

best *in class*

This year more valedictorians than ever before chose to attend FIU.

Valedictorian

What it took to be the best in my class:

I actually found out I was going to be valedictorian at the end of my junior year. The few times I felt like slacking off my senior year, my sister told me I couldn't. She said she had bragged about me to all of her friends, so I couldn't make her look bad by not graduating No. 1.

On starting college at FIU:

I'm from Tampa, and I'm really enjoying Miami and FIU. The two campuses are very different – Biscayne Bay Campus is more quaint and intimate while the University Park campus is just huge.

Where I see myself in five years:

I want to graduate from college early, so, hopefully, I will already be well on my way to a master's degree.

My dream:

Ultimately, I want to be the head of the math department at my old high school, which is one of two historically black high schools in Tampa. My grandmother earned her GED there. If not at that high school, than at another inner-city high school.



Dana Hughes, 18 • Howard W. Blake High School
FIU Major: Mathematics education
Says people are often surprised to learn that she can be “really silly”

“The education I receive at FIU will allow me to fulfill my dream of giving back to the community.”



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