

HR 9119

2010

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the students, faculty, staff,  
3 board of trustees, and alumni of Miami Dade College as  
4 they celebrate the college's 50 years as an outstanding  
5 institution of higher education.

6  
7 WHEREAS, in 1960, Miami Dade College opened its doors as  
8 Dade County Junior College with a diverse student body totaling  
9 1,428, and became the first integrated junior college in  
10 Florida, offering a tuition-free education for all high school  
11 graduates residing in the county, and

12 WHEREAS, enrollment at the original North Campus site  
13 quickly grew and, by 1967, the college became the largest  
14 institution of higher learning in the State of Florida with  
15 23,341 students, prompting expansion to Kendall and downtown  
16 Miami, and

17 WHEREAS, by the mid-1970s, Miami Dade's guiding philosophy  
18 of "access with excellence" was clearly defined with the  
19 adoption of higher academic standards, the addition of a Medical  
20 Center Campus, and the opening of the Inter-American Outreach  
21 Center of 2,000 students in the heart of Little Havana, now one  
22 of the largest bilingual facilities of higher learning in the  
23 United States, and

24 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College became known as "Democracy's  
25 College" as it firmly established itself as the nation's most  
26 diverse educational institution, and

27 WHEREAS, in 1984, the New World School of the Arts was  
28 conceived and designed to train future performing and visual

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29 | artists from high school through undergraduate studies, creating  
30 | the first seamless partnership between Miami-Dade County Public  
31 | Schools, Miami Dade College and, later, the University of  
32 | Florida, and

33 |       WHEREAS, Miami Dade College has long been the community's  
34 | cultural anchor, home of the Miami Book Fair International, the  
35 | Miami International Film Festival, the National Historic  
36 | Landmark Freedom Tower, the Cultura del Lobo Performance Arts  
37 | Series, a renowned art gallery system, and acclaimed campus  
38 | theaters, and

39 |       WHEREAS, Miami Dade College has continued to expand access  
40 | to students throughout the county, opening the Hialeah Center in  
41 | 1981 which, today, boasts an enrollment of more than 12,000  
42 | students, and, in 1985, opening the Homestead Campus, which has  
43 | become a vibrant modern campus in the heart of the revitalized  
44 | Homestead community, and

45 |       WHEREAS, Miami Dade College's reputation for high  
46 | achievement has continued to receive national acclaim, including  
47 | recognition by the prestigious University of Texas Community  
48 | College Leadership Program as the "Best and Most Innovative"  
49 | community college in the nation, and

50 |       WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Miami Dade College, in a bold  
51 | response to the changing economy and workforce, restructured its  
52 | academic programs to meet the demands of emerging industries,  
53 | introducing more than 50 new degree and short-term certificate  
54 | training programs, developing multimedia classrooms and the  
55 | Virtual College, and receiving recognition from Yahoo's Internet

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56 Life and the Smithsonian Institute for Innovation as one of the  
57 best-wired colleges and universities nationwide, and

58 WHEREAS, in response to the need for a qualified workforce  
59 in information technology and telecommunications, Miami Dade  
60 College has, over the past 10 years, built and expanded the  
61 Emerging Technologies Center of the Americas, a state-of-the-  
62 art, 40,000-square-foot facility that houses 19 multimedia  
63 classrooms and labs, specialized equipment, and simulation  
64 stations, and a new science complex consisting of 90,000 square  
65 feet of lab, classroom, meeting, greenhouse, and research space,  
66 and

67 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College added an eighth campus in the  
68 Doral area, the West Campus, and established the Honors College,  
69 which offers gifted students a rich, academically challenging  
70 curriculum and the opportunity to transfer to some of the most  
71 prestigious colleges and universities in the nation through more  
72 than 60 articulation agreements, and

73 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College is known as the "great  
74 equalizer" in the community and as an incubator of the human  
75 spirit, and continues to meet the workforce needs of the region,  
76 especially in areas of critical shortage, including education,  
77 nursing, public safety, film and digital production, and  
78 electrical engineering, and

79 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College offers bachelor's degrees to  
80 place-bound, nontraditional students who, otherwise, might not  
81 realize their dream of a college education, and

82 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College has been recognized by the  
83 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for helping

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84 first-generation and disadvantaged students to attend college  
85 and engage in service-learning, and by the Chronicle for Higher  
86 Education as one of its "Great Colleges to Work For," and

87 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College received the first-annual  
88 Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for teaching and learning from the  
89 American Council on Education, was named one of the nation's top  
90 25 "Best Neighbor Colleges and Universities" by the Survey of  
91 Best College and University Civic Partnerships Project, and has  
92 received many other national awards and recognitions, and

93 WHEREAS, the faculty at Miami Dade College continue to be  
94 recognized for their outstanding commitment, dedication,  
95 innovation, and excellence in teaching, as exemplified most  
96 recently by the recognition of Sandra Schultz as the 2009  
97 Florida Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the  
98 Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and  
99 Support of Education, and

100 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College has been deemed one of the most  
101 efficient, effective, and well-managed institutions in the  
102 nation by the Washington Economics Group, and

103 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College President Dr. Eduardo J. Padron  
104 was named to Time magazine's list of "The 10 Best College  
105 Presidents" in the nation in its November 2009 issue and was  
106 honored by Florida Trend magazine in 2010 as "Floridian of the  
107 Year" for his tireless advocacy of the vital role community  
108 colleges play in revitalizing the economy, and

109 WHEREAS, Miami Dade College is the nation's largest  
110 institution of higher education, having taught more than 1.7

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111 million students, and is the top producer of college degrees in  
112 the nation, NOW, THEREFORE,

113

114 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
115 Florida:

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117       That the House of Representatives recognizes Miami Dade  
118 College on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and  
119 congratulates President Eduardo J. Padron, Board of Trustees  
120 Chair Helen Aguirre Ferre, and the members of the board, and the  
121 faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the college on an  
122 outstanding half century of service and leadership.