

**OCEAN BANK JOINS THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND
AND FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
ON ITS 2007-2008 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

The local bank hosts a kick-off reception at its main branch

Miami, Florida – October 26, 2007 – Ocean Bank recently hosted a reception at its headquarters to kick-off the 2007-2008 fundraising campaign for the United Negro College Fund and the Florida Memorial University. During the event, Cheryl Rees, SVP and Director of Marketing of Ocean Bank, presented a \$50,000 check to the United Negro College Fund and Florida Memorial University on behalf of all the employees of the bank. “We share the vision and goal of the United Negro College Fund: *To make supporting the United Negro College fund a human issue and not a race issue,*” said Benigno Aguirre, SVP and Human Resources Director of Ocean Bank, “Over the past 9 years we have developed a very unique relationship with our friends at Florida Memorial University; a relationship that culminated last year with a \$1 million donation to the school through the United Negro College Fund.” Mr. Aguirre is Co-Chairing the 2007- 2008 campaign together with Dr. Karl S. Wright, President of Florida Memorial University.

“Ocean Bank made a transformational gift to the FMU; a \$1 million dollar gift,” said Dr. Wright. “Through your support, many people have been able to succeed and move to a higher level in their lives, and we thank you all for your generosity.”

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One of Florida’s oldest academic centers, Florida Memorial University was founded in 1879 and is the only historically Black university in the Southern region of Florida. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the university offers 41 graduate and 4 graduate degree programs through its six academic schools. Enrolling more than 1,900 students and employing more than 100 full-time faculty members, Florida Memorial is located on a 56-acre campus in Miami. In December 2004, the institution’s name was changed from Florida Memorial College to Florida Memorial University. As the nation’s oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization, the United Negro College Fund’s mission is to increase minority degree attainment. Touching the lives of 65,000 students attending over 900 colleges, UNCF administers scholarships, corporate internships and fellowship programs, and mentoring and summer enrichment programs. Through fundraising efforts including \$3 million raised in the Florida campaign, the UNCF is able to provide financial support to its more than 30 member institutions of higher learning.

Ocean Bank, the largest independent commercial bank headquartered in Florida, celebrates this year its 25th anniversary. Chartered in 1982, the bank operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Since its inception, Ocean Bank has impacted education in our community by making substantial contributions to Florida International University, Miami Dade College, the United Negro College Fund, Florida Memorial University the Education Fund and many other community initiatives.

Acknowledging its support, Ocean Bank has received numerous awards and accolades from the Beacon Council, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Department of Education. For more information about Ocean Bank, visit www.oceanbank.com.

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