



MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty

From: Kenneth G. Furton, Provost & Executive Vice President
Kathleen L. Wilson, Vice Provost for Faculty, Leadership and Success

Date: May 7, 2021

Re: Update on Summer A and C

Dear Colleagues,

We cannot thank you enough for all you have done this year for your students, for each other, for your communities, your disciplines, and for FIU. We went remote overnight and 1300 of you received the Remote Teach Ready badge for no remuneration and many of you off contract. You have redesigned your courses several times over. You accommodated your students' special circumstances as well as your own, without sacrificing quality. Your students' passing rates were largely consistent with their face-to-face classes, and they told us how much they appreciated you and that they learned, despite the challenges. Because of your efforts we have reached our highest 4-year graduation rate, which is projected to be close to 60% this year.

Those of you who were able to conduct your research during COVID did it at 4:30 in the morning sometimes. Grant applications increased by 34% this year! We reached our highest ever total research expenditures at over \$237M in the past year, all of this while many of you home-zoom-schooled your children and cared for your loved ones and/or have lost loved ones during this pandemic. We have improved our U.S. News and World Report rankings going from 15 to 22 Top 50 programs and moved up to #6 public university in the nation in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

As we prepare for the start of the Summer 2021 semester, we remind all faculty of the availability of COVID-19 vaccines through the university. First doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be available on May 11 to students, faculty, staff, and household members 18 and older, or those 16 and older accompanied by a parent or guardian. Vaccine appointments are now open and will be given on a first come, first served basis.

If you are eligible, [please register for an appointment as soon as possible using your FIU credentials](#). While our goal is to facilitate access to vaccines for our university community, we urge you to take advantage of the first available opportunity to get vaccinated. [There are multiple locations locally where you may receive a vaccine](#).

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the best way to prevent illness and the spread of the virus. If you secure a vaccine elsewhere before the time of your FIU appointment, please cancel your appointment by calling 305-348-5100 so that it can be offered to someone else. We need your cooperation in making sure not a single vaccine goes to waste. If you have any questions, please call the FIU Help Desk at 305-348-5100.

As a reminder, the current **Faculty Remote Work and Spring Teaching Memorandum of Understanding** expired at the end of Spring semester. All on-campus classes are still adjusted for physical distancing for Summer A & C, and you will no longer need to swipe your Panther ID card to access buildings. We strongly encourage faculty, staff, and students to continue to use the P3 app and wear a face covering while on campus. Choosing to wear a face covering helps protect the medically vulnerable among us and those who cannot be vaccinated. The restrictions on domestic travel have been lifted, with study abroad programs and international travel for faculty still being evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

We look forward to another exciting semester with our learners and are proud of the many accomplishments that you and our students have achieved. FIU continues to be the safest R1 university in the state as reported by the [New York Times tracker](#), due in no small part to efforts of you, our faculty, our students, our Contact Tracing team and our University Healthcare Task Force.

We are constantly striving to maintain a safe and healthy campus and will continue to provide you updates on our efforts through our [repopulation website](#).

We look forward to seeing you around campus!