U.S., placing it in the group with American, Fordham, George Washington, South Carolina, Syracuse,

The College of Business Administration is closely associated with the newly created Global Entrepreneurship Center, which just received a $3 million grant from the prestigious Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

“Mr. Landon’s gift marks an important milestone in the history of Florida International University,” said Vice President for University Advancement Howard Lipman. “I hope it will inspire others to support quality and access in their public university.”

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