

# Become a White House Fellow

Miami Dade College is known the world over as “Democracy’s College” and for good reason.

Since our founding more than half a century ago, we have admitted more than 2 million students and today serve a student body representing 191 countries and speaking 90 languages. They bring a bounty of varied life stories and experiences of those seeking greater opportunity through quality education.

An important aspect of our work revolves around the promotion of a more civil society, encouraging all to become engaged in our community and government at all levels. This commitment is underscored by our longstanding collaboration with the White House Fellows program, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

When President Lyndon Johnson established the White House Fellows program in 1964, he said, “A genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society.” With this, Johnson sought to draw to Washington people with a desire to contribute.

As this nonpartisan program moves beyond its half-century mark, it is once again offering an extraordinary opportunity for the men and women of our community. White House Fellows become full-time, paid employees, working with the senior staff at the White House, with Cabinet secretaries and other top officials in Washington for a full year.

For those already making a difference in our community, for those who aren’t content simply sitting on the sidelines as spectators, the White House Fellows program is an opportunity to learn and make an impact at the national level.

As chair of the U.S. Southeast Regional Panel that will select White House Fellows nominees, I’d like to encourage all who are interested to apply. Applications are now being accepted online until Jan. 12, 2016. Visit the website <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows> to learn more about the program.

*EDUARDO J. PADRÓN,*

*PRESIDENT,*

*MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, MIAMI*