



GLOBAL SUMMIT



AUGUST 12, 2025
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM



Worldwide Expansion of Our
Educational Legacy
Grassroots to Global Reach



Florida Memorial University
15800 NW 42nd Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33054



The Graduate Institute
of Financial Sciences
Committed to building a better
Africa for others to inherit



**The Graduate Institute
of Financial Sciences**

Committed to building a better
Africa for others to inherit

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Esteemed Faculty and Staff,

As we launch this new academic year, our theme —“Worldwide Expansion of Our Educational Legacy: Grassroots to Global Reach”—calls us to reflect on the power and potential of our collective work. From classrooms to communities, from local initiatives to international collaborations, we are shaping a legacy of excellence rooted in service, innovation, and impact.



At Florida Memorial University, our mission has always been grounded in addressing the needs of those closest to us—our students, our neighborhoods, and our region. Yet our vision must also stretch beyond these borders. Today, we stand at the threshold of global relevance. Our graduates are change agents, our faculty are thought leaders, and our programs have the capacity to influence educational and social systems worldwide.

I challenge each of you to think boldly this year. How can your teaching, research, and service not only transform lives here but resonate across the globe? Let us deepen our community engagement while expanding our international reach. Let us honor our grassroots origins while embracing a global future. This is our moment to grow, to lead, and to leave an indelible mark—worldwide.

Mr. William C. McCormick, Jr.
Interim President
Florida Memorial University



Welcoming Our Global Partners

A Celebration of Global Collaboration and Educational Innovation

Florida Memorial University is proud to recognize and welcome a distinguished group of individuals who are partnering with us on a groundbreaking global initiative. Their expertise, our vision, and shared commitment to cross-cultural collaboration will enhance our efforts to prepare students for a globally interconnected world. We are honored to work alongside these leaders and extend our deepest gratitude for their shared investment in education, innovation, and impact.

Together, we are building a transformative network for bridging continents, disciplines, and generations. This global initiative is more than a partnership—it is a shared mission to cultivate equity, empower communities, and elevate educational excellence on a worldwide scale. With each dialogue and collaboration, we move closer to a future where our students are not only competitive in a global economy but also compassionate stewards of a more just and inclusive world.



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GLOBAL SUMMIT MODERATORS



Tamara Gant

The Texas native, who initially felt drawn to the television industry, landed her first radio opportunity at KUT, the college station at her alma mater, The University of Texas at Austin, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism degree. While on the radio, Tamara immediately settled into her comfort zone and felt connected with her community with a feeling she describes as “surreal.”

She has also won numerous awards including the Tallahassee Branch NAACP Black Achiever Award (1996); The Orange Bowl Committee’s Excellence in Service Award (2000); Millennium Movers “Shaker Award”(as in Mover and Shaker August 2003); Power to End Stroke Award (2007); and Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church “Influential Woman in The South Florida Community” Award (Nov 2008), North Broward County (FL) Chapter’s “Link of The Year” Award (2018 & 2024) and Broward County Alumnae Chapter “Soror of The Year” Award (2022.)

She is an active member of The Links, Incorporated and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she has held many positions in both organizations and is considered the one to call when you want to get things DONE!



Dr. J. Chris Ford

Dr. J. Chris Ford serves as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Chief Research Officer at Florida Memorial University (FMU), where he is leading institutional transformation through strategic research initiatives, workforce innovation, and applied technology development. He also directs the university’s Climate Resiliency Center and is spearheading the creation of FMU’s first R&D and Innovation hub.

An accomplished entrepreneur, Dr. Ford is CEO of Golden Technologies, Inc. and Founder of Solis Power, LLC, a company pioneering 24/7 renewable energy systems using concentrated solar power and thermal energy storage. Solis Power has secured a DOE demonstration contract and is developing multi-megawatt projects across the U.S., Africa, and the Middle East.



GLOBAL SUMMIT PANELISTS



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Dr. Kershen Pillay

Dr. Pillay is a globally recognized innovator in financial services education. As CEO of GIFS, he leads Africa's transformation of education in banking, compliance, and risk. A champion of access and equity, Dr. Pillay has driven national policy dialogues, corporate partnerships, and youth empowerment through world-class certification programs. He is an architect of the FMU-GIFS alliance.



H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

A global icon for gender equality, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka served as Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008 and later led UN Women. Her work spans advocacy for women's economic empowerment, youth leadership, and global education reform. She continues to inspire global movements for equity and transformation.



Antonio Delgado

Antonio Delgado is the Vice President for Partnerships and Technology at Miami Dade College (MDC), one of the nation's largest and most innovative public institutions of higher education. He is responsible for advancing MDC's strategic relationships with industry partners, particularly in emerging technology sectors such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and clean energy. Delgado is a passionate advocate for inclusive innovation and global collaboration, actively shaping regional and international partnerships that drive equitable economic growth.

GLOBAL SUMMIT PANELISTS

Andre Gonzalez



Andre Gonzalez is a Senior Vice President and Market Executive at Bank of America Private Bank, overseeing client relationships and strategic initiatives across the Miami and Fort Lauderdale region. A respected figure in the South Florida philanthropic and business ecosystem, Gonzalez also contributes to various advisory councils and regional nonprofit boards. His work reflects Bank of America's broader commitment to responsible growth and community impact.

Gordon Eric Knowles



Gordon Eric Knowles is the President & CEO of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, where he leads the organization's mission to advocate, connect, and promote economic empowerment for businesses throughout South Florida. With a strong background in leadership, community engagement, and strategic development, Knowles brings decades of experience in both the public and private sectors. Under his guidance, the Chamber has expanded its partnerships, enhanced business development initiatives, and amplified its voice on issues impacting minority-owned enterprises. He is widely respected for his visionary leadership and dedication to uplifting underserved communities.

Shaheewa Jarrett-Gelin



Shaheewa Jarrett-Gelin is the founding President and CEO of the Broward County Black Chamber of Commerce, where she champions economic empowerment, policy equity, and access to capital for Black-owned businesses in South Florida. A trained attorney, she brings over a decade of expertise in economic development, law, and public policy. She is widely recognized for her efforts in advancing supplier diversity, inclusive innovation, and Black wealth creation.

Dr. Paula Hopkins



Dr. Paula Hopkins has made significant contributions to high-impact organizations that demand insightful, people-oriented leadership committed to inspiring stakeholders, empowering teams, influencing communities, and facilitating meaningful business transformations. Over the course of her career, she has successfully developed and led transformative initiatives at PepsiCo that resulted in multi-million-dollar sales growth and positive social change. Her expertise lies in optimizing enterprise-wide operations, designing scalable processes, cultivating deep and expansive relationships, and adeptly managing high-profile projects.



An engaging, solution-focused summit exploring global strategies to advance equitable and sustainable economic growth. This dynamic convening will bring together influential leaders from government, education, business, and international development to examine critical drivers shaping our collective future.

Together, we will explore cross-sector approaches to innovation, policy, and partnerships promoting inclusive prosperity on a global scale.

🕒 Aug. 12, 2025 | 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM

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PANELS

01

EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

02

CYBERSECURITY & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR A TRUSTED DIGITAL ECONOMY

03

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BILATERAL TRADE – FROM DIALOGUE TO DEAL FLOW

Moderated by:

Ms. Tamara Gant, Radio Personality
Dr. J. Chris Ford, Dean of Arts & Sciences, FMU

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM | Panel 1: Education and Human Capital Development

Moderators: Ms. Tamara Gant & Dr. J. Chris Ford

Panel Objective:

Reimagine cross-border education models and public-private partnerships that empower future-ready students.

Panelists:

Dr. J. Chris Ford- Chief Research Officer and Dean, School of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Kershen Pillay - CEO, GIFS

H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka - Former Deputy President, South Africa



9:45 AM – 10:45 AM | Panel 2: Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence for a Trusted Digital Economy

Moderators: Ms. Tamara Gant & Dr. J. Chris Ford

Panel Objective:

Explore the role of cybersecurity and AI in economic development, talent creation, and global digital trust.

Panelists:

Mr. Antonio Delgado - Vice President for Partnerships and Technology, Miami Dade College

Dr. Kershen Pillay – CEO, GIFS

Andre Gonzalez - Senior Vice President, Market Executive, Bank of America Private Bank, Miami/Fort Lauderdale

**11:00 AM – 12:00 NOON | Panel 3: Economic Development & Bilateral Trade –
From Dialogue to Deal Flow**

Moderators: Ms. Tamara Gant & Dr. J. Chris Ford

Panel Objective:

Activate investment, infrastructure, and innovation collaborations that drive inclusive prosperity.

Panelists:

Mr. G. Eric Knowles, President of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Paula Hopkins, Executive Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Fund Development, Beacon Council

Ms. Shaheewa Jarrett-Gelin – CEO, Broward Black Chamber

H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka – Former Deputy President, South Africa

12:00 NOON – 12:30 PM

Closing Reflections

Mr. William C. McCormick Jr. – Interim President, Florida Memorial University



**FLORIDA
MEMORIAL
UNIVERSITY**



INVEST IN A GLOBAL FUTURE WITH FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Partner with Us to Expand the Reach of Education, Equity, and Global Engagement

Florida Memorial University is leading a powerful initiative to prepare globally minded, socially responsible leaders. Through international partnerships, student exchanges, and global learning, we're shaping the future—together.

Your support fuels this mission. With your gift, we can expand opportunities for global study, internships, research, and cross-cultural experiences.

Your Gift Fuels Impact

By making a contribution today, you directly support:

- Scholarships for Study Abroad
- Global Internships & Student Exchange
- International Faculty Collaborations
- Joint Research & Teaching with Global Institutions
- Leadership Summits & Global Conferences
- Community Capacity Building
- Expanded Access to Global Outreach & Education

Be a Partner In Progress

Support the Global Engagement Fund today—help us send more students abroad, grow international research, and build lasting global connections.

Contact:

Ms. Tammy Hamlet, VP for University Advancement and Government Affairs

Tammy.Hamlet@fmu.edu | 305-626-3609

Scan to give:



Together, We Are Building More Than a Program—We Are Building a Global Movement.

