



Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago



**HELPING ADVANCE  
A SUSTAINABLE,  
RESILIENT, AND  
EQUITABLE FUTURE  
FOR THE AMERICAS**



## Florida International University (FIU)

has a long history of leadership and collaboration with the United States government and key partners across the Western Hemisphere to deliver solutions that advance a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for the Americas.

Since our founding in 1965, Latin America and the Caribbean have been part of our DNA. Today, we continue to serve and impact the region. With Miami, the capital of the Americas, as our hometown, FIU hosts the largest cluster in the United States of students and faculty from and research focused on the region.

Thanks to important partnerships with the United States government, including the Department of State, US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Defense, and other critical players such as the Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the private sector, FIU talent and innovation is helping ensure the region thrives.

FIU is excited to share our relevant expertise and continue collaborating to achieve the goals of the 9th Summit of the Americas that address the challenges facing the region.

## HEALTH, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE

### Global Health Consortium: COVID, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Vector-borne diseases, environment and health

In partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), national and local governments, academic institutions, and the pharmaceutical industry, FIU leads a collaborative platform focused on coordinating the monitoring across the region of COVID-19, vaccine delivery, vaccine hesitancy, use of antibiotics, and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) strategies. FIU hosts the Global Health Conference of the Americas annually, which brings experts together to discuss trends, challenges, and opportunities around global health. Of specific interest recently has been the prevention and control of tuberculosis, arbovirus diseases, Chagas and malaria, climate change and human health, and the impact of environmental contamination on human health.

### Population Health

FIU is a leader at developing solutions that bridge the social, biological, environmental, and cultural elements of health to be a force for positive change. In particular, our focus is on the role that chronic medical conditions play in the health disparities of minority and socially vulnerable communities. In the midst of the pandemic, FIU researchers understand the factors creating a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on ethnic and racial minority populations.

### Research Network on Health and Society (REACH Network)

The REACH Network is led by social science researchers who conduct health scholarship and training that address health inequalities and access to health care across the Caribbean using methods that are often neglected in purely clinical research, emphasizing the voices and lived experiences of those who are most vulnerable to illness or who face health disparities. Using visual research methods, such as documentary film and participatory photographic exhibitions, FIU translates research into formats that can be accessed by broader audiences.

### Universidad de los Andes Partnership

FIU's World Center Colombia, a partnership with the School of Medicine at Universidad de los Andes (Uniandes) uncovers new information on some of the most difficult public health issues affecting the most vulnerable in the region including cybersecurity and health, COVID-19, antimicrobial resistance, and environmental health.

### Health Journalism Training

FIU is leading workshops on health journalism for Latin American journalists from all over the region with experts from PAHO leading discussions, workshops, and lectures on public health issues that affect the region and the world.

### Water Sustainability

FIU has led initiatives for USAID focused on supporting communities with improvements to water supply, reduction of water contamination, and the formation of participatory structures and policies. Regional work for this project was conducted in the Pastaza River Basin, in the countries of Ecuador and Peru. FIU continues this initiative through water and environmental programs around the world.

### Species Conservation in the Amazon

FIU's species conservation work in the Amazon Forest region is pivotal in helping it remain one of the most diverse eco-communities on Earth. Teams are using data to discover and develop novel medicines and pesticides, improve crops, help understand how vulnerable species are responding to environmental threats, and bolster conservation efforts to the most threatened areas of the region.

### Wildlife Trafficking Intervention

FIU's centers are addressing gaps in wildlife trade, now recognized as a key factor in the transmission of zoonotic disease. Expert conservationists and forensic researchers and practitioners are helping law enforcement agencies expand their ability to enforce anti-trafficking laws, confiscate smuggled animals and products, and prosecute traffickers. FIU is also educating local communities where poaching is persistent, and training officials in best conservation policies and practices.

### Artificial Intelligence and Solar Microgrids

FIU researchers collaborate with utility providers to advance renewable energy systems, large-scale storage, big data, artificial intelligence (AI), electric vehicle systems, grid resiliency, and smart grids. In particular, partners leverage a 4,400-panel solar array FIU developed and maintains on campus to generate and store renewable power in a large-scale battery (3MW/ 9 MWh) integrated with a command-and-control center and real-time simulation lab spread over a 30,000- square-foot facility. The microgrid uses AI and machine learning to optimize microgrid operations while running autonomously.

## A RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE, AND GREEN FUTURE

### Disaster Risk Reduction

FIU's cross-disciplinary approach to reducing the risk of disaster focuses on multi-hazard events and seeks to influence the drivers of existing risks, reduce the accumulation of new risk, and develop capabilities and mechanisms for building resilience. With decades of support from USAID, researchers have helped stem the loss of life generated by violent storms in the Caribbean and Latin America. Additionally, FIU programs have yielded results in preparedness, emergency response, and "smart" recovery, working with over 45 partners in the field of disaster reduction. With support from the Mellon Foundation, FIU is also working in Caribbean Basin communities with a worldwide virtual network that advocates for indigenous populations and minorities in communities that are vulnerable to disasters.

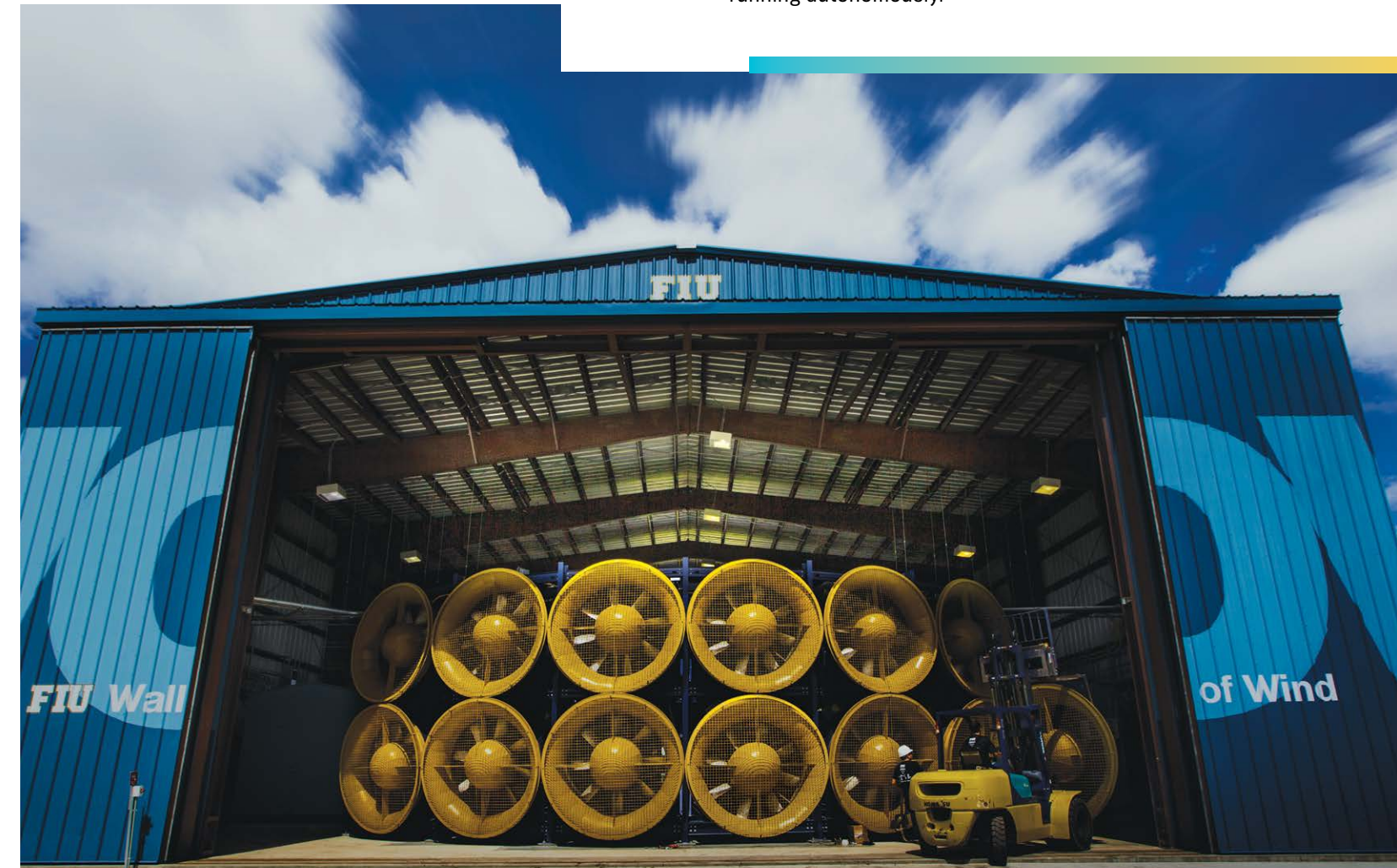
### Resilient Infrastructure

Researchers at FIU are leading the nation in developing approaches to make coastal areas resilient against natural and manmade hazards while advancing the understanding of sea-level rise and its impacts.

Innovative and economical engineering solutions developed at FIU are driving policy shifts and also providing opportunities to retrofit existing infrastructure. This includes reducing the societal costs of bridge construction by working with industry to commercialize new technologies and develop new protocols that reduce the duration of work zones, prioritize preservation, and increase service life, while reducing construction costs. The Wall of Wind at FIU is the only facility in the world that can replicate a Category 5 hurricane and test to failure full-sized structures such as site-built or manufactured housing.

### Storm Surge Monitoring Capacity in the Caribbean

FIU utilizes cross-cutting research and expertise to improve computer models for storm surge monitoring, including airborne light detection and ranging remote sensing, and the mapping of coastal hazards using geographic information systems. With the support of USAID and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, FIU has worked within Hispaniola and the Bahamas to assess the implications for mapping vulnerability during times of coastal flooding.



FIU's Wall of Wind (WoW) Hurricane Simulator

## ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND EQUITABLE GROWTH

### International Business Connectivity

FIU's colleges and centers leverage strong expertise and connections in business, trade, innovation, and entrepreneurship to train students from across the hemisphere to operate in both Latin America and Asia. Home to a top-ranked business school with an undergraduate international business program that is No. 2 in the country and an international MBA that is No. 3, FIU sees its graduates actively recruited by Fortune 500 companies. Faculty experts in real estate are ranked No. 1 in the world for research productivity.

### Mispriced Trade

FIU researchers regularly analyze illicit financial outflows that lead to mispriced trade, and they aid governments with the implementation of systems that minimize such activity. A 2021 FIU study revealed that mispricing of trade – either by undervaluing exports to a colluding foreign importer or overvaluing imports from a foreign colluding exporter – was the mechanism used to move, undetected, a combined \$5.7 billion into the United States from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The duties

and taxes lost due to such deliberate mispricing equal tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue for governments.

### Mayoral Conference

For nearly 30 years, FIU has coordinated the Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities, which annually brings together upwards of 500 people from over 20 countries to discuss effective governance and other key topics. The conference is attended by mayors, governors, legislators, and other elected representatives and has had the support of the World Bank, USAID, the IDB and the OAS.

### Senior Leadership Fellowship Program

FIU recently launched a dynamic new senior leadership fellowship program that invites distinguished public servants to lead seminars on leadership, decision-making, and free-market policymaking. The semester-long program has included former Latin American presidents and retired U.S. Congresspersons who as fellows have led panel discussions, provided mentorship to students, and served as a resource for the university community.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND CYBERSECURITY

### Cybersecurity Policy

FIU has partnered with the Organization of American States (OAS) to create an advanced certificate program for professionals to help them address the most critical cyber threats. To date, the program had trained over 250 mid-to-senior level professionals from 18 countries.

### Internet Augmented Research and Assessment

The US National Science Foundation has invested in an FIU-led network across the Americas of a new generation of scientists and engineers fully versed in information technology. Over 20 projects with over 40 organizations and universities have yielded benefits that strengthen the technological ties between the United States and the region.

## STRONG AND INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACIES

### Justice Reform

FIU has partnered with USAID and the State Department on justice reform projects throughout South and Central America with a great emphasis on Afro-descendants' interactions with Latin American justice systems and communities' collective rights. A seven-year project led to the development of bilateral Rule of Law (ROL) projects in all Central American countries. In Colombia, FIU helped establish alternative dispute resolution and "Casas de Justicia" to aid the Afro-Colombian population in remote conflict areas.

in particular by implementing case tracking reforms. Projects have also supported planning and reorganization efforts to better process cases related to narcotics and organized crime.

### Collaborative International Online Learning (COIL)

FIU COIL utilizes technology and the internet to connect students and faculty with their peers worldwide to engage in peer-to-peer intercultural dialogue and meaningful projects. COIL deepens knowledge, broadens perspectives, fosters personal growth, and opens doors to new connections and opportunities for students and faculty alike. FIU and Universidad Católica de Manizales (UCM) have been awarded a grant from the 100K Strong Americas Innovation Fund to explore alternative and digital strategies for expressing hybrid US-Colombian identities in the arts, business, and communications.

### Attorneys General Capacity Building

With the support of the Department of State, FIU has helped strengthen the capacity and prosecutorial effectiveness of various attorneys' general offices,



## MIGRATION AND SECURITY

### Governance and Security in Central America

With the support of USAID, the Street Gangs in Central America Research Initiative (SCARIN) has addressed youth violence prevention and tackled the challenges of rehabilitation for former gang members in the region. FIU has been able to map gangs in Central America and where violence concentrates for prevention and rehabilitation efforts. Studies have also unveiled the strong linkages between criminal organizations and corruption in El Salvador and Central America.

### Street Gangs in Central American Research Initiative

With the support of the Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE), FIU conducted a study involving surveys and interviews of 1,200 current and past Salvadoran gang members across the country. By focusing on the reasons behind their decisions to join the gangs and subsequently the conditions that lead them to want to leave, the study revealed that separation from the gang is possible in El Salvador.

### Migration and Transient Communities Program

With support from USAID, the Open Society Foundation, the Howard G. Buffet Foundation, the American Institutes for Research, and the Seattle Foundation, FIU is one of the most active centers studying migrations across the Americas.

### Forensic Science

FIU's long-standing strength in forensics science has benefited governments and other organizations in Latin America with top-quality research, technical assistance, and training. Researchers work with laboratories and agencies in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras, assisting justice systems to enhance forensic processes, implement international

quality control standards, and refine technical capabilities in Crime Scene Investigations (CSI), DNA and Drug Analysis and their Forensic Medicine Directorates.

### Open-Source Security Research Hub (SOUTHCOM)

In partnership with the Department of Defense, FIU is leading a cluster of Latin America security thought leaders to create a shared understanding of critical security challenges facing Latin America and carrying out research tasks for SOUTHCOM. This platform is utilized for analytic exchanges between U.S. and Latin American stakeholders and focuses on a wide range of security-related topics such as transnational organized crime, migration, illegal fishing, and regional health concerns.

### Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF)

FIU regularly convenes stakeholders from the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and monitors movements of IUUF throughout the Western Hemisphere. Research and convenings have focused on the need for international collaboration, emerging technologies, and data transparency. By undermining international agreements and fisheries conservation measures, IUUF jeopardizes global food security and has destabilizing effects on vulnerable coastal states.

### Immigration & Human Rights Proceedings

FIU faculty and students have represented over 1,000 marginalized and poor clients in immigration proceedings and have also developed cases against persecutors in various countries. Advocates focus on protecting marginalized populations from refugee-producing countries, especially the mentally disabled, victims of violence or torture, and children. FIU also runs training programs for lawyers meant to teach federal litigation to protect civil liberties.

## BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, CUBA, AND HAITI

### Brazilian Studies

Florida hosts 300,000 Brazilians, the largest concentration residing in the U.S. A new program at FIU enhances academic and scholarly work and strengthens ties between academic, government, and private sector institutions with a particular focus on Brazil/US and Brazil/Florida relations.

### Colombia: A New FIU World Center

FIU's footprint in Colombia has included over 20 research grants that have been awarded to FIU faculty to conduct collaborative research in Colombia and 10 Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) courses have been taught with Colombian institutional partners engaging more than 100 students in joint problem-solving. In partnership with the Universidad Católica de Manizales and the 100K Strong Americas Innovation Fund, FIU will support new COIL efforts at expressing hybrid U.S.-Colombian identities in the arts, business, and communications. Journalism students from the FIU School of Communication + Journalism and Universidad del Norte are participating in seminars and visits to learn about the role of communication and media in Colombia's peace process. A new partnership with Colfuturo has also been launched to create a pipeline for graduate students from Colombia to FIU.

### Cuba

Many centers at FIU seek to create and disseminate interdisciplinary knowledge about Cuba and its diaspora. The university also has some of the largest library holdings and collections on Cuba and its diaspora. The FIU Cuba Poll is the longest-running research project tracking the opinions of the Cuban American community in South Florida and is the most complete picture of Cuban American political attitudes over time.

### Haiti

Nearly half of the people of Haitian descent living in the U.S. reside in Florida and no other county in the nation has as large a Haitian community as Miami-Dade County. FIU teaches Haitian creole and provides specialized interdisciplinary training on Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora while facilitating academic and professional development for those working in and on Haiti. With collaboration from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), FIU has worked toward producing results in the improvement of water availability, quality, and integration of water resources in Northern Haiti. Our researchers use innovative, practical approaches to hydrological technologies, along with strong institutional relationships to produce results and are able to replicate the solutions in other regions.



Aerial view of the square in the Cuban capital of Havana

## FIU STUDENT PROFILE

With the capital of the Americas as our hometown, FIU hosts the largest cluster in the United States of students, faculty, and research from, or focused on, the region.

Country	Overall headcount by country of birth	International student headcount (on visas) by country of citizenship	Country	Overall headcount by country of birth	International student headcount (on visas) by country of citizenship
1. Cuba	4,537	11	26. Virgin Islands (U.S.)	43	
2. Venezuela	1,838	478	27. Antigua and Barbuda	22	12
3. Colombia	1,330	217	28. Dominica	20	7
4. Haiti	832	47	29. Paraguay	18	2
5. Peru	612	115	30. Cayman Islands	17	7
6. Jamaica	533	65	31. Belize	16	6
7. Puerto Rico	522		32. Saint Lucia	12	3
8. Dominican Republic	499	82	33. Saint Kitts and Nevis	10	6
9. Brazil	460	171	34. Suriname	10	9
10. Argentina	391	87	35. Curacao	9	
11. Mexico	354	106	36. Bermuda	7	5
12. Nicaragua	353	45	37. Grenada	7	4
13. Ecuador	348	83	38. Turks and Caicos Islands	7	7
14. Honduras	297	66	39. Virgin Islands (British)	7	6
15. Canada	170	63	40. Barbados	4	1
16. Chile	139	27	41. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3	2
17. Trinidad and Tobago	135	50	42. Anguilla	2	
18. Bahamas	119	68	43. Martinique	2	
19. El Salvador	101	27	44. French Guiana	1	
20. Guatemala	100	18	45. Guadeloupe	1	
21. Costa Rica	84	14	46. Saint Martin	1	
22. Bolivia	71	18	47. Sint Maarten	1	
23. Panama	67	18	48. Netherlands Antilles		7
24. Uruguay	63	12	49. United States of America	38,205	
25. Guyana	47	11	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>52,431</b>	<b>1,985</b>

## FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS MAKING AN IMPACT

FIU has a rich tradition of hosting nearly 70 Fulbright Scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean since 1979 including 20 in the last few years. The greatest number of grantees has been from Colombia, Mexico, and Haiti.

## KEY FIU CENTERS

### **Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC)**

At the core of the Latin American and Caribbean Center is contributing original research in politics, economics, religion, education, and culture in the region. LACC is a federally supported Title VI National Resource Center and has addressed topics such as development prospects in Central America and southern Mexico, immigration and diaspora communities, and the success of alternative development plans in drug-producing regions. LACC also prepares highly proficient linguists and experts in critical world regions and a globally competent workforce.

### **Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy (JGI)**

Understanding the perils of cyber-attacks around the globe, the Jack D. Gordon Institute has partnered with the Organization of American States to create a certificate program for professionals to enhance awareness of the most critical cyber threats. To date, the program has trained over 150 mid-to-senior level professionals from 18 countries. The Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy also offers exclusive seminars on a variety of topics related to public policy for professionals of the public and private sector of Latin America and the Caribbean. To date, more than 250 government officials from the Americas have been part of these programs.

### **Center for Administration of Justice (CAJ)**

FIU's Center for the Administration of Justice has operated in 20 countries throughout the Americas. Their projects have spanned for decades with emphases on rule-of-law reform, prosecutorial training, policing, juvenile justice, forensics, political science, public administration, and public policy. FIU is recognized for its seminal work in promoting justice reform, rule of law, and civil society involvement in Latin America.

### **Maurice A. Ferre Institute for Civic Leadership**

The Ferre Institute builds on the legacy of the late Maurice Ferre, the first Hispanic Mayor of Miami, and seeks to prepare FIU students and the members of the public to effect positive social change in local and global communities. Its academic, research, and community programs include a Certificate in Civic Leadership; a Civics Education and Public Service Hub; public engagement activities and a Puerto Rican Diaspora Studies program.

### **Global Forensic and Justice Center (GFJC) National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC)**

These two centers focused on four established areas – academia, industry, technology, and international justice – to support practitioners and agencies worldwide. The NFSTC, acquired in 2018, is a recognized leader in the forensic science community, providing innovative forensic science training, support, and services to a

broad range of stakeholders including public crime laboratories, medical examiners, law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, and the military.

### **Carlos Costa for Immigration and Human Rights (IHRC)**

Human rights issues always involve advocating for clients who are victims of abuses by a Nation-State. The IHRC is designed to provide students with specialized skills in immigration law. FIU College of Law students and faculty seek out clients who are set to appear before the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice (Immigration Court/Board of Immigration Appeals), and Florida State Courts. Cases involve asylum-related relief, cancellation of removal, other affirmative and defensive immigration applications, and special immigrant juvenile matters.

### **Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom**

Established by the Legislature and Governor of Florida in 2020, the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom will harness the power of rigorous research to offer a better understanding of the free enterprise system and its impact on individual freedom and human prosperity around the world, with a special emphasis on the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Through its activities and programs, the center hopes to inspire and enlighten policy discussions, analysis, and decision-making.

### **FIU Institute of Environment**

In collaboration with local and international partners, the institute's efforts have led to expanded protections for endangered species; improved sanitation and access to clean water; increased community resilience across the globe; and adaptive management of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine resources. For over a decade, the institute led the Global Water for Sustainability Program (GLOWS), which focused on providing water management services to people and ecosystems, including in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caucasus.

### **Tropical Conservation Institute**

Global collaborators in academic institutions, NGOs, governments, and the private sector have long recognized FIU's leadership and international influence in the field of tropical conservation. The institute is directly implementing species conservation and recovery projects while developing research and education programs that prioritize species and ecosystem protection in tropical and sub-tropical species and their habitats. Researchers address the critical issues driving wildlife extinctions and declines in biodiversity-rich ecosystems– including habitat loss, wildlife trade, climate change, natural resource depletion, and other anthropogenic factors.



Extreme Events Institute (EEI)

### **Extreme Events Institute (EEI)**

The Extreme Events Institute is focused on multi-hazard and transdisciplinary research in its approach to understanding emergencies, disasters, and catastrophes. EEI's focus has enabled a flexible team-building approach to research on hazards, exposures, vulnerabilities, and risk.

### **Institute for Resilient and Sustainable Coastal Infrastructure (InteRaCt)**

InteRaCt identifies engineering solutions for challenges faced by aging infrastructure and develops innovative and economical technologies for the creation of resilient and sustainable communities. The institute incorporates bridge engineering, the University Transportation Center (ABC-UTC), the Lehman Center for Transportation Research, and focus groups for water resources engineering and corrosion engineering.

### **Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER)**

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the focus of the CIBER program at FIU is to develop a bridge between Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region, fostering global intercultural fluency and facilitating interdisciplinary impact and connectivity.

### **Center for Internet Augmented Research and Assessment (CIARA)**

CIARA fosters domain-specific tailoring of Internet technologies to support faculty research, and in the

process improve graduate education; leads network partnerships in South America; and is creating a new generation of scientists and engineers who are capable of fully integrating IT into the whole educational, professional, and creative process of diverse disciplines.

### **Global Health Consortium**

In partnership with the Pan American Health Organization, national and local governments, academic institutions, and the pharmaceutical industry, FIU leads a collaborative platform focused on coordinating the monitoring across the region of COVID-19, vaccine delivery, vaccine hesitancy, use of antibiotics and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), strategies for prevention and control of tuberculosis, arbovirus diseases, Chagas and malaria, climate change and human health, and impact of environmental contamination in human health. FIU hosts the Global Health Conference of the Americas annually, which brings experts together to discuss trends, challenges and opportunities around global health.

### **Brain, Behavior and the Environment Group**

This transdisciplinary initiative unites the dynamic and diverse neuroscience community at FIU toward three goals: to create and empower research programs focused on environmental causes of neurological disease; to devise strategies and develop therapies for neurological disorders using novel neuroscience and engineering tools as well as pharmacological approaches; and to establish a rich educational resource to educate students, faculty, clinicians, the public and health officials on the role that environmental factors play on neurological disease.



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*Achieving Solutions through People, Policy and Partnerships*

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