

The EdUcator

For the Faculty and Staff of the School of Education



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SPECIAL EDITION



School of Education Hosts Successful Forum

“The Financial and Social Returns on Educational Investments”

Noted education economist Henry Levin spoke to a capacity audience at the University of Miami’s Storer Auditorium on Thursday, January 31st. Levin, the William Heard Kilpatrick Professor of Economics and Education at Columbia University’s Teachers College, spoke about the benefits to the nation of having an educated citizenship, noting that people who achieve educational success are more likely to be less of a burden on the nation’s health care, public assistance, and criminal justice systems.

His remarks were part of the forum “The Financial and Social Returns on Educational Investments,” hosted by the School of Education. Others taking part in the forum included, seated from left to right, Rudolph “Rudy” Crew, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Isaac Prilleltensky, Dean of the School of Education; Florida Education Commissioner Eric J. Smith; and UM President Donna E. Shalala, who moderated the discussion.

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The University of Miami's School of Education had three of its academic programs ranked in the top four spots in an annual report on universities by Academic Analytics, which brings objective academic data on faculty productivity to universities.

The teaching and learning program at UM School of Education was ranked number one in the country under the Curriculum and Instruction category. Other colleges in this category include University of Wisconsin at Madison and the University of Illinois in Chicago.

The school's mathematics and science education program was ranked in the number three slot in the math education category. The school's research, measurement, and evaluation program was ranked fourth in the educational evaluation and research category, ahead of UC Berkeley and the University of Florida.

"This is wonderful news for our school and the University at large," said School of Education Dean Isaac Prilleltensky. "It proves that we are doing what academics value most, our faculty is among the most productive in generating significant work and ideas that are then translated into the classroom."

Academic Analytics (AA) began ranking scholarly productivity at all nation's universities last year as a means to demonstrate the quality of their academic efforts. In last year's rankings, UM School of Education ranked fourth in the Teacher Preparation category.

"The rankings are considered important in the academic world because they are an indication of how productive the school's faculty is," said Dean Prilleltensky.

The study looks at various indicators of productivity, including the number of articles in peer reviewed journals per faculty, the number of published books per faculty member, external funding, and the number of times each member of the faculty's work has been cited by their peers.

The School of Education's mission is to engage in scholarly research and to prepare leaders in the study and promotion of personal, family, school, and community well-being. Through research, teaching, and service, the school seeks to integrate the physical, emotional, intellectual, and organizational well-being of diverse populations.