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## Media Announcement

### National consortium exposes FMU students to federal job opportunities



*LEFT: Roy Rucker, Sr., CEO of TRECIG, LLC, a Dallas-based technology consultancy, served as keynote speaker at the forum. RIGHT: (L-R) The SFL IC-CAE was comprised of business professor Dr. William Lucky, student Ato Watson, and computer science professor, Dr. Robert Steinhoff.*

After a rigorous assessment, the federal government discovered a critical need to attract more young people to professional opportunities in intelligence agencies. Florida Memorial University (FMU), South Florida's only historically Black university, is helping fill that need by partnering with four area colleges to launch the South Florida Intelligence Community-Center for Academic Excellence (SFL IC-CAE) Consortium. The consortium is a federal grant-funded national partnership that aims to reach more than 200,000 students in South Florida. The forum recently launched a five-part series in the campus' FMU-FIU Auditorium.

"We resolve to make FMU an institution where students can graduate and compete in the global marketplace or transition into premiere graduate and professional schools," said FMU Interim President Jaffus Hardrick. "Partnerships like SFL IC-CAE help us accomplish that aim."

"The need for more intelligence officers inspired agencies to tap into the young talent of students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)," said Kim Finch-Kareem, Ph.D., the grant's co-principal investigator and chair of FMU's Social Science Department. "Opportunities like this serve as a pipeline for top federal agencies that manage intelligence. That includes data collection, policy analysis, covert action, counterintelligence and/or serve as a liaison to foreign intelligence services."

Nearly 50 students attended SFL IC-CAE's initial "Creating Career Pipelines into the Intelligence Community" event. Roy Rucker, Sr., CEO of TRECIG, LLC, a Dallas-based technology consultancy, served as keynote speaker. The retired Army veteran revealed that poor credit, illegal downloading, unprofessional social media posts, and substance abuse will block a candidate from this lucrative career path. FMU panelists included: business professor William Lucky Jr., Ph.D., computer science professor Robert Steinhoff, Ph.D., and student Ato Watson. Jarrod Benjamin, Information Technology Career Pathway Program Coordinator, facilitated the forum that addressed diversity, stereotypes, and internship opportunities.

The U.S. Labor Bureau lists the average American salary at roughly \$52,000. Conversely, bureau data lists the average intelligence officer salary at more than \$95,000. Dr. Finch-Kareem says the forums aim to expose students to attractive professional options. She explained, "We wanted to bring a basic level of awareness to our students from various disciplines, regarding opportunities in the intelligence community."

"The goal of the event was to impart knowledge and information regarding the non-traditional approaches to federal employment in the areas of Business Administration, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Education," said Dr. Finch-Kareem. "More specifically, their human leverage because the intelligence community is more dynamic, diversified, and global from a cultural and linguistic perspective."

FMU will conduct a series of five lectures during the 2018-2019 Academic Year:

- Student Mock Interviews: Steven Goodson of the U.S. Department of Homeland will deliver a talk on security.
- Participants will tour and enjoy a lecture at the FBI's Miami-based field office.
- Lecture: "The Intelligence Community: It Takes More than One Language!"
- Lecture: "Overview of the Intelligence Community: A More In-depth Analysis."
- Lecture: "Global Education and Study Abroad:" Cultural immersion and regional studies opportunities for students who demonstrate a high potential of gaining employment in the intelligence community.

For more information about South Florida Intelligence Community-Center for Academic Excellence, contact Dr. Finch-Kareem at 305-626-3600 or [kim.finch-kareem@fmuniv.edu](mailto:kim.finch-kareem@fmuniv.edu). For media inquiries, contact Opal Comfort, Director of Public Affairs and Marketing, at 305-623-1452 or [opal.comfort@fmuniv.edu](mailto:opal.comfort@fmuniv.edu).

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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).

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