MEMORANDUM

To: FIU Community

From: Douglas Wartzok, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President

Date: 5 May 2010

Re: College of Education Interim Dean Appointment

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Delia C. Garcia has accepted my offer to serve as Interim Dean of the College of Education. Marie McDemmond is stepping down for personal reasons after a year of outstanding service in this position. Dr. McDemmond provided both stability and direction for the College and I have full confidence that Dr. Garcia will similarly provide leadership with distinction. Her appointment will be effective Monday 14 June 2010.

Dr. Garcia is currently Chairperson and Associate Professor of the department of Leadership and Professional Studies in the College of Education. She is also the director of the Urban Education graduate program and has served as director of numerous family literacy projects that serve the needs of local schools in the area of parent involvement in the wider South Florida community.

Dr. Garcia has been the recipient of federal, state and foundation grants totaling more than $11 million, addressing the areas of urban teacher education and family literacy. Her sponsored research teacher education projects have generated tuition scholarships for over 250 teachers in the completion of a graduate degree in urban education. Her family literacy programs have led to the creation of a model of family education for linguistically and culturally diverse populations that has been adopted by local schools and have served over 3,000 families in South Florida. Recently, Dr. Garcia was awarded a U.S. Department of Education, Office of Post-Secondary Education Title V grant in the amount of $2.8 million. The five-year grant will support FIU, as a Hispanic-serving institution, to expand its capacity to serve Hispanic-Americans obtain greater access to graduate educational opportunities. Through this program, the College of Education will be able to offer tuition scholarships to teachers and administrators from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) in the pursuit of master’s and doctoral degrees as well as enhance student support services and mentoring opportunities in the College.

Dr. Garcia has published in the areas of family involvement, teacher and parent efficacy, and urban teacher preparation, as well as developed curriculum guides and instructional materials for teacher education in the areas of home-school relations, adult literacy, and English as a Second Language (ESL). She has exercised leadership roles in a variety of professional organizations including receiving gubernatorial appointments to Florida’s State Advisory Committee in the area of family literacy and
being president of the Bilingual Association of Florida (BAF). She has served as chair of various state and district advisory committees that focused on issues of narrowing the achievement gap in our schools, and addressed the identification and provision of adult education training needs in the state. At the University and College levels, she has chaired the University Graduate Student Academic Grievance Committee for the past four years, served as a member of the Hit the Ground Community Engagement Committee, been a member of the Faculty Senate, the College’s Academic Council, and participated in the University’s Research and Management Council and the Millennium Strategic Planning Committee. She possesses a Doctor of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from Florida International University and a Bachelor and Master of Education degrees in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Miami.