Prestige a big part of grant package for FIU

The Global Entrepreneurship Center at FIU views the second-largest grant in school history as a ‘green light’ to add to the entrepreneurial component of other studies.

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Florida International University has won a $3 million grant — the second largest in the school’s 31-year history — to improve entrepreneurial studies on campus. Money from the prestigious Kauffman Foundation has been earmarked for the school’s Global Entrepreneurship Center, which aims to enhance the entrepreneurial component of every discipline at the university.

“We want to make the Global Entrepreneurship Center a national center,” FIU President Mitch Maidique said Monday. “Having the Kauffman name is a green light that says we’re a place you want to invest in if you want to promote entrepreneurship.”

He added that the grant would supplement a plan to hire 300 faculty members, including 10 tenure-track Kauffman professors, within the next five years.

Alan Carssrud, the center’s executive director, added that the funds would also go toward retraining professors in other disciplines to include business elements in their courses and to broaden the relationship between local small busi-