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## Press Release

### **MIAMI BAYSIDE FOUNDATION (MBF) AWARDS FINANCIAL GRANTS FOR FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY'S (FMU) PUERTO RICAN VICTIMS OF IRMA**

*As Puerto Rico was overwhelmed in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, MBF partnered with FMU and selected FMU students from Puerto Rico to support.*

(Miami Gardens, FL, August 23, 2018) Members of the Miami Bayside Foundation gathered for a luncheon at FMUs campus to meet the awardees of the two thousand (\$2,000) dollar grant, which was given to five (5) Florida Memorial University students in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

FMUs Interim President Dr. Jaffus Hardrick and Chair JoLinda Herring recognized members of The Miami Bayside Foundation who were present: Nathan Kurland, Board Chair; Kathleen Murphy, Executive Director; Alison Grewe, Development and Educational Director and Andrew Gordon, member.

"Florida Memorial University wishes to thank The Miami Bayside Foundation and we wish these students great success," said Chair JoLinda Herring.

Originally from Puerto Rico, the student recipients are: Jesennia Bonilla Liriano, Francheska Rivera, both Biology majors who are on FMUs volleyball team, and Pablo Delgado, Communications and Public Relations major who is on FMUs baseball team (Josuan Lopez Cajigas and Christian Rivera-Renovale were also awarded but not present).

"Last year we had our best season," said Pablo Delgado, who was part of the FMU winning baseball team that became number one amongst all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) last year. Pablo, Jesennia and Francheska discussed how MBFs grant helps them pay for their, dormitory, books and living expenses. "Without it, I'm not sure how I would have made it to daily practice," said Rivera.

Several members of FMUs staff were also present to greet the MBF members and congratulate the students: VP Cory Witherspoon, VP Roscoe Warren, Director Shelia Powell Cohen and Director Opal Comfort.

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## **ABOUT FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution that offers 37 undergraduate degree programs and four graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the University has upheld a commitment to provide an academic education solid foundation built upon the pillars of leadership, character, and service. As South Florida's only Historically Black College or University (HBCU), it is widely recognized as the birthplace of the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing. For more information call 305 623 1452 or visit [www.fmuniv.edu](http://www.fmuniv.edu).

FMU is among the leading HBCUs in the nation leveraging partnerships with public and corporate partners to develop academic training and certification programs in emerging markets such as Energy and Environmental Science, Cybersecurity, Homeland Security and Computer Information Technology. FMU also offers a robust study abroad program and award-winning Broadcast Communications and Public Relations programs.

The university is also part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the Sun Conference and offers eight collegiate sports programs, including men/women's basketball, men/women soccer, men/women's track and field, baseball and volleyball.

FMU offers 28 undergraduate degree majors and three graduate degree majors. The University holds a 92% retention rate for program participants. More than 14% of the student population are international students representing Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa.