

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-047 OF THE  
                          SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
                          RECOGNIZING THE PRESIDENT OF MIAMI DADE COLLEGE,  
                          EDUARDO J. PADRÓN, PH.D.**

**COMMITTEE:       ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT:       INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

For nearly fifty years, Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón has been an integral part of Miami Dade College, and for nearly twenty-five years, since 1995, Dr. Padrón has served as the college's president to the benefit of Miami-Dade County residents, using his forward-thinking vision to grow a fledgling community college into one of the largest and most respected institutes of higher learning in the United States.

Dr. Eduardo Padrón came to the United States as a refugee from Cuba, a teenager who set his goal on being educated. His timing was excellent, coinciding with the opening of Dade County Junior College, where he immersed himself in study and witnessed how a school could welcome everyone, regardless of social rank, wealth, race, sex, or any other classification.

Dr. Eduardo Padrón trained as an economist and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. His early vision brought him back to Miami-Dade County, where he became a faculty member at MDC and then a college administrator. His American dream continued to unfold. Dr. Padrón helped the young college grow, managing various functions of the school and encouraging new students who enrolled there. He was a role model for many, a prime example of a young person who came to America and used his observations, intellect, curiosity and talent for the betterment of himself, of others, and of the community.

Dr. Padrón's professional career advanced steadily. He took the reins of Miami Dade College as President in 1995, unleashing a long-burning vision, once again to the benefit of Miami-Dade County residents.

Dr. Padrón elevated the college's academics, revolutionizing curricula to include majors that would serve students, industries, and the community. He modernized course offerings to include cybersecurity, animation, and electronic gaming, giving students skills they could use in the new economy. He introduced four-year programs, which helped to keep students attached to the community they grew up in as they entered the professional world. His focus on students and teaching, inclusion and academic freedom, along with his strong leadership and personal humility, have sustained his long and honorable career.

Under Dr. Padrón's supervision, the college's capacity to serve students grew, from the initial 1,200 students to today's 171,000 at eight campuses, boosting the county's economy, increasing our exposure to the arts, providing a reason for young people to stay in Miami, and putting them on the pathway to personal success.

Miami-Dade residents also benefit from a world class film festival, a book fair that draws internationally renowned authors, a public arts program with world class entertainment and a culinary institute topped off with a first-class formal restaurant.

Dr. Padrón has been an excellent partner and friend to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well, actively promoting and participating in advanced educational opportunities such as dual enrollment, STEM science opportunities, the New World School of the Arts--one of our most successful ventures, as well as the School for Advanced Studies, consistently rated as one of the best high schools in the United States where hundreds of students each year receive their Associates Degree at the same time they graduate from high school. To date, more than two million young people have begun their careers by attending Miami Dade College, where they were welcomed, encouraged and educated.

We honor Dr. Eduardo Padrón, adding our commendation to nearly 20 honorary doctorate degrees, including Princeton, Brown, and Harvard universities; to appointments and honors by five U.S. presidents, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016; to being named one of "The 10 Best College Presidents" by TIME Magazine in 2009; as well as being named *Commandeur* in France's *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, and awarded Spain's *Order of Queen Isabella* by King Juan Carlos II and the *Juan Ponce de Leon 500th Anniversary* award by King Felipe VI.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR  
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-047 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the President of Miami Dade College, Eduardo J. Padrón, Ph.D.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-047**  
**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**RECOGNIZING THE PRESIDENT OF MIAMI DADE COLLEGE**  
**EDUARDO J. PADRÓN, PH.D.**

**WHEREAS**, For nearly fifty years, Dr. Eduardo Padrón has been an integral part of Miami Dade College, and for nearly twenty-five years, since 1995, Dr. Padrón has served as the college's president to the benefit of Miami-Dade County residents, using his forward-thinking vision to grow a fledgling community college into one of the largest and most respected institutes of higher learning in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Eduardo Padrón came to the United States as a refugee from Cuba, a teenager who set his goal on being educated. His timing was excellent, coinciding with the opening of Dade County Junior College, where he immersed himself in study and witnessed how a school could welcome everyone, regardless of social rank, wealth, race, sex, or any other classification; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Eduardo Padrón trained as an economist and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. His early vision brought him back to Miami-Dade County, where he became a faculty member at MDC and then a college administrator. His American dream continued to unfold. Dr. Padrón helped the young college grow, managing various functions of the school and encouraging new students who enrolled there. He was a role model for many, a prime example of a young person who came to America and used his observations, intellect, curiosity and talent for the betterment of himself, of others, and of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Padrón's professional career advanced steadily and when he took the reins of Miami Dade College as President, in 1995, he unleashed a long-burning vision, once again to the benefit of Miami-Dade County's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Padrón elevated the college's academics, revolutionizing curricula to include majors that would serve students, industries, and the community. He modernized course offering to include cybersecurity, animation, and electronic gaming, giving students skills they could use in the new economy. He introduced four-year programs, which helped to keep students attached to the community they grew up in as they entered the professional world. His focus on students and teaching, inclusion and academic freedom, along with his strong leadership and personal humility, have sustained his long and honorable career; and

**WHEREAS** Under Dr. Padrón's supervision the college's capacity to serve students grew, from the initial 1,200 students to today's 171,000 at eight campuses, boosting the county's economy, increasing our exposure to the arts, providing a reason for young people to stay in Miami, and putting them on the pathway to personal success; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade residents also benefit from a world class film festival, a book fair that draws internationally renowned authors, a public arts program with world class entertainment and a culinary institute topped off with a first-class formal restaurant; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Padrón has been an excellent partner and friend to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well, actively promoting and participating in advanced educational opportunities such as dual enrollment, STEM science opportunities, the New World School of the Arts--one of our most successful ventures, as well as the School for Advanced Studies, consistently rated as one of the best high schools in the United States where hundreds of students each year receive their Associates Degree at the same time they graduate from high school. To date, more than two million young people have begun their careers by attending Miami Dade College, where they were welcomed, encouraged and educated; and

**WHEREAS**, we honor Dr. Eduardo Padrón, adding our commendation to nearly 20 honorary doctorate degrees, including Princeton, Brown, and Harvard universities; to appointments and honors by five U.S. presidents, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016; to being named one of “The 10 Best College Presidents” by TIME Magazine in 2009; as well as being named *Commandeur* in France’s *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, awarded Spain’s *Order of Queen Isabella* by King Juan Carlos II and the *Juan Ponce de Leon 500th Anniversary* award by King Felipe VI.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-047 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Eduardo Padrón.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this fourteenth day of August, A.D. 2019**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary

