



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

March 26, 2013

Mr. Frank T. Brogan  
Chancellor, State University System of Florida  
325 W. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chancellor Brogan:

I am deeply disappointed in the recent actions of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) faculty that raises significant questions over students rights and the lessons being taught in our classrooms.

According to news reports, the instructor's manual for an FAU Intercultural Communications Class (SPC 3710) instructed students to write "JESUS" in large letters on a sheet of paper and place it on the floor in front of them. After the students were given time to "think about it for a moment," they were told to step on the paper and tell the class how they felt.

As we enter the week memorializing the events of Christ's passion, this incident gave me great concern over the lessons we are teaching our students. Initial news reports said Ryan Rotela, a student at the school, was suspended from class because he refused to participate in the activity. I am told that these reports are disputed by the university and that FAU has apologized for the activity.

Whether the student was reprimanded or whether an apology was given is in many ways inconsequential to the larger issue of a professor's poor judgement. The professor's lesson was offensive, and even intolerant, to Christians and those of all faiths who deserve to be respected as Americans entitled to religious freedom.

Our public higher educational institutions are designed to shape the minds of Florida's future leaders. We should provide educational leadership that is respectful of religious freedom of all people. Florida's parents and students deserve nothing less.

I am requesting a report of the incident, how it was handled and a statement of the university's policies to ensure this type of "lesson" will not occur again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott  
Governor