



**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
From the Office of the President

## Research

### **FIU receives \$5 million grant from National Science Foundation**

FIU was one of only five institutions world-wide to win a five-year, \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to facilitate increased collaboration between U.S. researchers and their counterparts throughout the world. With the grant, the University will be enabling interconnections of high-speed networks between researchers in the U.S. and Latin America, specifically.

The award will be funded in \$1 million increments annually for five years.

“FIU is advancing science and engineering research and education between Latin America and the U.S. on behalf of the U.S. government,” said Julio Ibarra, executive director of the Center for Internet Augmented Research and Assessment (CIARA) and principal investigator of the grant. “FIU was awarded this grant based upon its experience and expertise in Latin American affairs.

“We will be leveraging our expertise and augmenting it through further development of our programs,” he continued.

FIU will create two high-speed network links, one between Miami and Sao Paulo, Brazil, and one between CENIC in San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Mexico. CENIC – the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California – represents the common interests of California’s higher education academic and research communities in efforts to achieve high-capacity, Internet communication services.

These new international links will represent a boon to researchers across the U.S., including those at FIU.

“Because of these high-speed links, FIU faculty can launch and sustain research initiatives with their colleagues in Latin America,” said Heidi Alvarez, CIARA associate director and one of the co-investigators of the grant. “It’s our hope that FIU researchers will reach out and create those collaborations.”

Other areas of the world that were targeted in the NSF grant for further development of high-speed networks between the U.S. were Europe, Asia Pacific, Russia and China.

**This article can be located at:**

**<http://www.fiu.edu/pres/newsletter/feb2005/feb07/research.htm>**