

Office of the Mayor The City of Coral Gables

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1995, Dr. Eduardo J. Padron has served as President of Miami Dade College (MDC), the largest institution of higher education in America with more than 165,000 students; and

WHEREAS, always a champion for the cause, fighting for Miami Dade College and student rights, Dr. Padron is credited with elevating Miami Dade College into a position of national prominence among the best, and most recognized colleges and universities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an economist by training, Dr. Padron earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2009, TIME magazine included him on the list of “The 10 Best College Presidents.” In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, for being a prominent national voice for access and inclusion in higher education; and

WHEREAS, under the passionate leadership of Dr. Padron, Miami Dade College has been hailed as a model of innovation in higher education. He is credited with engineering a culture of success that has produced impressive results in student access, retention, graduation and overall achievement. Miami Dade College enrolls and graduates more minorities than any other institution in the United States, including the largest numbers of Hispanics and African-Americans. Under Dr. Padron’s leadership, Miami Dade College has received national recognition for its longstanding involvement with its urban community, its catalytic effect for social and economic change, and the marked difference the College has made in student access and success through pace-setting initiatives; and

WHEREAS, internationally, Dr. Padron’s accomplishments have been recognized by numerous nations and organizations including the Republic of France, which named him Commandeur in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques; the Republic of Argentina, which awarded him the Order of San Martin; Spain’s King Juan Carlos II, who bestowed upon him the Order of Queen Isabella; Spain’s Prince and Princess of Asturias, Felipe and Letizia, who presented him with the Juan Ponce de Leon 500th Anniversary award; Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, who appointed him Honorary Consul in Florida of the Kingdom of Morocco in 2016, and the Amicus Poloniae from the Republic of Poland; and

WHEREAS, to the students, faculty, staff, and administrators alike, Dr. Padron has always been known to create a positive school culture, and obtain instant solutions for any problem that he encounters; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that we recognize Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, a marquee individual, who is well acclaimed, respected and valued by everyone throughout the entire Miami Dade College community and beyond, on the occasion of his retirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAUL VALDES-FAULI, as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission, do hereby proclaim July 9, 2019:

“DR. EDUARDO J. PADRON DAY IN CORAL GABLES”

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I hereby congratulate Dr. Eduardo J. Padron for his countless contributions as an educator and mentor at Miami Dade College, while extending to him our sincere wishes for much continued success in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this ninth day of July A. D., 2019.

Raul Valdes-Fauli
Mayor

Vince Lago
Vice Mayor

Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Commissioner

Patricia Keon
Commissioner

Michael Mena
Commissioner