



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Florida Memorial University Partners with the FDOT  
in Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 6 recently added Florida Memorial University (FMU) to its list of partners in the "Put It Down" Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign. Under programming activities, the FDOT is sponsoring a "Don't Text and Drive" educational fair on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at FMU's Robinson Circle.

Several of the companies also partnering with the FDOT will showcase their own programs geared toward raising awareness of the dangers of distracted driving. AT&T and AAA will bring out their distracted driving simulators that give a video game effect of texting while driving. The City of Miami Gardens Police Department, Verizon Wireless and Florida Highway Patrol will also be in attendance promoting their safety programs as well as the Don't Text and Drive pledge.

The event seeks to change the dangerous and deadly behavior of texting while driving and will also inform the public on the texting ban that went into effect on October 1. The violation will be a secondary offense and has a few exceptions. The "Put It Down" Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign has been ongoing for three years and continues to grow through partnerships with various schools, companies and the local government.

Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution offering 42 undergraduate degree programs and 4 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the University has upheld a commitment to providing a solid foundation for thousands of young people and opening

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doors to educational opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. As South Florida's only Historically Black College or University (HBCU), it is widely recognized for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

FDOT reminds drivers that wearing a safety belt is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. Please drive cautiously in work zones. Drivers are encouraged to call 511 before they drive or log on to [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com) to get real-time traffic and lane closure information.

[www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us)

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