

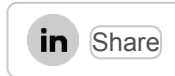
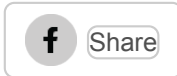
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**Saturday March 5, 2016**

**The Sachs  
Sentinel**



**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**  
**FINAL HOMESTRETCH**

# ***(CONTINUED)***

***With only one week to go, we are now on the final  
homestretch of this year's legislative session. See what  
we have been up to at the Capitol!***

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## **INTERNATIONAL DAYS AT THE CAPITOL**



***Senator Sachs (center right) addressing the  
Florida Chamber International Business  
Council and other business leaders with  
Florida Chamber Executive Vice President  
David Hart (center left).***



***Senator Sachs (right) receiving her Florida  
Chamber 2016 Honor Roll award from  
Florida Chamber Executive Vice President  
Davit Hart (left).***



***L to R: Rose Sager, Trade Representative for the Government of Bahrain, Senator Sachs and Desmond Alufohai, International Trade Coordinator for the Office of Economic Development and International Trade in Miami-Dade County.***

International trade is one of the most important aspects of our state's economy. In 2014 alone, goods valued at a total of nearly \$154 billion collectively entered and exited our country through Florida's two U.S. Customs Districts. Moreover, over the last decade, the total value of Florida's international merchandise trade has nearly doubled. Florida is also a major producer and exporter of goods, which reached over \$58 billion in total value for 2014.

Given the significance of international commerce as it relates to Florida's economy, I was honored to speak at the Florida Chamber of Commerce's annual International Days event last week. The event was organized by Florida Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President David Hart; those in attendance included the Florida Chamber's International Business Council and a host of other foreign business leaders. In addition to my remarks concerning the central role that Florida plays in the global trade system, other major talking points that were touched upon included our state's aggressive economic development efforts through Enterprise Florida, Inc. and Florida's reputation as one of the most conducive environments for job growth and business expansion in the nation.

I have always been a tremendous proponent of enhancing and increasing international commerce in our state; in fact, I recently initiated a strategy for establishing a new Enterprise Florida office in Italy. As such, I was deeply humbled and grateful for the Florida Chamber 2016 Honor Roll award that I was given at the International Days event. "I am honored to receive this award from the Chamber. We

share the same principles of fostering financial literacy for our students, continuing STEM education for our teachers, and promoting careers for all Floridians."

In light of all that Florida has to gain from increased global commerce, you can rest assured that I will continue to aggressively support our state's international trade sector in the years to come.

## **OUR LOCAL CHAMBERS** **OF COMMERCE**



***Senator Sachs (center) with local Chamber Presidents Cindy Brief, President of Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce (far left), Don Lindblade, President and CEO of Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce (2nd from the right) and Ric Green, President and CEO of Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce (far right).***

In addition to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, our state is also home to more than 50 local chambers of commerce by city, county and region ranging from Tallahassee all the way to Key West. For individuals and entities that are considering



our state as a potential new location for their businesses, our local chambers of commerce can serve as invaluable resources. Local chamber leaders like Cindy Brief, President of the Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce, Don Lindblade, President and CEO of the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and Ric Green, President and CEO of the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce, are also excellent sources of expertise on their communities, economic statistics and contacts to facilitate and streamline business transitions and relocations.

## **IMPROVING OUR LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



***Legislative Assistant Albert Medina (center) with Nora Rupert, Broward County School Board Member (far right), Dr. Sherrie Portier, District Guidance Director for the Department of Juvenile Justice (2nd from the left) and various high school students from Broward County (Alexis Brooks, Chris Magnus, Shannon Hockenbury, Marguerite Saint Louis, David Singh, Madison Porter and Dominique Giampaolo).***

As a mother of three, I understand how important education is to ensuring a prosperous future for our children and for our country. During my service as a Florida legislator, I visited every elementary school in my district, speaking with teachers and parents to find out how we could improve our public schools. I also promoted "Education Forward!" summits, which opened dialogue between local legislators, school board members, teachers and university faculty for discussing

valuable ideas and concerns regarding education. This session, I introduced a bill, Senate Bill 1230, providing fee waivers for graduate student assistants in our universities that has now successfully passed all committees.

I firmly believe that every ounce of energy and every dollar committed to Florida's public educational institutions serves as a direct investment in our state's economic development and security. That is why it is so important to hear what local students and education officials have to say regarding their present infrastructural situations and their proposed avenues for progress. Our children deserve nothing short of the best, and I will continue to explore new ways to improve education for Florida's future.

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## **FLORIDA ATLANTIC** **UNIVERSITY'S MEDICAL** **SCHOOL ON THE RISE**





***Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine campus at Florida Atlantic University***

This week, my bill granting Florida Atlantic University's (FAU's) medical school, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, eligibility for medical faculty certifications passed in the Senate on a unanimous 38-0 vote; it is now on its way to Governor Scott's desk. This bill not only places FAU's up-and-coming medical school on par with those of other leading academic institutions in our state, but also functions as an effective tool for bringing in much-needed medical professionals to South Florida.

Well-established schools like the University of Miami (UM) or Nova Southeastern University (NSU) may normally come to mind when considering which of South Florida's medical schools register highly in attracting students, possessing a talented faculty and producing competent doctors. However, there is a “new kid on the block” in the form of FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine. Although FAU's medical school was founded just five years ago, it is already a major competitor of both UM and NSU in the South Florida area.

It was not until April of 2015 that FAU's medical school yielded its first group of graduates from its inaugural class, totaling 53 new doctors. Even still, in the early part of that same year, FAU's medical school saw a 35% jump in general applicants for 64 positions. It also witnessed a 22% increase in applicants for 36 spots with respect to the second year of FAU's internal medicine residency program, which was initiated in 2014 with Boca Raton Regional Hospital, Delray Medical Center and Bethesda Hospital East in Boynton Beach.

In light of its early success, FAU's medical school now intends to create additional residency programs within the next several years, including programs in general surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and psychiatry. In addition to the

hospitals that FAU's medical school is presently collaborating with, it has also entered into agreements with West Boca Raton Regional and St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach to develop even more medical education programs. Moreover, FAU's medical school has additionally partnered with Scripps Florida and the Max Planck Society to conduct joint medical and scientific research.

The rapid development and continuing improvement of FAU's medical school could not have come at a more opportune time given the significant lack of medical professionals that Florida, including the Broward and Palm Beach County areas, could very well be facing in the nottoo distant future.

A recent Florida State University study predicts that there will be a severe shortage of doctors in general throughout our state within the next decade. Based on a separate report from the Teaching Hospital Council of Florida and the Safety Net Alliance of Florida, this shortage will grow to 7,000 specially trained physicians by 2025. According to another analysis from the Florida Department of Health, a serious deficit already exists in the number of primary care doctors in much of Florida; in fact, 16 counties contain less than seven active primary care physicians for every 10,000 residents, compared to 22 active primary care physicians per 10,000 citizens found in the United States overall.

To make matters worse, Florida ranks 42nd out of 50 when compared to other states in terms of its ratio of medical residencies to population size, with 19 physicians-in-training per 100,000 residents. This means that our state would need to create and fill about 13,500 medical residency positions to fully resolve the projected doctor shortage by 2025, which would equate to around 1,360 new residency positions per year over the next 10 years.

Consequently, due to the glaring shortfall in the number of available residency programs, many physicians graduating from medical schools in Florida ultimately leave our state to complete their medical training elsewhere.

In order to counteract this troubling situation in the South Florida area, I originally introduced Senate Bill 878 for the purpose of adding the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU to the list of Florida's medical schools that are eligible to receive medical faculty certifications.

If my measure is ultimately approved by Governor Scott, FAU's medical faculty members will be rightfully recognized for their expertise, effectiveness and professionalism in the practice of medicine. At the same time, both the amount and



system of residency programs at FAU's medical school would be significantly enhanced over time, paving the way for the promotion and retention of more local doctors, a vital asset that our community so desperately needs.

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***"Stay tuned every week, we will be sending you updates as we work for good policy for all Floridians"***

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