Dear Graduate,

The Administrators, Faculty and Staff at the Medical Center Campus of Miami Dade College extend their warmest congratulations for your achievement of completing your associate degree or certificate program.

The Commencement Ceremony

Commencement will be held on SATURDAY, April 30, 2005. The ceremony will begin at 2:30 p.m. SHARP at the James L. Knight International Center, located at 400 S.E. 2nd Avenue in Downtown Miami. GRADUATES SHOULD ARRIVE BY 1:30 p.m. The ceremony will end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Caps, Gowns, Name Cards

Caps, gowns, name cards and announcements will be issued by the Medical Center Campus Bookstore beginning Monday, April 18, 2005 to Friday, April 29, 2005.

There is no fee for students' caps and gowns. Identification (course schedule, student ID, etc.) will be required in order to pick up items.

Bookstore Hours:
Mon. & Tues.: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. & Thurs.: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fridays: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sat., April 23 ONLY: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grads Arrival
Time: 1:30 pm

Graduates, please report to the Ashe Auditorium at the James L. Knight Center NO LATER THAN 1:30 p.m. You will line up by program. Be sure to bring your name card with you.

Who May Participate?

All students who completed degree requirements in December of 2004, or those students who have applied to graduate at the end of the Spring, or Summer terms of 2005 may attend graduation.

Where Will Grads Line Up?

Graduates will line up in the Ashe Auditorium. Line up with your program. If you are receiving two degrees (Associate in Arts and Associate in Science) line up with your Program. Those receiving the Associate in Arts degree ONLY will line up behind the AA degree banner.

Conferring Of Degrees Or Certificates

All students will be called to the stage. Students who will be receiving more than one degree will be called to the stage only once.

Note: You will not receive your diploma at the ceremony. Your diploma will be mailed to you following appropriate certification by the Advisement and Registrar’s Offices. This occurs after all of your grades are posted.

All Financial Obligations Must Be Satisfied Prior To Receiving Your Diploma

Loans and fines must be paid; equipment and library books must be returned prior to graduation. Please note that transcripts will not be sent to other institutions for graduates with any obligations.

Graduation With Honors

Graduates who have earned a Cumulative Grade Point average of 3.5 or higher at the end of the Fall term will be given special recognition (see criteria below). They will be noted by the issuance of special tassels. Special tassels will be distributed at the Knight Center on April 30 at the Registration Check-In.

Honors: MDC Cumulative GPA 3.5-3.69
Highest Honors: MDC Cumulative GPA 3.7 or higher
Honors and Distinction: MDC Cumulative GPA 3.5-3.69 and 15 credits in Honors courses
Highest Honors and Distinction: MDC Cumulative GPA 3.7 or higher and 15 credits in Honors courses.

Photographs/Video

Please ask your family and friends to remain in their seats throughout the ceremony. They will not be permitted onto the main floor. A professional photographer will photograph each student as he/she walks across the stage. Proofs will be mailed to each graduate within a week of the ceremony and you will be able to order prints at a reasonable price.
**Attire For Commencement**

A cap and gown must be worn by each student participating in the graduation ceremony. *(See Caps, Gowns...for dates and times to pick up at the Bookstore.)* Place your gown on a hanger several days prior to the ceremony to unwrinkle it. Appropriate attire should be worn underneath your gown. Handbags and other items are not to be carried. Please leave them with family or friends.

**Graduates With Special Needs**

If you have a disability and need additional accommodations in order to participate in the ceremony, please contact the ACCESS Office, Room 1355 or call 305-237-4048.

An interpreter will sign the ceremony from the left side of the stage.

**Guests (No Tickets Needed)**

Tickets for admission to the ceremony are not needed. You may bring as many guests as you wish. For those guests who are disabled, you may wish to consider Valet parking, or dropping those guests off at the hotel lobby before parking. STROLLERS are not allowed in the auditorium.

**Directions And Parking**

The Knight Center is located at the corner of S.E. 4th Street & S.E. 2nd Ave. in Downtown Miami. Take I-95, either North or South, to the Biscayne Blvd., Exit 2A. The bottom of the exit ramp is next to the Knight Center and the Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel. **Parking** is available at the Knight Center but there is a charge. Make a right turn and the next hard right into the Knight Center drive, proceed straight making the next right into the bank garage. There are other parking lots in the area that may be less expensive. You may also park in the Wolfson Campus garage (free) and take the People Mover to the Knight Center.

**Or, take Metrorail** ($1.25 one way) to the Government Center; then take the Inner Loop of the People Mover (Free) to the James L. Knight station. The Knight Center is a short walk from the station.

**More Questions?**

If you have any questions:

About graduation, contact your instructor, your coordinator/director or the Student Life Department, Room 1150, 305-237-4213.

Nursing Pinning, contact Luis Cedeno at 305-237-4493.

Allied Health Technologies Pinnings, contact Pat Baker at 305-237-4448.

PTK tassels or stoles, contact Dixie Lemons at 305-237-4010.

**Congratulations** on your upcoming graduation from Miami Dade College. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 30.

Sincere wishes,

Madeline Pumariega
Dean, Student & Administrative Services
305-237-4028