

# MIAMI TODAY

WEEK OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004



\$1 WWW.MIAMITODAYNEWS.COM

**29 historic schools in line  
for major restoration jobs,  
pg. 13**

**EDUCATION TRENDS**

**At 2 universities, early bird  
can get the business degree,  
pg. 14**

## \$3 million grant will beef up FIU's entrepreneurship center

BY TIFFANY MILLER

Thanks to a \$3 million Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation grant, Florida International University will add new faculty and training at its Global Entrepreneurship Center.

The grant, which is the second largest in the school's 31-year history, is aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial component of every discipline at the university. The school is also receiving a matching grant from the state.

The program's impact will be a blend between the school and community businesses, said Vincent Daniels, director of

business and professional education.

He said the first \$600,000 annual payment arrived this month and that school officials hope the community will also contribute to the program.

The entrepreneurship center's first project had students participate in a business-plan competition with others at 15 schools in South America. He said schools competed with projects proposing the best ways to target minority businesses.

A second phase of the competition May 2 will narrow 16 FIU teams to eight. Those eight will compete against the top international teams May 8.

"We want to develop a secure partner-

ship with those schools," Associate Director Colleen Crouch said.

Ms. Crouch said while the entrepreneurship center doesn't have its own academic programs, the new faculty would offer entrepreneur-driven courses at the school. The center will also train nine faculty members each summer to "think more entrepreneurially."

She said the professors would be paid for the training in hopes they'll incorporate the knowledge into the classroom.

FIU beat the University of Southern California and the University of California at Berkeley in competition for money, he said. Other schools receiving Kauffman

Foundation grants are the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

She attributed FIU's recognition to its location and record of work with minority business groups.

The university is planning courses on creativity and innovation, technology-product development and family business. It also offers entrepreneurship courses in art, journalism and science.

The Kauffman Foundation, based in Kansas City, MO, funds educational and entrepreneurial programs across the US. Most of the foundation's grants go toward K-12 education in urban areas.