

By Senator Braynon

35-04987-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the leadership, faculty, staff, and students of Miami Dade College for their long-standing commitment to excellence and for receiving the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

WHEREAS, the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among state community colleges and is awarded every 2 years to colleges chosen from a field of more than 1,000 institutions nationwide, and

WHEREAS, Miami Dade College was 1 of 3 Florida College System institutions selected from among the 10 finalists for the 2019 prize, demonstrating that Miami Dade College is acknowledged as a national leader in higher education excellence, and

WHEREAS, the Aspen Institute recognized Miami Dade College's Student Achievement Initiative and Guided Pathways programs to align institutional practices and policies to student success, which have led to an overall graduation/transfer rate above the national average, with no attainment gap for students of color, who make up the majority of the student body, and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, Miami Dade College has admitted more than 2 million South Florida residents and ranks first nationally in the total number of degrees awarded and in the number of degrees awarded to minority students, and

WHEREAS, through innovative and trendsetting programs and

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30 academic pathways, Miami Dade College is preparing a skilled
31 workforce ready to tackle in-demand jobs for the 21st century
32 economy, and

33 WHEREAS, recent economic impact studies show that Miami
34 Dade College, its employees, and its alumni contribute more than
35 \$6 billion annually to the South Florida economy, NOW,
36 THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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40 That the leadership, faculty, staff, and students of Miami
41 Dade College are commended for their long-standing commitment to
42 excellence and for receiving the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community
43 College Excellence.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
45 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Eduardo J.
46 Padrón, president of Miami Dade College, as a tangible token of
47 the sentiments of the Florida Senate.