

# Miami Dade College students to receive President's Volunteer Service Awards

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Miami Dade College (MDC) will honor more than 400 students, clubs and organizations college-wide at its ninth annual President's Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA) ceremony on Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m., at MDC's Wolfson Campus, 300 NE Second Ave. in downtown Miami.

The keynote speaker will be Alberto Ibarguen, president and CEO of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The national PVSA awards recognize individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a substantial amount of volunteer hours served over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

"It gives me great pride, and hope for the future, to see that so many MDC students have made such a significant commitment to service," said Dr. José A. Vicente, MDC Wolfson Campus president.

"This year our students have provided over 100,000 hours of service to hundreds of community partners and organizations throughout South Florida addressing some of our community's most pressing social, environmental, and civic needs," he added.

Each student will receive a personalized certificate and letter from President Barack Obama, a lapel pin, a letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, and a letter of commendation from MDC president Eduardo Padrón.

One MDC student and one MDC staff member will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards for contributing in excess of 4,000 hours in their lifetime. Among the remaining 400-plus honorees, 96 will receive a gold award for 250 or more hours of service; 40 will receive a silver award for 175-249 hours and 186 students will receive a bronze award for volunteering 100 to 174 hours.

In addition, 29 student clubs and organizations will be awarded for their collective commitment to service, completing a minimum of 200 hours as a group.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation established the President's Volunteer Service Award program in 2003 as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. MDC has the largest number of PVSA recipients of any higher education institution in Florida.