Florida community, we could have a bigger impact on our home city,” says Chant. “So we decided to focus more on north miami where the needs weren’t being met.”

Many of those freshmen, roughly 33 percent, are the first in their family to attend college. That’s the highest percentage of first generation students among the four JWU campuses. The student body at the north miami campus includes students from 41 states and 41 countries. Of north miami’s 5,248 alumni, 40 percent live in miami or the surrounding miami-Dade and Broward counties.

**HOSPITALITY PLUS**

From north miami, JWU has also contributed to the growth of tourism and hospitality in one of the most dynamic regions of the country. The university has been involved in the hospitality industry throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Casa de Campo, a resort in the Dominican Republic, set up an educational center staffed by Johnson & Wales for all of its resort personnel. The school also supplies a steady stream of skilled workers for many of the world’s most prestigious cruise lines that have operations in miami.

Demonstrating the school’s diversification beyond hospitality and culinary arts, the university has developed close connections with the north miami criminal justice community. In 2009 industry professionals participated in a broad review of the school’s criminal justice curriculum in the College of Business, resulting in numerous enhancements to the program and the design of the criminal justice laboratories on campus. Chant says her staff has also developed strategic relationships with local law enforcement professionals and federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, General Services Administration, and Immigration and Customs enforcement.

“These connections have helped create a well-rounded and unique experience for our students, including experiential education opportunities, co-curricular activities, and outstanding career potential,” she says.

“Anytime any organization that has needed anything has called on Johnson & Wales, Johnson & Wales has said ‘yes.’ Their involvement in the community is unprecedented.”

— Scott Galvin, north miami City Co Un Gilman