

## Coast Guard Signs Memorandum of Agreement with Florida International University

By Lt. Cmdr. Rich Angelet, Minority Serving Institutions Liaison Officer (CG-12B)

Photos: PA3 Jon-Paul Rios and Lt. Cmdr. Rich Angelet



*FIU President Mark Rosenberg & Coast Guard Executive Champion, Rear Adm. Peter Brown sign MOA*

On Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the U. S. Coast Guard signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Florida International University (FIU). This partnership was spearheaded by Ms. Irma Fuentes, a Civil Servant and architect that works for Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Miami. For over a decade, Ms. Fuentes has worked tirelessly with local high schools and colleges to expose underprivileged minority students to the Coast Guard's world of work.

Now, with the leadership of her commanding officer, Cmdr. John Berry, CEU Miami will serve as the lead Coast Guard command and work closely with all Coast Guard and FIU stakeholders to forge an enduring collaboration.

Our Executive Champion for this initiative, Rear Adm. Peter Brown, Asst. Commandant for Response Policy (CG-5R), and the Commander of Seventh Coast Guard District, Rear Adm. Jake Korn, who also signed the MOA but could not be present due to a prior commitment, are committed to ensuring this very important initiative is not only successful, but serves as the benchmark for future engagements with other strategically located Minority Serving Institutions (MSI).



*Dr. Rosenberg, Mrs. Irma Fuentes and Rear Adm. Brown Pose after Signing of MOA*

FIU is a public research university and designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The university offers 191 programs of study with more than 280 majors in 23 colleges and schools. Since 2007, more valedictorians from South Florida choose to attend FIU than any other university in the country. FIU is the number one producer of Hispanic engineers in the United States and there student body is over 60% Hispanic, 13% African American, and 4% Asian or Pacific Islander.



*Dr. Rosenberg & Rear Adm. Brown address Coast Guard & FIU representatives*

FIU has graduated three College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative students (CSPI) in the past and currently have three CSPI students enrolled.

This agreement is designed to optimize outreach and engagement efforts and synergize the Coast Guard's overall civilian and military officer recruitment effort. This agreement will also assist FIU by providing additional tuition-saving choices and academic options and solutions for FIU professors and students. In addition, this agreement provides significant research opportunities for the FIU and the Coast Guard to explore.