

# The Herald

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## NEIGHBORS

# FIU honors entrepreneurs

Florida International University's College of Business Administration paid tribute to alumni and local business entrepreneurs who have achieved distinction as founders and builders of new business enterprises at its annual Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame induction ceremony and luncheon held recently at Parrot Jungle Island.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees were **Joseph Caruncho** and **Justo Pozo**. Caruncho is the founder and Pozo is the president and chief executive officer of Preferred Care Partners.

Seven alumni have been inducted to date into the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, which was established in 1999.

At the luncheon, the college also recognized other South Florida entrepreneurs, both alumni and non-alumni: **Keith St. Clair** of TraveLeaders was named the 2004 South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year, **Roberto Capó** of El Dorado Furniture was named 2004 South Florida Family Business Alumnus and **Andrew Yap** of LEASA was honored with the 2004 South Florida Family Business Award.

Also at the luncheon, two teams from FIU's colleges of Business Administration and Engineering were named winners of the Howard J. Leonhardt New Venture Challenge: An International Business Plan Competition. The competition was open to teams from FIU and FIU's partner schools throughout Florida and Latin America.



**HALL OF FAME EVENT:** Justo Pozo, left, and Joseph Caruncho of Preferred Care Partners with FIU College of Business Administration executive dean Joyce Elam at the college's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame event.

In the competition, each team competed in preliminary and final oral competitions in the weeks prior to the event and presented business plans for start-up ventures.

The first-place winner at the undergraduate level, Eco-Solutions, was created by a team from FIU's College of Business Administration. The

company proposed "Mela-Mulch," a solution to Florida's melaleuca tree problem.

The graduate-level winner, UniversityPlacementServices.com, also created by an FIU team, would offer international students complete and detailed information services concerning all aspects of the university admissions process in the United States.

The winning teams received \$15,000 cash and \$4,000 in in-kind contributions, to be used to incorporate their businesses and cover start-up costs.

For information about FIU's College of Business Administration and its Chapman School, call assistant dean Sally Gallion at 305-348-6631, e-mail [gallions@fiu.edu](mailto:gallions@fiu.edu) or visit <http://cba.fiu.edu>.

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