



Media Contact:

Elizabeth Ferrer-Alfonso/FIU
305-348-6944
eferrera@fiu.edu
news.fiu.edu
[@FIUNews](https://twitter.com/FIUNews)

Media Contact:

Susan J. Snyder/Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
786-818-5860
PR@miamichamber.com
[@MiamiChamber](https://twitter.com/MiamiChamber)

**FIU partners with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce to survey
business owners about needs, challenges**

MIAMI (Sep. 6, 2023) — Florida International University and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) today launched a survey of South Florida business owners and hiring decision-makers to identify and raise awareness of the challenges they face to meet current and future workforce needs.

The survey, aimed at business owners and hiring managers, will seek opinions on issues affecting South Florida businesses, as well as factors influencing decisions of where to send their children for higher education.

The effort was conceived of by the Greater Miami Chamber's Education & Workforce Development Committee in response to queries from universities interested in hearing

directly from the South Florida business community about their future workforce needs. The survey was developed by Lisa Martinez, vice chair of The Chamber's Education & Workforce Development Committee, Wolfgang Pinther of BDO, USA and Maria Ilcheva of [FIU's Jorge Pérez Metropolitan Center](#).

“The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce historically has tied the business community to higher education,” said Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Alfred Sanchez. “This year, the Chamber has partnered with a major research institute, FIU's Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center, to roll out a community-wide workforce survey to gain insights from business leaders, CEO's, top-level managers, human resource directors other hiring decision-makers to help guide efforts in meeting both current and future business needs in Miami-Dade County.”

“We are proud of our partnership with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, especially on initiatives that have had a positive impact on the South Florida community,” said FIU President Kenneth A. Jessell. “Many of our alumni choose to remain in South Florida and build their careers, businesses, and families in our community. We are committed to using the responses to this survey to understand opportunities and challenges facing local business leaders and working with the Chamber to help address the survey's findings and/or recommendations.”

“The results of the survey will give our institutes of higher learning actionable data to develop future programs and procure resources to address those business needs and challenges,” said Maria Ilcheva, the associate director of planning and operations for the Metropolitan Center. “When the results are released, they will benefit not just the organizations that are part of GMCC but the whole community.”

By giving FIU insight on industry needs, the survey will help FIU efforts to ensure students can secure jobs after graduation. FIU was recently ranked a top 20 university by [Washington Monthly](#), and is number one in the State University System, according

to the Florida Board of Governors [performance-based funding \(PBF\) metrics](#). Degree Choices also ranked FIU No. 8 nationally for students' return on investment, based on the cost of attending and the earnings a student can expect.

Business owners who wish to participate in the survey can visit go.fiu.edu/EWDS2023. The survey will be available until October 31, 2023.

The survey data will be analyzed and results will be released in Spring 2024 to help Miami-Dade County educational and workforce development institutions and providers in directing their efforts towards responsive programs that address current and workforce needs.

-FIU-

About The Chamber:

The [Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce](#) is the proud champion for the Greater Miami Business Community and serves as a catalyst for solutions to the problems that businesses face. Founded in 1907 as the Miami Board of Trade, today's Chamber represents more than 400,000-member company employees and is heralded for its legacy of leadership in economic development, and its unwavering commitment to improving the Miami-Dade community. Our members drive a business agenda at the federal, state and local levels. We are dedicated to building the best environment for business in the Americas and committed to improving the economic vitality of South Florida. Our advocacy efforts are focused on four main priority areas: Education & Workforce Development, Resilience, Transportation & Workforce Housing. For more information, please visit www.miamichamber.com.

About FIU:

[Florida International University](#) is a [top public university](#) that drives real talent and innovation in Miami and globally. Very high research (R1) activity and high social

mobility come together at FIU to uplift and accelerate learner success in a global city by focusing in the areas of environment, health, innovation, and justice. Today, FIU has two campuses and multiple centers. FIU serves a diverse student body of more than 56,000 and 290,000 Panther alumni. U.S. News and World Report places dozens of FIU programs among the best in the nation, including international business at No. 2. Washington Monthly Magazine ranks FIU among the top 20 public universities contributing to the public good.