

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES OFFICE HOSTS 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL UNIVERSITY HEALTH FAIR**



**MIAMI GARDENS, FL [OCTOBER 2, 2007]** – On Thursday, September 27, 2007, the Department of Student Health Services held its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair. This year's fair took place in the Smith Conference Center from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and was open to the entire Florida Memorial University family. Health Services Coordinator Ms. Veronica Ricketts stated that there was no particular theme for this year's event, but said that she just wanted to focus on addressing the general needs of the student population.

The health fair was full of vendors including the Miami-Dade County Health Department, which was giving free immunizations for Hepatitis A, Cloverleaf Chiropractic Clinic, Verve Therapy Healing through massage, The Little Clinic, and many others. The University's Counseling Center also participated in the fair by distributing materials on stress, student resource books, as well as supplying healthy snacks and fruit to keep fair-goers energized as they waited to be screened at the various booths. Although all the booths at the fair were important, the most utilized booth was one that was set up by a local clinic where students could get screened for the various sexually transmitted diseases that plague most young adults on college campuses. Looking across the room, you could see students donating much needed blood to the blood bank. A representative from the Florida's Blood Centers stated that donating at least a pint of blood could save up to three lives. Donating also plays a significant role in helping lower the chances of heart attack among other health problems that may arise due to excessive iron in the blood stream.

Kelly Ogle, a freshman from Atlanta, stated "I participated in the health fair through her FMU101 course, and also for personal gain to get tested for the various health issues that may affect me throughout my life." Jhacoya Blyden, also a freshman, discussed why she was in attendance by saying, "I just wanted to be aware of the health concerns that I may face as a growing adult. I feel that the fair is great for the University and I would like to see it happen at least twice a semester." General feedback that was received from those who participated seemed to be the same across the board; most said that having the fair is a good way to get checked out for free and continue to stay healthy.



This year's fair attendance was slightly lower than last year's event with just under three-hundred attendees. Although the numbers were down, Ms. Ricketts feels that the fair was a success. When asked what would make the fair bigger and better, she stated that "if each one brings one, then the attendance would increase two to threes times over, causing more students to get screened and leading to an overall healthier campus." Ms. Ricketts also said she would like to have more of the campus organizations get involved with the event. They can

assist by lending their suggestions on how to improve the fair to meet the students' needs and make it an even greater success for the years to come.

For those that were not able to participate in the health fair, there will be several other dates where you can still get immunization and testing done. These dates will be as follows: October 24 and November 30, 2007. Each day of testing will be held in Smith Conference Center Room C. For more information, contact Student Health Services at (305) 626-3760.

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**About Florida Memorial University:**

*Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution offering 41 undergraduate degree programs and 4 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the University has upheld a commitment to providing a solid foundation for thousands of young people and opening doors to educational opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. As South Florida's only Black university, it is widely recognized for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," and school of choice for Captain Barrington A. Irving, Jr., the first and youngest pilot of African decent to fly solo around the world. For more information, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (305) 626-3624.*