

# BHAGWAN MAHAVIR PROFESSORSHIP OF JAIN STUDIES

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, MIAMI

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## ✧ A Historic Milestone ✧

*Establishing a perpetual professorship in Jain studies at Florida International University is a first ever initiative and a historic milestone for the Jain community.*

First milestone of this initiative was achieved on April 16, 2010. Professor Nathan Katz, a specialist in the religions of India and former chair of the Department of Religious Studies at FIU, was named the first Bhagwan Mahavir Professor.

Dr Dipak Jain, Chair of the Jain Education and Research Foundation noted, "Today by starting this professorship, FIU has given us a platform and have allowed us to implant this seed and the flowers are going to blossom for many years to come".

The President of FIU concluded by sharing that, Jainism, one of the most hopeful religious and spiritual movement in the world today can be forever taught at our great university.

Specific objectives of this professorship are to:



- infuse university curriculum with courses in Jainism, relying on Jain scriptures, appropriate for undergraduate and graduate levels.
- conduct research in Jainism, publish books, and supervise graduate research in Jainism.
- collaborate with other universities with a view to introduce Jain content in their religious studies curriculum.
- develop and expand student and faculty exchange programs with noted academic institutions internationally.



### Join Us

*Be a part of making history. Let us open the doors of opportunity together, bringing into the world universal Jain message of nonviolence, tolerance and harmony. Help make a better world filled with greater vision and understanding.*

*You can make a difference. Join in our goal of creating a \$2.5 million endowment for a Jain Research Center at FIU.*



## WHY FIU?

- FIU is a state university with over 39,000 students, one of the largest universities in U.S. with students from global religious backgrounds.
- FIU Religious Studies Department is one of the most distinguished in the nation, with faculty renowned at national and international levels.
- Since 2006, FIU's undergraduate courses in Jainism and world religions have been taught by two Jain nuns (Samanijis). The courses have been well received and are growing in popularity.
- Samanijis have taught more than 2,000 students and have been invited across the nation as guest speakers. They have organized seminars and workshops in meditation, vegetarianism and nonviolence, and brought in distinguished guest scholars to speak at FIU.
- Community funding into the endowment will be matched at 75% by the State of Florida.



## BENEFITS TO JAIN COMMUNITY

- Provide the community with access to a permanent academic center for Jain education and research.
- Dissemination of knowledge about Jainism through online and certificate courses.
- Establishment of an academic forum to promote similar Jain programs at universities worldwide.
- Promotion of Jainism into North American social movements such as vegetarianism, environmentalism, anti-war, and meditation.
- Spreading benefits of Jain teachings and values for health, spirituality, and the environment.

## FIU RESPONSIBILITIES

- Continue in perpetuity the position of named professorship.
- Conduct an international search and hire a professor who is competent in Jainism and speaks at least one Indian language.
- Professor must specialize in religions of India and is able to expand Jain studies and offer thematic courses at graduate and undergraduate levels.
- Provide annual reports of all activities and services under the agreement such as teaching research and programming to endowment donors.

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### **Jain Education and Research Foundation**

**Spiritual Guidance** - Samani Charitra Pragya ji and Samani Unnat Pragya ji  
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**Chair of the Board** - Dr. Dipak Jain, former Dean of Kellogg School of Management

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