

Miami Dade College

Monday, May 3, 2021



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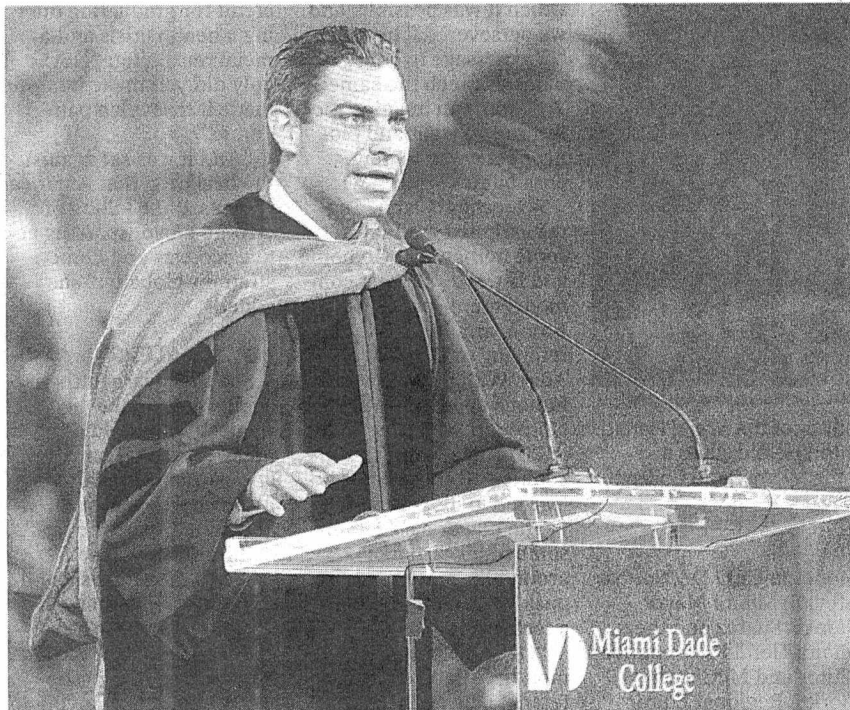
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Local & State

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Miami Dade College graduates 14,000 students during historic commencement ceremonies



MATIAS J. OCNER mocner@miamiherald.com

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez speaks during the MDC graduation ceremony Saturday at loanDepot Park.

■ Three graduation events took place at loanDepot Park with roughly 4,500 Miami Dade College students in attendance, along with some guests and three keynote speakers.

BY JIMENA TAVEL
jtavel@miamiherald.com

Downtown Miami's loanDepot Park, which usually hosts Miami Marlins home baseball games, and more recently COVID-19 testing and vaccine shots, dressed up its red clay infield Saturday with a red carpet for Miami Dade College's commencement ceremonies.

MDC, whose 120,000 students enrolled make it one of the nation's largest public colleges, graduated 14,000 this weekend, awarding them a combination of certificates and associate's and bachelor's

degrees.

About 1,500 graduates attended each of the three loanDepot Park ceremonies spread out throughout the day — a morning one for the North, Medical and West campuses; an afternoon one for the Kendall, Homestead and Padrón Campuses; and an evening one for the Wolfson and Hialeah campuses.

The graduates, donning their black gowns and decorated caps — and mandatory facial coverings — sat on the blue stadium seats, leaving about two or three spaces empty between them to allow for social distancing. They took turns to walk across the stage but substituted fist and elbow bumps for the customary handshakes and hugs.

Family members witnessed the jubilant milestone from farther up the bleachers; others viewed it

on a livestream.

The commencement ceremonies proved to be atypical, not only because of the moment of silence to recognize COVID-19 victims and the vast health regulations, but also because they were the first in the college's 62-year history to be presided over by a woman. President Madeline Pomariega, a Hialeah native and an MDC alumna herself, recently became the college's fifth and first female president.

"It's exciting," Pomariega said about her glass-shattering role, but she emphasized in an interview that the graduates' accomplishments were paramount.

"So many of our students have amazing stories," she said. "So many of them are the first in their families to ever grad-

SEE MDC, 18A

FROM PAGE T7A

MDC

uate. They're not traditional college students; they're moms and dads. They're balancing life, going through the pandemic and working to support their families."

One of those stories is Heily Rivas'. The 17-year-old, who completed her associate's degree through dual enrollment while home schooled, graduated Saturday alongside her dad, who finished a certificate in digital marketing at MDC at the same time. It was a familiar sight for the family: In 2014, Heily's mom and her sister graduated together. Her brother graduated last year from MDC.

MUSICAL FAMILY

The five-member family, originally from Colombia, manages a music school in Hialeah called Rivas Music & Video and launched the Rivas Perdomo Family Foundation, a nonprofit that delivers toys, scholarships, musical instruments, clothing and shoes to underserved children in Latin America. They also have a band called Grupo H.

Heily wants to go into fashion next and someday build her own clothing brand.

"It has been a beautiful experience," she told the Herald. "We're all going to be proud MDC alumni. The Hialeah Campus will always be home."

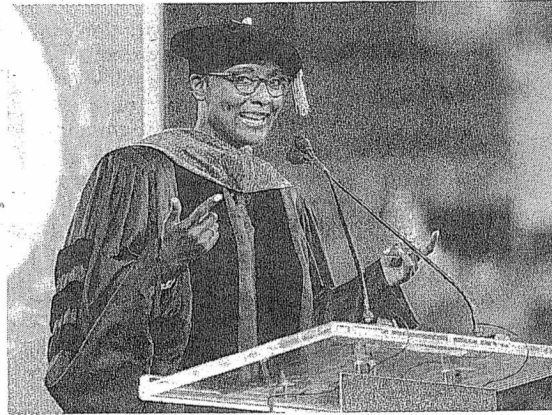
Another graduate who will happily look back at her days at MDC's Homestead Campus is Jada Watkins, of Haitian descent.

Watkins, who dreams of becoming an anesthesiologist, said her mom struggled a lot with her own college education, ultimately dropping out to raise her three children as a single parent. Completing her AA makes Watkins the first in her family to graduate from college — a success she said belongs to her and her mother.

"She's my No. 1 supporter. My mom has always been there for me," said Watkins, 20. "She made it happen."

GUEST SPEAKERS

Last year, at the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic, colleges across the world shut their campuses and pivoted to online courses. Canceled, postponed and virtual graduations followed.



MATIAS J. OCNER mocner@miamiherald.com

Monica Richardson, executive editor of the Miami Herald, el Nuevo Herald and the Bradenton Herald, gives a commencement speech during the Miami Dade College graduation ceremony on Saturday.

In South Florida, MDC became the first higher education institution to bring back in-person commencement ceremonies last fall. It organized five different ceremonies outdoors at the North and Kendall campuses, and allowed only graduates to go. But after rain showered down on some of the attendees, MDC decided to relocate the events for the spring.

That's how hundreds of people ended up at formerly known-as Marlins Park. Among them, the three guest speakers:

Moderna CEO Dr. Nour Afeyan, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and the Miami Herald's Executive Editor and McClatchy Florida Regional Editor Monica R. Richardson.

During his address, Afeyan noted how the company he co-founded, Moderna, created and received emergency authorization from the FDA for the COVID-19 vaccine, faster than any other vaccine in history. But it wasn't easy.

"We were told messenger-RNA could not be turned into medicine, but

we imagined a future in which it was possible, and we persevered," he said. "My message to you, graduates, is much the same: You, too, can imagine the future you want and pioneer your way to new possibilities."

A few hours later, Suarez assigned graduates some homework: Go home and listen to the best commencement speech he has ever heard, he told them, referring to U.S. Navy Adm. William McRaven's famous appearance at the University of Texas-Austin in 2014. McRaven recounted 10 life lessons he learned in his training.

The mayor also centered some of his remarks around his now-trending push for Miami to become a tech hub.

"Over the past few months, Miami has entered a new and transformative moment," he said. "Miami is now the place to be for capital, tech, ideas and innovation. Seizing this opportunity will require creativity, courage, experimentation, innovation, ambition and persistence. And all of you have it in abundance."

Richardson, the first Black executive editor in the Herald's 117-year history, spoke last. She

gave the students extra credit for graduating during a health crisis and a racial reckoning: "Not only did you make it ... you made it through a pandemic."

"And it was set against the backdrop that America witnessed the killing of George Floyd, sparking active protests and demonstrations globally," she added.

'JOY STEALERS'

She then warned them against letting the "joy stealers" take hold of them. She listed hate crimes against Asian Americans, exhaustion and "the driver who lays on his horn because I failed to move the second the traffic light changed" as some of them. She jokingly described the last as "a Miami thing" she discovered after moving to the area this year.

"All these things, some major, some minor. All these things can be 'joy stealers.' Life is full of them," she said.

"Never let anyone or anything steal your joy. Joy allows you to keep dreaming."

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EDUCATION

Miami Dade College graduates 14,000 students during historic commencement ceremonies

BY JIMENA TAVEL

MAY 01, 2021 07:24 PM, UPDATED MAY 02, 2021 03:20 PM



Miami Dade College students take a selfie during their graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. [MATIAS.J.OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM](mailto:MATIAS.J.OCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM)



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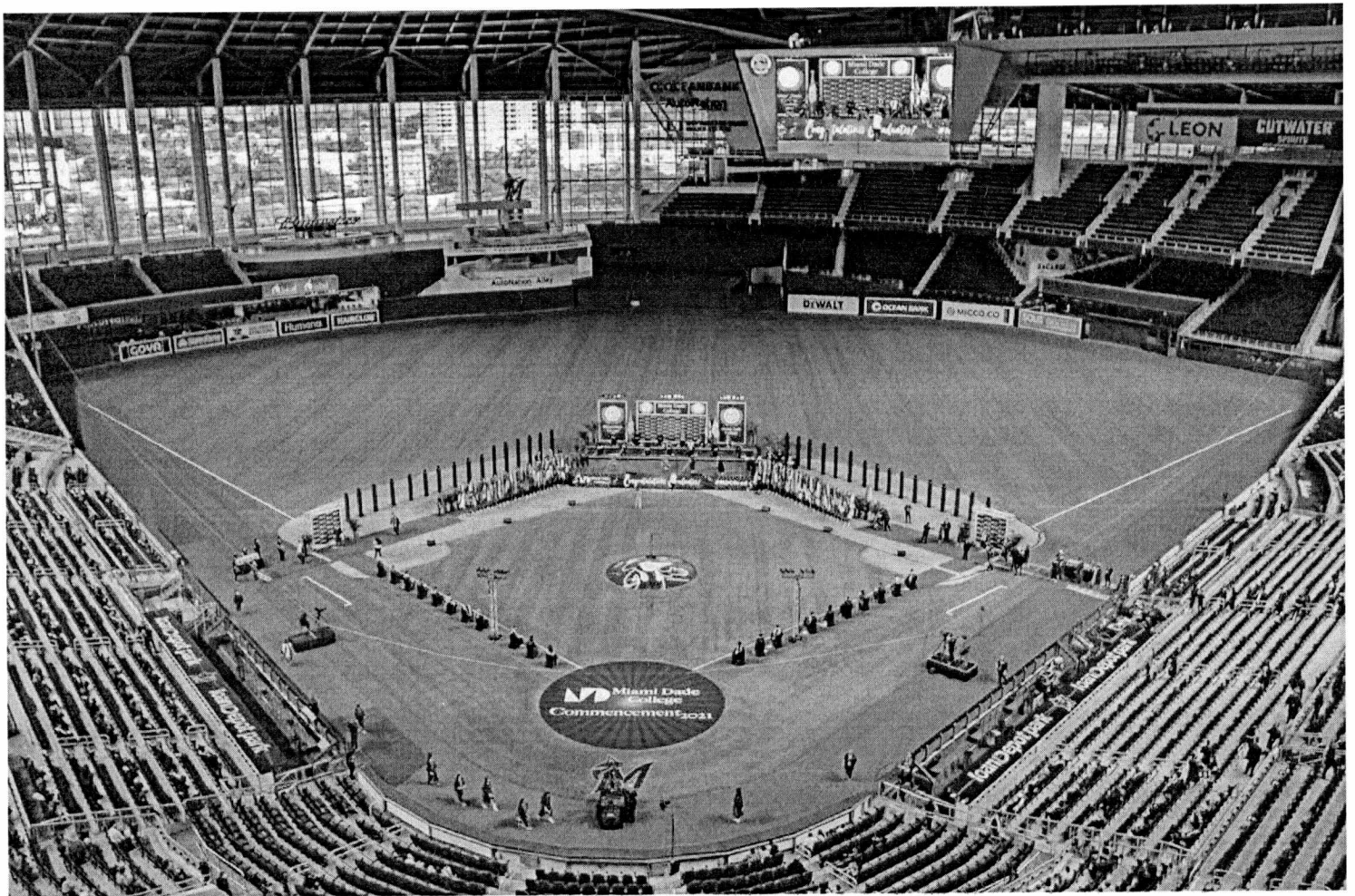
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Little Havana’s loanDepot Park, which usually hosts Miami Marlins home baseball games, and more recently COVID-19 testing and vaccine shots, dressed up its red

clay infield Saturday with a red carpet for Miami Dade College's commencement ceremonies.

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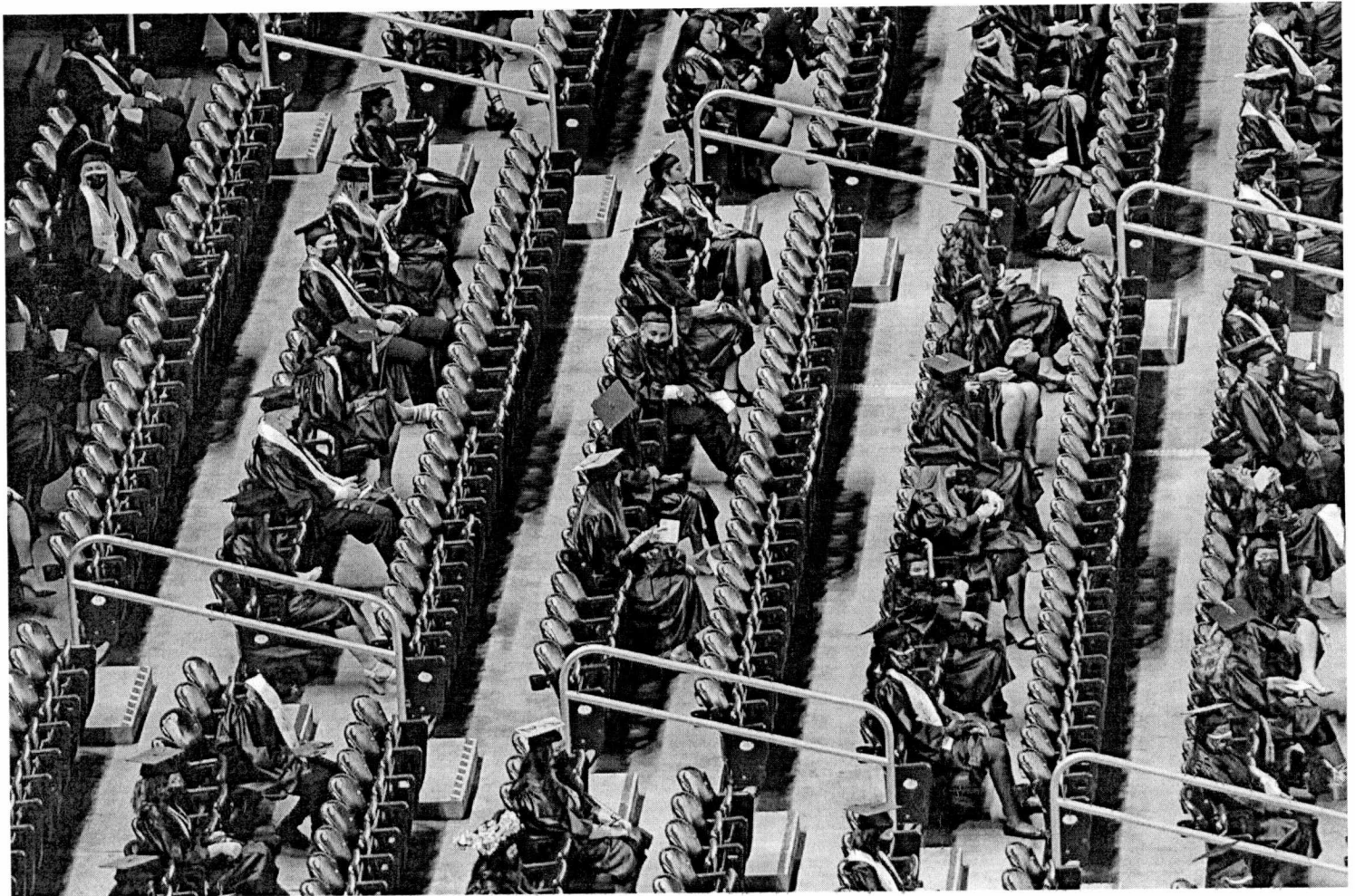
Miami Dade College students attend their graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

The graduates, donning their black gowns and decorated caps — and mandatory facial coverings — sat on the blue stadium seats, leaving about two or three spaces empty between them to allow for social distancing. They took turns to walk across

the stage but saved the customary hand shakes and hugs, replacing them with occasional fist and elbow bumps.

Each honoree got two guests tickets to invite their loved ones, who witnessed the jubilant milestone from farther up the bleachers. They also got a link to a live stream that allowed many more to view it from a much larger distance. At least 20,700 watched the morning ceremony.

Other safety protocols put in place to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus included hand sanitizing stations, temperature checks and symptom questionnaires at the entrance.



Miami Dade College students attend their graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

The commencement ceremonies proved to be atypical, not only because of the moment of silence to recognize the COVID-19 victims and the vast health

regulations, but also because they were the first, in the college's 62-year history, to be presided over by a woman. President Madeline Pumariega, a Hialeah native and an MDC alumna herself, recently became the college's fifth and first female president.

A HISTORIC DAY FOR MIAMI DADE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENTS

"It's exciting," Pumariega said about her glass-shattering role, but she emphasized in an interview that the graduates' accomplishments were paramount.

"So many of our students have amazing stories," she told the Herald. "So many of them are the first in their families to ever graduate. They're not traditional college students; they're moms and dads. They're balancing life, going through the pandemic and working to support their families."



Miami Dade College president Madeline Pumariega attends a graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

One of those stories is Heily Rivas'. The 17-year-old, who completed her associate's degree through dual enrollment while home schooled, graduated Saturday alongside her dad, who finished a certificate in digital marketing at MDC at the same time.

It was a familiar sight for the family: In 2014, Heily's mom and her sister graduated together. Her brother graduated last year from MDC.

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Another graduate who will happily look back at her days at MDC's Homestead Campus is Jada Watkins, of Haitian descent.

Watkins, who dreams of becoming an anesthesiologist, said her mom struggled a lot with her own college education, ultimately dropping out to raise her three children as a single parent. Completing her AA will turn Watkins into the first person in her family to graduate from college — a success she said belongs to her and her mother.

"She's my No. 1 supporter. My mom has always been there for me," said Watkins, 20. "She made it happen."

Miami Dade College students attend their graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

THREE WELL-KNOWN GUEST SPEAKERS

Last year, at the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic, colleges across the world shuttered their campuses and pivoted to online courses. Canceled, postponed and virtual graduations followed.

In South Florida, MDC became the first higher education institution to bring back in-person commencement ceremonies last fall. It organized five different ceremonies outdoors at the North and Kendall Campuses, and allowed only graduates to go. But after rain showered down on some of the attendees, MDC decided to relocate the events for the spring.

That's how hundreds of people ended up at the formerly-known-as Marlins Park. Among them, the three guest speakers: Co-Founder and Chairman of Moderna Dr. Noubar Afeyan, City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and the Miami Herald's Executive Editor and McClatchy Florida Regional Editor Monica R. Richardson.

Miami Dade College students are photographed during their graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

During his address, Afeyan noted how the company he co-founded, Moderna, created and received emergency authorization from the FDA for the COVID-19 vaccine, faster than any other vaccine in history. But it wasn't easy.

"We were told messenger-RNA could not be turned into medicine, but we imagined a future in which it was possible, and we persevered," he said. "My message to you, graduates, is much the same: You, too, can imagine the future you want and pioneer your way to new possibilities."

SOME HOMEWORK AND EXTRA CREDIT FOR THE GRADUATES

A few hours later, Suarez assigned graduates some homework: Go home and listen to the best commencement speech he has ever heard, he told them, referring to U.S. Navy Adm. William McRaven's famous appearance at the University of Texas-Austin in 2014. McRaven recounted 10 life lessons he learned in his training.

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“Over the past few months, Miami has entered a new and transformative moment,” he said. “Miami is now the place to be for capital, tech, ideas and innovation. Seizing this opportunity will require creativity, courage, experimentation, innovation, ambition and persistence. And all of you have it in abundance.”

City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, one of the keynote speakers at the Miami Dade College graduation ceremony, told graduates: “Miami is now the place to be for capital, tech, ideas and innovation.” The college hosted three graduation ceremonies for its different campuses Saturday, May 1, 2021, at loanDepot park in Miami, Florida. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

Richardson, the first Black executive editor in the Herald’s 117-year history, spoke last. She gave the students extra credit for graduating during a health crisis and a racial reckoning: “Not only did you make it ... you made it through a pandemic.”

“And it was set against the backdrop that America witnessed the killing of George Floyd sparking off active protests and demonstrations globally,” she added.

Monica Richardson, the executive editor of the Miami Herald and McClatchy Florida Regional Editor, told graduates of Miami Dade College, “Not only did you make it ... you made it through a pandemic,” during MDC commencement ceremonies at loanDepot park in Miami, Florida, on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

She then warned them against letting the “joy stealers” take a hold of them. She listed hate crimes against Asian Americans, exhaustion and “the driver who lays on his horn because I failed to move the second the traffic light changed” as some of them. She jokingly described the last as “a Miami thing” she discovered after moving to the area this year.

“All these things, some major, some minor. All these things can be ‘joy stealers.’ Life is full of them,” she said.

“Never let anyone or anything steal your joy. Joy allows you to keep dreaming.”

Miami Dade College students react during their graduation ceremony inside loanDepot park in Miami, Florida on Saturday, May 1, 2021. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

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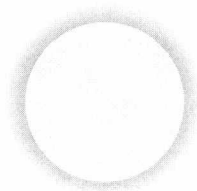
LOCAL NEWS

Miami-Dade College holding graduations for thousands of students at loanDepot park

Trent Kelly, Reporter

Published: May 1, 2021 1:58 pm

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MIAMI - College seniors continue to take part in graduation ceremonies across Florida.



On Saturday, Miami-Dade College held a commencement ceremony that looked a little different compared to those in years past.

It was just the first of three different spring graduations for Miami-Dade College, all three of which will be happening on the baseball diamond inside loanDepot park, home to the Miami Marlins.

Normally the ceremonies are held on the MDC campus, but because of COVID-19 they've decided to move this year's events into an alternate venue.

Not only does loanDepot park give the graduates some extra space to socially distance, but it also allows their families to space out as well.

In total, about 14,000 students from MDC will be graduating this weekend, with each student only allowed to bring up two family members.

In addition, everyone who enters the park has to have their temperature checked and must also fill out an online health survey in addition to wearing a mask and keeping socially distant.

Just the fact that the school could have the ceremonies at the ballpark, in the middle of baseball season, is a big feat, as the Marlins happen to be playing on the road this weekend.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Trent Kelly

Trent Kelly is an award-winning multimedia journalist who joined the Local 10 News team in June 2018. Trent is no stranger to Florida. Born in Tampa, he attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he graduated with honors from the UF College of Journalism and Communications.

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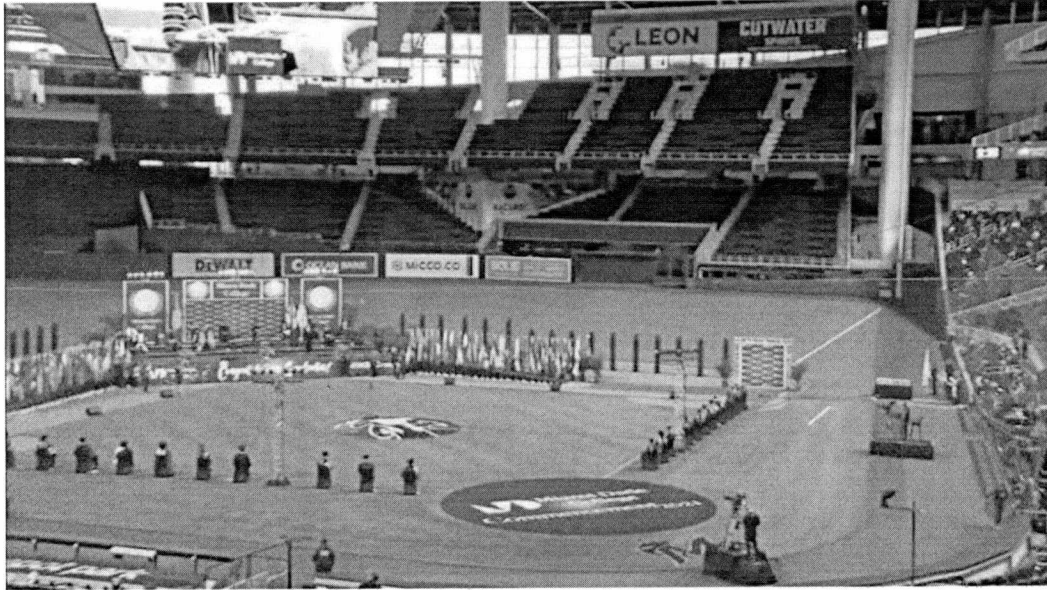
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Florida

Miami Dade College Holds Graduation Ceremony for Thousands of Students at loanDepot Park

□ carmellebruchesi • 2 days ago



Miami – College seniors continue to attend graduation ceremonies throughout Florida.

On Saturday, Miami Dade College held a graduation ceremony that looked a little different than in the last few years.

This is the first graduation ceremony of Miami Dade College's three different spring graduation ceremonies, all three taking place at the baseball stadium in the Loan Depot Park, home of the Miami Marlins.

The ceremony is usually held on the MDC campus, but due to COVID-19, we have decided to move this year's event to another location.

Lone Depot Park not only gives graduates extra space for social distance, but also allows families to free up space.

In total, about 14,000 students from MDC graduated this weekend, and each student is only allowed to raise a family of two.

In addition, everyone entering the park should check their temperature and, in addition to wearing a mask to keep them away from society, they should also complete an online health survey.

Advertising

The fact that the school was able to hold a ceremony at the stadium in the middle of the baseball season is a big feat as the Marlins are playing on the road this weekend.

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Miami Dade College Holds Graduation Ceremony for Thousands of Students at loanDepot Park

[Source link](#) Miami Dade College Holds Graduation Ceremony for Thousands of Students at loanDepot Park



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A portion of this year's graduates will participate in three graduation ceremonies on May 1

Miami, April 20, 2021 – More than 14,000 graduates from eight Miami Dade College (MDC) campuses will receive diplomas for the 2020-21 school year, continuing to demonstrate constant resolution and hard work, despite the pandemic. Due to physical distance requirements, only a portion of this year's graduates will receive their diplomas in **three graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 1, at Marlins Park.**

The ceremonies will be held with limited capacity and physical distance. Only selected students, college trustees and teachers and administrators will attend. In addition, there will be temperature control at the entrance to the stadium, mandatory face masks at all times and hand hygiene stations available throughout the stadium. Families and friends of the trainees can watch the ceremonies via live broadcast from anywhere in the world in www.mdc.edu/livestream (<http://www.mdc.edu/livestream>)

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The 2021 class represents 167 nations. Many have already demonstrated leadership skills and are making significant contributions to their communities, from volunteer work to incendiary trails for minorities and running their own nonprofit organizations.

Meet some of the outstanding graduates in 2021:

HIALEAH

This can, **Heily Rivas**, 17, is the fourth in her family to obtain an MDC diploma. His mother and his two brothers graduated in the last two years with technical degrees and the highest honors. Together with their father, a renowned musician in their native Colombia, they run a music school, Rivas Music & Video, have their own family band, El Grupo H., and present a radio program that airs on Sundays through Facebook page, Radio Paz 830 AM and 96.1 FM. Rivas is majoring in graphic design and enrolled at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Savannah College of Art and Design. At the Hialeah Campus, she served as president of the Beta Pi Theta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and as vice president of the Student Government Association. She co-founded the Rivas Perdomo Family Foundation to deliver toys, scholarships, musical instruments, clothing and shoes to underprivileged children and families in Latin America. Rivas aspires to become a fashion designer with her own brand rooted in the environment, human rights and prosperity.

Wendy Rodriguez is graduating from MDC with a bachelor's degree in information systems technology with an emphasis on cybersecurity. She is going to Carnegie Mellon University to pursue a master's degree in information security policy and management, the first time for anyone in her family who has emigrated from Cuba. In addition to his studies, Rodriguez was a fellow of the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP), president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, vice president of Honors in Action (PTK), Women in Cybersecurity, Participating the National Cyber League (NCL) and Hialeah Mentor of SCHOLARS Campus peers. She was nominated for the Phi Theta Kappa All Florida 2020 Academic Team and received the UFMDC Scholarship, Presidential Volunteer Award; Rodolfo Cruz Scholarship; AT&T Scholar, Being the First (SHPE); and 2021 Phi Theta Kappa Region of Florida Best Trial.

HOMESTEAD CAMPUS

First generation college student **Jada Watkins**, 20, came to the MDC determined to finish what her mother, who raised three children as a single mother, failed to achieve. Now, a degree in biomedical sciences is on its way to fulfilling the dream of attending medical school. The small community on Homestead Campus around it will have all the support needed to allow a total immersion in the college experience. She received several awards and other honors, including the MDC American Dream Scholarship, the 2020 MDC iCED President Award and, most recently, was named 2021 All-Florida Academic Scholar. Watkins has also served in schools and community organizations, such as TRIO Student Support Services, Rotary Club of Miami, Phi Beta Lambda and Student Government Association, to name a few. After graduation, she plans to attend Georgia Southern University to pursue her career goal of becoming an anesthesiologist and a community activist.

Social Work Course **Brenda Itzep**, 18, overcame obstacles, found support and stood out in the MDC. Her brother motivated her to join the MDC Dual Enrollment Program; and MDC speech professor Adam Vellone provided words of wisdom that inspired her to look beyond negativity. Itzep's academic success was recognized with donations, such as MDC's Regions' First Generation and American Dream scholarships. She also participated in the Student Government Association and offered her time as a Sunday School teacher and helped recent immigrants connect with resources to support them. She plans to continue her studies at Florida International University and hopes to someday work with Child Protection Services. Their greatest aspiration is to free children from the trauma of living in abusive homes and provide them with a stable life to thrive and push their limits.

KENDALL CAMPUS

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Karl-Julius Müller considers its existence a testament to the power of modern medicine. When her Cuban mother was a teenager, she had endometrial cancer and was told she would never have children. Years later, she became pregnant with him and underwent several surgical procedures to save her son even before he was born. Now he is on the verge of becoming an orthopedic surgeon and business administrator with the aim of improving the lives of others in developing countries. Müller, whose father is German, ran for Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Yale, Cornell, Brown, Princeton, Duke and University of Pennsylvania. Müller completed three years of work experience as a business development manager in the hearing care industry, two medical internships, research with the math department, research with the University of Florida's microbiology department and was a part-time lab assistant at biology department of the MDC. He graduated from MDC with a GPA of 3.98 and continues to work to help support his family.

Joshua Ynirio, who studied at home throughout his life, chose to study economics with the aim of positively impacting the lives of other people, helping to analyze, develop and shape public policies. This year, he was a finalist for the prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship award, the highest honor for the student engagement leadership. Ynirio holds a Congressional Certification Certificate from Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell as Adviser to the Youth Advisory Council for the 26th District of Florida; and was named Pathfinder of the Year (by the Faith Based Pathfinder program). He also served as Director of Legislative Affairs for the Florida University System Student Government Association; Senator on the Legislative Committee of the Kendall Student Government Association; founding executive member and Secretary of Logistics for the Kendall Chapter of the United Nations Model Nations; Member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society; and board member of Phi Beta Lambda; among other student organizations. He also serves as a volunteer coordinator at the Christ Fellowship church, enjoys learning new languages and playing the cello, violin and piano.

MEDICAL CAMPUS

Nursing degree **Krista Garcia**, 25, had a master's degree in autism spectrum disorder when she discovered her true passion and decided to become a nurse. She chose the MDC's high-quality accelerated nursing program, which is taught by leaders in the field, and works in partnership with Jackson Health to provide unique clinical opportunities for students. As a nurse, she hopes to care for, educate and inspire her community. Garcia plans to work as a trauma nurse or emergency room and eventually wants to do a doctorate in nursing and teach. During his time at MDC, Garcia, who graduated with 4.0 GPA, participated in extracurricular activities, such as the Special Olympics and the Ministry of Special Needs. She also spent countless hours teaching private lessons and encouraging many of her nursing colleagues. She received the Joan K. Stout RN advanced cardiovascular nursing scholarship.

Chislon Griffiths he also joined the MDC nursing program, encouraged by its history of excellence. The 34-year-old Jamaican student is also active in the military reserve. He first heard about the MDC after moving from Georgia to a military base in Homestead. He received the Civic Action Award and the Annual Academic Excellence Award. His ability to remain calm under pressure, strong focus and critical thinking skills are among some of the many qualities that Griffiths' teachers and mentors have identified as the key to his success and journey in the nursing field. After graduation, he plans to study at Walden University with the goal of one day obtaining a master's degree in computer science in nursing.

NORTHERN CAMPUS

As editor-in-chief of *The reporter*, MDC's award-winning student newspaper, specializing in mass communication and journalism **Adriana Dos Santos**, dedicated more than 20 hours a week to supervise a team of more than 40 newspaper students and the general operation of the fortnightly newspaper, including a strong presence on social media. All of this maintaining good grades and participating in Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Alliance of Venezuela, among other volunteer activities. Born in Venezuela, Dos Santos credits MDC and her mentor, newspaper advisor Manolo Barco, for helping her effectively navigate the university system, finding her leadership style, opening

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up to new opportunities and developing her personality. The 4.0 GPA graduate will continue her journey in the field of communication and her goal is to become a public relations professional working for a large company or corporation.

Main biology **Lucwilerna Raymond** came to the USA from Gonaïves, Haiti, with his family four years ago. She is the middle daughter in a family of seven. Together, they faced the difficulties of starting a new life and remained on the right path based on the strong belief that education is the key to success. Now his siblings are all in school, from elementary school to college, and his parents are also attending MDC at the same time. At MDC, Raymond divided his time between schoolwork, volunteer activities and student organizations, including Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Doctors Without Borders, Student Government Association, Chemistry Club and TRIO Student Support Services, to name a few. His hard work was recognized with several scholarships, such as Leaders of Promise, awarded by PTK and other grants provided by the MDC. She plans to study at the University of Miami in pursuit of her dream of becoming a pediatrician and opening health clinics to serve low-income people and families.

PADRON CAMPUS

Main chemistry **Patricia Ruiz**, 19, enrolled at MDC for the first time just to complete some basic university courses, but soon found that he was in the best place to obtain a diploma with a curriculum that far exceeded his expectations and a community of educators, colleagues and advisers who took a personal interest in their progress and future goals. Born in Morelia, Mexico, Ruiz grew up in a home with only one parent. At MDC, she excelled academically as part of Honors College, worked as an assistant student in the STEM department, and founded the first MDC economics center at Campus Padron, a free student store. She graduated with a GPA of 3.9 and a goal of pursuing a master's degree in pharmaceutical and cosmetic science, hoping to one day open her own business and develop a line of environmentally friendly products.

Main biology **Amalia Abraham Martin** arrived in the USA from Cuba five years ago with the dream of becoming a computer engineer, like her father. But in 2018, while in the hospital looking after her mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer, she fell in love with the medical profession. At MDC, she served as vice president of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (<https://www.tribeta.org/>) and was the website designer for the award-winning campus literary magazine *Urban* (<https://www.urbanlit.com/>). In her spare time, she helped raise funds for the cancer nonprofit Sebastian strong (<https://www.sebastianstrong.org/>). Last year, his remarkable academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential earned him inclusion in the selected group of MDC students called 2020 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars. Most recently, she received a Barry Goldwater scholarship, the most prestigious scholarship for undergraduate students pursuing research careers in natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in the country. She plans to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Princeton or Johns Hopkins University to pursue a career as a physician and researcher with a specialization in oncology.

WEST CAMPUS

When he was a year old, he majored in information systems technology **Thomas Bezombe** left his native Argentina with his mother in search of a better future in America. Like many undocumented students, Bezombe, now 19, achieved his college dream thanks to the Deferred Action for Childhood Comings (DACA), which allowed him to study and work in the United States. He took full advantage of this opportunity by standing out academically and earning a lot of accolades, including the National Scholarship Award from TheDream.US, and recently he was one of 15 MDC students included in the 2021 All-Florida Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, of which he was vice-president. Bezombe is graduating with a bachelor's degree and currently works part-time at MDC. His goal is to work as a network technician for public schools in Miami-Dade County.


Nursing degree **Mily Vargas** faced many adversities. She lost her father at a very young age and her mother had to raise five children alone, battling food insecurity and financial difficulties. Vargas then married and found himself in an abusive relationship. But she didn't give up. Strengthened by

adversity, she decided to take control of her life and make the best of it. That's how she arrived at the MDC, certain that she was in the right place to make it happen. She found a community that felt like home and the support of mentors who encouraged her and offered her great opportunities. Vargas flourished in all aspects, getting involved in various councils and committees throughout the MDC. She also received an MDC FAITH grant, vice president of the Student Government Association, was a finalist for the Newman Fellow and qualified for the President's Volunteer Service Award. After graduation, the 20-year-old will continue her studies to one day become a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

WOLFSON CAMPUS

Graduation in Political Science **Diana Montalvo** attributes his academic success to the skills acquired at MDC Honors College. The 19-year-old Miami native had a tremendous career at MDC, earning the respect of her colleagues who chose her as Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President for the academic year 2020-21. In this role, she prioritized that each chapter, officer and member be fully engaged in community assistance activities during the difficult period of the pandemic. She takes inspiration and courage for everything that makes Diego, her older brother who is autistic. Seeing him endure difficult situations, such as hospitalizations, maintaining a positive posture, always fills her with optimism and the belief that everything can win. She is one of a handful of MDC students selected as finalists on the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which supports students from exceptionally talented community colleges seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees. Montalvo's goal is to become a medical malpractice attorney and later open his own law firm.

Nicolas Arce, a graduate student in sociology, aspires one day to work full time as a community activist. He has already built a solid foundation. Arce is a Civics305 Fellow at Engage Miami and during his tenure at MDC he supported various organizations and causes, such as Save LGBT and Love the Everglades Movement. He also served as vice president of YES! Club, Student Government Association and mentor of the WIT (Whatever It Takes) program. More recently, as a District 6 representative for the Transit Alliance Miami Riders Council, his Better Bus Project, a video clip on the adoption of designated bus lanes across Miami-Dade County, caught the attention of the Mayor of Miami County. Dade, Daniella Levine Cava, who pledged to build the bus lanes by the end of the year. His dedication to public service and civic leadership earned him a scholarship from the Point Foundation, a national LGBTQ + scholarship fund and a spot among the 14 MDC finalists for the Newman Civic Fellow Award. Arce, who arrived at the MDC with "below average academic grades," ends his high journey as a Honors College student with a 4.0 GPA.

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Moderna is looking for ways to attack variants, company chairman says

CINDY KRISCHER GOODMAN *SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL*

MAY 01, 2021 03:28 PM, UPDATED MAY 01, 2021 04:01 PM

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One of the biggest concerns on the mind of Dr. Noubar Afeyan, co-founder and chairman of Moderna, is variants.

As Afeyan rushes to create more doses of the Moderna vaccine to deliver all over the world, he knows that variants are lurking that could require even those vaccinated to get regular boosters.

“The biology of the variants and how they can overcome the biology of how your immune system changes over time, that’s the big unknown,” he said during a visit to South Florida, where he will deliver a commencement speech at Miami Dade College.

Afeyan says it is more likely than not that even those who are vaccinated will need some form of a booster to make antibodies against variants.

“People are projecting this could look like a seasonal flu — and it may — which means annual booster shots of different strains that are being protected against,” he said. “But we don’t know enough to say that for sure.

In the future, Afeyan foresees a booster that would be a combination of half a dose of the existing vaccine and half a dose of a new variant vaccine.

“What that does is it bolsters your immunity for what you already have and then starts making antibodies for the variants.”

Florida is a hot spot for variants, with five strains identified in the state. So far, the COVID-19 vaccine is thought to be effective against them.

Afeyan, an Armenian-American entrepreneur, inventor and philanthropist, spends his days talking to researchers and global leaders and is on the cutting edge of efforts to end the pandemic. He shared his insight with the Sun Sentinel.

Vaccines of the future

Moderna anticipates cranking out as many as a billion COVID-19 vaccine doses this year. But next year, Moderna could ramp that up to as many as 3 billion doses, Afeyan said. While a double dose has become the norm, that could change.

“We are also testing whether half the amount will still give the same protection,” he said. “In the beginning, we didn’t test that because we wanted to give people the maximum we could, but now we need to reach more people.”

Afeyan said getting the vaccine down to one dose would help parts of the world where the disease is spreading fast.

“By making more vaccine and making it more potent, suddenly we are doing our part for the rest of the world if we could get it out and let the other governments do their job,” he said.

Length of immunity from vaccines

Afeyan says how long vaccine immunity will last is hard to know. “I think we’re going to have to watch carefully. We know for up to nine months we can feel confident because that’s when we first did our trials,” he said. “Beyond that, especially with variants, that is a bit of an unknown.”

Moderna is looking into technology that can measure antibody levels and gauge how long immunity lasts. “We have to be vigilant to see when immunity is waning. ... We will see it in new cases. If you see a spike in vaccinated people getting

infected, we will have to react very quickly. We know what to do about it. We can just vaccinate again.”

On vaccine hesitancy

“At the end of the day, if one wants to work and be in the community, you have to think through the risk you are under and the risk you are putting other people under,” he said. “It’s clear without this protection, the risk is very high. And as these mutants come about, it’s going to be even higher.

“It’s also clear, based on testing on hundreds of millions of people who have received the vaccine, that it’s effective and reduces the risk dramatically,” he said.

“A vaccine is basically a mask inside your body,” he said. “It’s doing the same thing. It’s preventing the virus, once it gets in, from actually infecting your cells.”

On herd immunity

Afeyan said Americans may never know the percentage of people who need to be vaccinated or immune to completely shut the virus down. But he feels hopeful the country will recognize when it happens as case numbers dwindle.

Refrigeration of vaccines

Refrigeration requirements initially made vaccine rollout complicated.

“We have improved on that front,” Afeyan said. “Our product was slated to be kept in the refrigerator for 30 days and on the tabletop at room temperature for a whole day. We keep testing to see whether that’s what we should do or if we could go longer. My expectation is that the refrigeration time will be elongated to many months, which means you can ship it to any number of places and it will still be good.”

Innovation

Afeyan said now that messenger RNA, the technology used for COVID-19 vaccines, has proven effective, Moderna is looking at how it can be used in other ways. In the future, messenger RNA could be used to combine a flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccine.

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Noubar Afeyan
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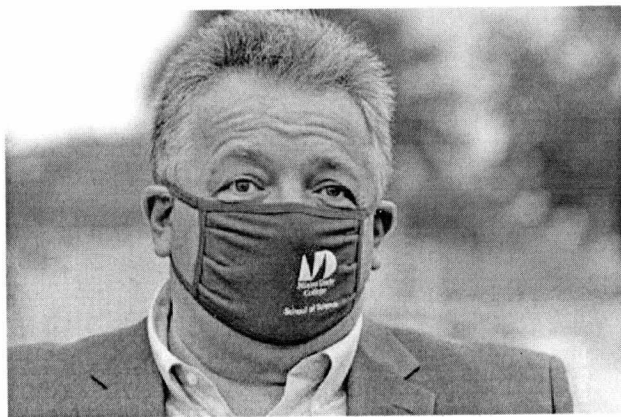
Moderna co-founder Noubar Afeyan discusses the COVID-19 vaccine.



MIAMI — One of the biggest concerns on the mind of Dr. Noubar Afeyan, co-founder and chairman of Moderna, is variants.

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Noubar Afeyan, co-founder of the biotechnology company Moderna, tours the Jessie Trice Community Health Center in Miami on April 30, 2021, as they distribute the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. (Mike Stocker / South Florida Sun Sentinel)

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LATEST COVID-19 VACCINES

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Broward schools will begin on-campus COVID-19 vaccinations Tuesday with eight-day tour

Moderna is looking for ways to attack variants, company chairman says

Sun Sentinel health reporter Cindy Goodman can be reached at cgoodman@sunsentinel.com

Noubar Afeyan, co-founder of the biotechnology company Moderna, talks with Luisa and Guillermo Jimenez after they received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in their car at the Jessie Trice Community Health Center in Miami on April 30, 2021. (Mike Stocker / South Florida Sun Sentinel)

Cindy Krischer Goodman

South Florida Sun Sentinel



Cindy Krischer Goodman covers the health beat for the South Florida Sun Sentinel, providing readers information on healthcare delivery, consumer news and public policy. Cindy is an award-winning journalist, former business columnist, and 32-year veteran of the South Florida news industry. She also is a Florida native and double UF grad.

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CORONAVIRUS

These South Florida vaccine sites don't take appointments or demand residency proof

BY MICHELLE MARCHANTE

APRIL 30, 2021 01:54 PM, UPDATED APRIL 30, 2021 02:17 PM



There are three COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S.: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. All three prevent severe disease and death but there are some differences on how each vaccine works. Here's what to know. BY [DANIEL A. VARELA](#) | [MICHELLE MARCHANTE](#)



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Where can you get a COVID-19 vaccine now that Florida is no longer requiring multiple proofs of residency?

There are options in South Florida. And most of them no longer require appointments.

A few reminders:

- Everyone who wants a shot will still need to fill out a screening and consent form on site.
- You will be asked if you're a Florida resident or if you're in Florida to provide "goods and services." This means you're in the state to work. If you say yes, you can get a shot, according to the division.
- Proof of age will still be required to comply with FDA emergency-use authorization. Moderna and J&J's minimum age is 18. Pfizer starts at age 16. Eligible documents include driver's license, ID, birth certificate or passport. Teens 16 and 17 who don't have the documents readily available can also have their parent or legal guardian — who must be at the vaccination with them — confirm their age.

Now, here's where to get your shot without an appointment:

WHERE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE IN MIAMI-DADE?

The three sites below are drive-thru only unless you are dropped off by a rideshare:

- **Homestead Sports Complex**, 1601 SE 28th Ave. Open daily 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Tropical Park**, 7900 SW 40th St. Open daily 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Starting Monday, May 3, it will be open daily 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Zoo Miami**, 12400 SW 152th St. Open daily 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Starting Monday, May 3, it will be open daily 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TIP: While appointments are not required at the sites above, appointments can still be made by calling 305-614-2014 or online at miamidade.gov/vaccine. People who preregister for an appointment can request a free Uber ride (while supplies last) to take you and pick you up.

The site below is drive-thru:

- **Hard Rock Stadium**, 347 Don Shula Dr., Miami Gardens. Open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Appointments are recommended. To preregister, visit <https://commvax.patientportalfl.com/>

The sites below are all walk-up, which means you wait standing in line:

- **Ronselli Park**, 250 SW 114th Ave in Sweetwater. Open Monday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Miami Dade College North campus**, 11380 NW 27th Ave. Open daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Bucky Dent Park Gymnasium**, 2250 W. 60th St.. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Helen Miller Center**, 2331 NW 143 St. in Opa-locka. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments not required. If you want to preregister, visit <https://commvax.patientportalfl.com/>
- **Oak Grove Park**, 690 NE 159th St. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Overtown Youth Center**, 1551 NW First Ave. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Florida Memorial University**, 15800 NW 42nd Ave. in Miami Gardens. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Brentwood Park**, 18800 NW 28th Pl. in Miami Gardens. Open daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- **Miami Beach Convention Center**, 1901 Convention Center Dr. Open daily 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHERE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE IN BROWARD COUNTY?

All of the sites below are drive-thru:

- **Tree Tops Park**, 3900 SW 100th Ave. in Davie. Open Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Central Broward Park and Broward County Stadium**, 3700 NW 11th Pl. in Lauderhill. Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Markham Park**, 16001 W. State Road 84 in Sunrise. Open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Pompano Beach Citi Centre**, 1955 N. Federal Hwy. in Pompano Beach. Open Friday, April 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Starting May 4, the site will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
- **Quiet Waters Park**, 401 S. Powerline Rd. in Deerfield Beach. Open Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park**, 2520 NW Sixth St. in Fort Lauderdale. Open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Snyder Park**, 3299 SW Fourth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. Open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **T.Y. Park**, 3300 N. Park Rd. in Hollywood. Open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Tradewinds Park**, 3600 W. Sample Rd. in Coconut Creek. Will be open from May 2 until May 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The sites below are walk-up, which means you wait standing in line:

- **Bamford Pine Island Multipurpose Center**, 3801 S. Pine Island Rd. in Davie. Open between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are recommended. To make one, visit <https://davie.readyop.com/fs/4cae/ca57>.

▪ **Coral Square Mall**, 9469 W. Atlantic Blvd. in Coral Springs. Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHAT ABOUT PHARMACIES AND HOSPITALS?

Pharmacies and hospitals will likely update their requirements soon to match Florida's new criteria. However, most places require appointments. There are some exceptions:

All **Winn-Dixie** and **Fresco y Más** in-store pharmacies are no longer requiring COVID-19 vaccination appointments in Florida. This means you can just show up and wait in line. Appointments can still be made online. Vaccine availability will depend on supply. However, parent company Southeastern Grocers has not announced if it will be following Florida's new guidelines.

Some **Walgreens** stores are no longer requiring COVID-19 vaccination appointments. These stores usually have a sign either outside or inside the store saying so. You can also ask the pharmacy. Appointments can still be made online. Walgreens has not announced if it will be following Florida's new guidelines.

This article will be continuously updated.

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Anxiety led dozens to faint or get dizzy after Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine, CDC says

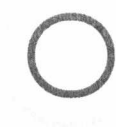
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CORONAVIRUS

Winn-Dixie, Fresco y Más stores in Florida offer walk-up vaccines, and some Walgreens, too

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People arrive to the Miami Dade College North vaccination site where the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is available in Miami, Florida on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The CDC and the FDA are calling for a pause in the distribution of the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine after a rare blood clotting disorder affected six people. *MATIAS J. OCNER MOCNER@MIAMIHERALD.COM*

MICHELLE MARCHANTE

    305-376-2708

There's never a dull moment in Florida — and Michelle covers it as a Real Time/Breaking News Reporter for the Miami Herald. She graduated with honors from Florida International University, where she served as the editor-in-chief of Student Media PantherNOW. Previously, she worked as a news writer at WSVN Channel 7 and is currently a Poynter-Koch Media & Journalism fellow.

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CORONAVIRUS

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Florida COVID update for Sunday: 3,841 cases, 31



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Florida Vaccine Updates: South Beach Holding Pop-Up Site Sunday, Holy Cross Health Accepting Walk-ins

Here's what we know today about the coronavirus outbreak in Florida, and the effort to stop it

By NBC 6 • Published May 2, 2021 • Updated on May 2, 2021 at 11:05 am



Miami-Dade County is loosening some restrictions in regards to the COVID-19 vaccine, and a local vaccination site will soon stop administering first doses of the Pfizer shot. NBC 6's Marissa Bagg reports.

One county in South Florida will be changing policy when it comes to who can get vaccines and make it easier for everyone to get a vaccine just by going to one of three locations.



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Florida House Passes Bill Banning Businesses From Requiring COVID 'Vaccine Passports'



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South Beach Holding Vaccine Pop-Up Site Sunday

South Beach is holding another pop-up COVID vaccine site Sunday, May 2nd at 16th Street Beach on the sand.

This location is administering the Johnson & Johnson one dose vaccine and will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. or until vaccines run out.

Holy Cross Health COVID-19 Vaccine Center Accepting Walk-ins

Holy Cross Health COVID-19 Vaccine Center is accepting walk-ins for Pfizer vaccines to those 16 and older Monday - Friday between 9 am and 1 pm at 4701 N. Federal Highway, Building C, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308.

Vaccine consent forms can be filled out in advance. Appointments for second doses are scheduled after the first dose is received, however second doses require an appointment.

Eligible minors must be accompanied by a parent and supply proof of age.

Appointments also are available weekdays from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Drop off the vaccine consent form in the drop box located on the south side of the Vaccine Center and you will be called for an



MDC North to Stop Administering 1st Dose of Pfizer Vaccine

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Florida Eliminates Proof of Residency Requirement at State, Federal Supported Sites

The move, effective Thursday, also expands vaccine access and eligibility to "any individual who is present in Florida for the purpose of providing goods or services for the benefit of residents and visitors of the state," according to a statement released from the Florida Department of Health.

Florida's Surgeon General, Dr. Scott Rivkees, said several factors were considered when issuing the latest public health advisory.

Miami-Dade Officially Eliminated Appointment Requirements at County Sites

Starting Thursday, the county will not require appointments at its three drive-thru sites - Tropical Park, Zoo Miami and the Homestead Sports Complex - and will accept walk-ups.

"I'm proud that Miami-Dade County was one of the first communities in the country to develop an online pre-registration system to help fairly allocate vaccine appointments when supply was extremely limited," Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said in a statement. "Now, more than 1.2 million residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and we are making it as easy as possible to get a vaccine while expanding our outreach and education efforts to make sure no communities are left behind."

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC • FLORIDA • MIAMI-DADE • BROWARD • VACCINE

Florida Eliminates Residency Requirements To Get COVID Vaccine

By CBSMiami.com Team May 2, 2021 at 10:25 am Filed Under: Coronavirus, Local TV, Miami News, Vaccines

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MIAMI (CBSMiami) – Florida is eliminating the proof of residency requirement to get the coronavirus vaccine at state and federal sites, paving the way for college students and migrant workers to get vaccinated.

Officials also announced the vaccination site at North Campus of Miami Dade College will stop offering the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine after May 4th.

READ MORE: Broward School District Bringing COVID-19 Vaccinations To All Of Its High Schools Over Eight Day Span

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine and second shots of Pfizer will continue through the end of May.

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Officials are stressing that those who haven't been doing so and as soon as possible.

"Certainly, we want people to rethink if they've been the vaccine now is the time to talk, get factual information, talk to your doctor or health care provider, find out what vaccine is best for you," said FEMA Master Public Information Officer, Mike Jachles.

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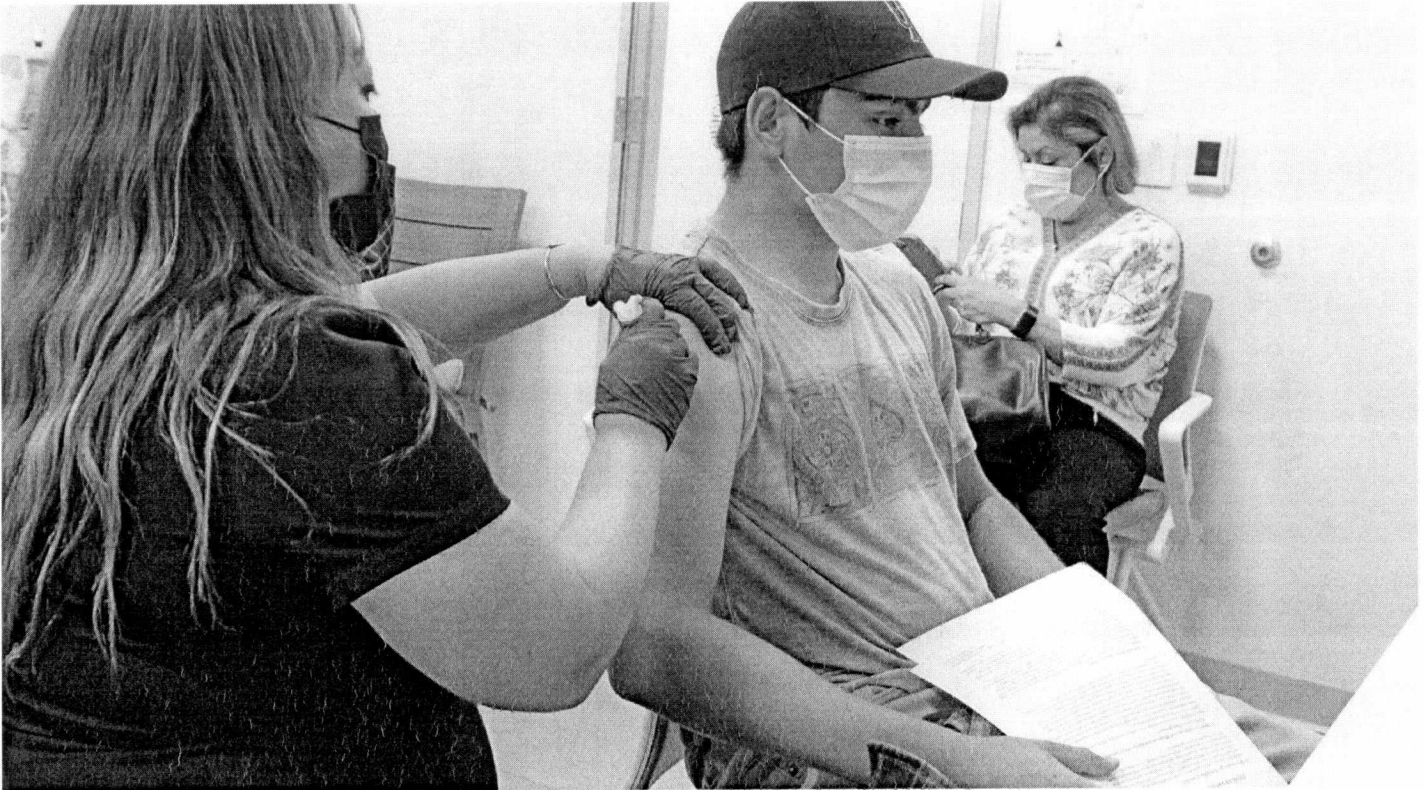
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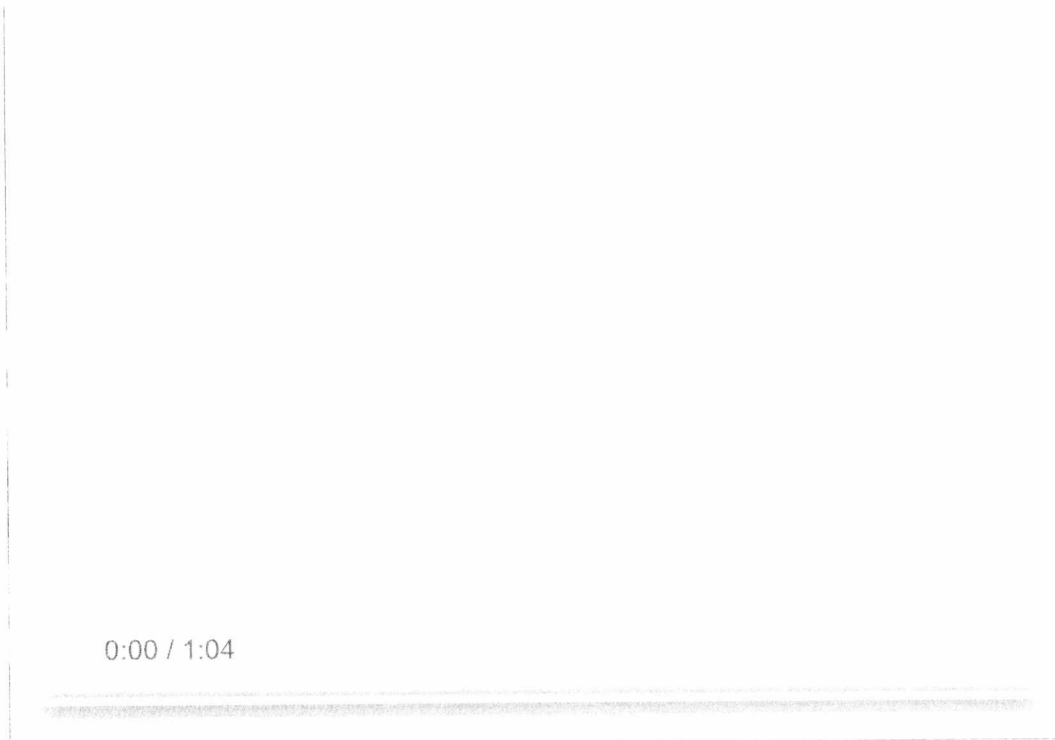
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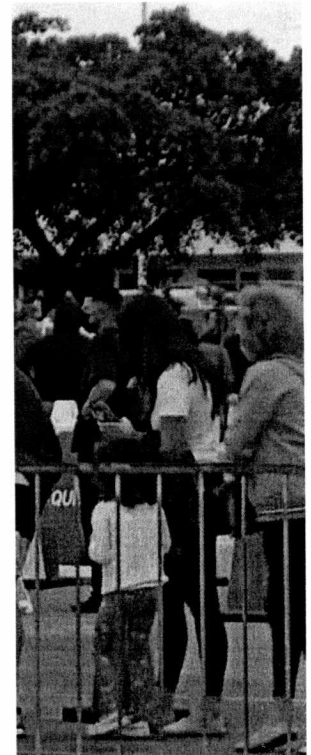
Florida Eliminates Residency Requirements To Get COVID Vaccine

By CBSMiami.com Team

Posted by  CBS Miami 1 day ago



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Write a comment...



Making the Most of \$40 Billion

Congress just authorized funding for colleges as part of the American Rescue plan, and here's how it should be used, write Russell Lowery-Hart and Madeline Pumariega.

By [Russell Lowery-Hart \(/users/russell-lowery-hart\)](/users/russell-lowery-hart) and [Madeline Pumariega \(/users/madeline-pumariega\)](/users/madeline-pumariega)
// May 3, 2021



(https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/media/GettyImages-1295528743.jpg)

FEDORA CHIOSEA/ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

A year into COVID-19, college students are continuing to grapple with the aftershocks of a pandemic that hit hard among a segment of the population already struggling with food, housing and income insecurity. A recent [Course Hero survey \(https://www.coursehero.com/blog/coronavirus-the-cost-of-college/\)](https://www.coursehero.com/blog/coronavirus-the-cost-of-college/) of more than 11,000

<https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/>). Undergraduate enrollment this fall plummeted by 3.6 percent (https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/CTEE_Report_Fall_2020.pdf) -- or more than 560,200 students. When the data are disaggregated, they raise critical questions about equity, as the declines are especially steep among community college students, first-generation students and students from low-income backgrounds.

In an era when the new majority of learners are working, have children or go to college part-time, the complexities of paying for higher education are greater than ever. Even before the pandemic, [2019 data](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/realcollege2020-research/#:~:text=%23RealCollege2020%20Research%20Shows%2017%25%20of%20College%20Students%20Feb%2012%2C%202020&text=On%20February%2012%2C%20the%20Hope,needs%20insecurity%20among%20) (<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/realcollege2020-research/#:~:text=%23RealCollege2020%20Research%20Shows%2017%25%20of%20College%20Students%20Feb%2012%2C%202020&text=On%20February%2012%2C%20the%20Hope,needs%20insecurity%20among%20>) from research conducted by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice found that 46 percent had been housing insecure at some time during the past year, and 39 percent had experienced food insecurity within 30 days of the survey.

COVID-19 has only magnified those challenges. But the good news is that help is on the way. Congress recently authorized \$39.6 billion in funding for colleges and universities as part of the American Rescue Plan, half of which is required to be used for emergency student aid.

As community college leaders, we are heartened to see the federal government take action on this crucial issue. This was in many ways an affirmation of what those in the community college movement have long been advocating -- from networks like Achieving the Dream and [JFF's Policy Leadership Trust](https://www.jff.org/points-of-view/5-ways-states-can-put-americans-back-work-and-transform-higher-education/) (<https://www.jff.org/points-of-view/5-ways-states-can-put-americans-back-work-and-transform-higher-education/>) coalition to advocates like the Hope Center.

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task of disbursing those billions of dollars in ways that can actually help the millions of students still reeling from a year racked by financial, academic and personal challenges.

Here are three ways emergency aid can be leveraged to make the greatest impact.

Address basic needs. Research shows that between [11](#) (https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/92331/assessing_food_insecurity_on_campus_3.pdf) and [45 percent](#) (https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HOPE_realcollege_National_report_digital.pdf) of college students are unable to afford enough food to stay healthy. As the pandemic has raged on, food insecurity has only grown, with an estimated [one in six Americans](#) (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/one-in-six-could-go-hungry-2020-as-covid-19-persists>) going hungry. Likewise, students are [struggling to pay rent](#) (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/05/01/students-campus-housing-struggle-make-rent>).

In a recent survey of 17,000 students, basic human needs such as food and housing each accounted for a quarter of students' most pressing emergency aid needs. Students cannot focus on academic work if they are busy wondering where their next meal is coming from or if they are going to be evicted. Emergency aid must be targeted toward alleviating these basic but pressing needs.

At Miami Dade College, for example, students have long had access to eight food pantry locations across campus, stocked by donations and run by volunteers. Any student is allowed to receive food from the pantry. Last year, the college also began offering grocery store gift cards -- ranging between \$50 and \$100 -- to students who had visited the pantry at least three times.

Students at Amarillo College also have access to a food pantry. As the pandemic continued, the college created a digital storefront so students could safely request food from the pantry online.

Close the digital divide. The massive shift to remote and hybrid learning that occurred in response to the pandemic has underscored just how wide the digital divide remains. According to a [survey by New America and Third Way](#) (<http://thirdway.imgix.net/New-America-and-Third-Way-Higher-Ed-Student-Polling-Data.pdf>), nearly 60 percent of college students surveyed last year said that they did not have adequate access to a stable, high-speed internet connection.

Students from low-income backgrounds who have relied on campus internet and computers were left stranded, struggling to find technology not only to complete assignments but also to attend class. Community college

student needs during the pandemic are part of a larger, integrated system. Miami Dade's Single Stop program is, as the name implies, a one-stop shop for a variety of social services.

Students experiencing food insecurity, for instance, can not only visit the pantry but also work with coordinators who can help them be screened for a variety of federal, state and local resources like [SNAP](https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>). Over the past 12 years, Single Stop has helped 66,000 students receive food assistance, mental health counseling, financial coaching, legal aid and other services. Miami Dade has built an ecosystem of external partners that includes community-based organizations and private and public sector agencies that help provide holistic support to its students.

Amarillo College takes a similarly holistic approach. The college's No Excuses Poverty Initiative is a systemic approach to combating student poverty. The program is designed to increase persistence and improve graduation rates among students from low-income backgrounds, and it consists of four major components: social services, a food pantry, a mentoring program and a career center. It integrates accelerated learning, predictive analytics, wraparound social services and emergency aid into one system -- resulting in a completion growth rate of 185 percent over the past six years. Having such robust -- and easy-to-navigate -- systems in place have been crucial to helping students find the aid they need.

Emergency aid has long been a crucial component of helping students stay enrolled and on track to a degree, and it is great to see more institutions and policy makers taking note of its importance. The biggest lesson we, as education leaders, can take from the pandemic, however, is this: the pandemic exacerbated these challenges but did not create them.

Let this year serve as a radical awakening about how we understand and begin to address the needs of today's college students. We can't allow the cost of living to derail college hopes for millions of them.

Bio

Russell Lowery-Hart is president of Amarillo College, and Madeline Pumariega is president of Miami Dade College.

Read more

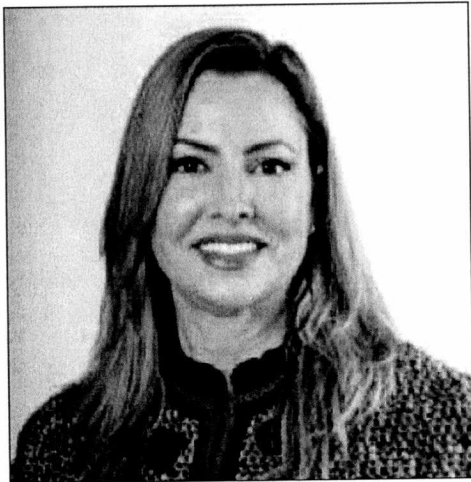
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EDUCATION

Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Ismare Monreal to MDC District Board of Trustees

2021-04-30

Miami, Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) has appointed **Ismare Monreal** to the **Miami Dade College (MDC) District Board of Trustees**. Trustee Monreal, a proud MDC alumna, was sworn in at today's monthly board meeting.



Trustee Monreal is Acting Vice President and Dean of Students at Johnson and Wales University. She has more than 21 years of experience as a higher education administrator. Her areas of expertise include working with nonprofit organizations, student affairs, leadership development, admissions, and event planning. Previously, she was a senior legislative assistant at the Florida House of Representatives.

Trustee Monreal has volunteered with the United Way of Miami-Dade, Archdiocese of Miami Marriage and Family Ministry and A Safe Haven for Newborns. She earned an associate degree from MDC, a bachelor's from Florida International University and master's in business administration from the University of Phoenix.



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The Art of Relating

By **Miami Beach Chamber** - April 30, 2021

Miami's Community News

Profile on Frances Albán of Albán Communications

With a sharp instinct for business and a comprehensive grasp of the current global and multi-cultural, multi-lingual marketplace, Frances Albán, Founder and CEO of the boutique public relations firm Albán Communications, has developed and honed a dynamic niche service for companies in legal, real estate and finance that goes beyond just providing PR to include digital strategies, community building and event marketing. She combines a fresh attitude attuned to the current trends in business and entrepreneurship with more than 20 years of experience. A pro at securing media placements in all the major outlets, Albán's agency brings business advisement to firms at all stages, from launch to growth to expansion.

Possessed of a naturally social outlook, Albán built her resume with stints at high powered communications agencies. She honed her expertise at global outfits Weber-Shandwick Miami and Hill & Knowlton Los Angeles where she serviced clients primarily in the tech sector. Later she would join the award-winning experiential marketing agency Jack Morton Worldwide, working with the Chief Creative Officer to develop strategies and digital experiences directed toward broad, diverse audiences. Meeting high corporate standards for return on investment, utilizing demonstrable metrics and demographic data to support campaigns were formative experiences. Her understanding of cultural differences, creative storytelling and international media while navigating bust and boom economies made her an asset. She was also tapped to spearhead the launch of Jack Morton Latino.

After being lured away to Los Angeles Frances is delighted to base her operations in her hometown of Miami which she describes as a friendly small business environment. From her perch here, she is positioned to provide personalized service tailored to clients based anywhere in the world. She affirms that "Globalization is here to stay, and the current pandemic has shown that remote engagement with clients is rewarding and productive."

Founding her firm during the real estate crisis of 2008 proved instructive. With her expertise in crisis communications and deep knowledge of real estate, she drew clients from every facet of the industry: construction, architecture, development and brokerage worlds, including Douglas Elliman and Compass. Currently, Albán Communications represents small and mid-sized companies in law, lifestyle, real estate, alternative investment and executive leadership.

Her own story has been featured in *USA Today*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Forbes* and more. Beyond the office, Alban is a mentor, coach and speaker to numerous groups on PR and business. She has served as a business adviser for Miami Dade College's Scale Up program and helped build a sales and leadership campaign for the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. Other important experiences in the non-profit sector have had a profound influence, such as her work for the March of Dimes, where she helped launch their Latino program supporting the health of mothers and babies.

Frances' mother and stepmother served as early role models for independent female entrepreneurship, and she enjoys the freedom of growing her own firm, which she founded in 2008. Ahead may be a master's degree program in languages or psychology to complement her skill set. A sojourn in India, where she will obtain yoga teacher training, is back on schedule now that she has been COVID vaccinated too. Playing piano and enjoying the companionship of her dog Olive, round out her unique blend of work and play.

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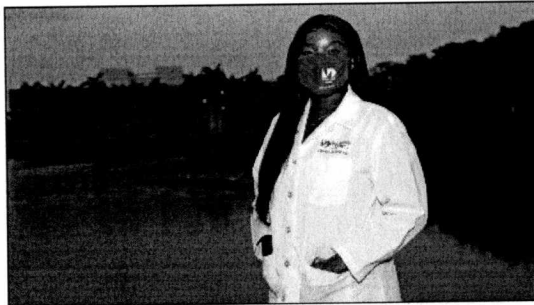
School of Science Hosts White Coat Ceremony The Annual Event Marks the Beginning of the Students' Journey in the Bachelor's Program

2021-04-30



By Gabriel Riera

MDC's School of Science hosted a White Coat Ceremony to welcome a new class of Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences students on April 15 at North Campus. Dr. Nwadiuto Esiobu, U.S. Department of State Jefferson Science Fellow was keynote speaker. MDC President Madeline Pumariega and alumna Latonya Leshawn Gibbs also delivered remarks.



The annual White Coat Ceremony marks the beginning of students' journey in the bachelor's program, which includes hands-on curriculum, state-of-the-art labs, and access to exemplary faculty and facilities. During the ceremony, students received their white coats and a pin representing the year they entered the program with a chemical element symbol. The element for this year's class was calcium.

"This is an important rite of passage for students and it focuses their attention on successfully completing requirements to earn the B.S. in Biological Sciences degree," said Dr. Victor Okafor, dean of the School of Science. "Students must first complete pre-requisite courses and earn an Associate in Arts degree before applying for the bachelor's program."

Many graduates of the program, such as Gibbs, who now works as a pharmacist, have continued their education and obtained advanced degrees in medicine, the sciences, health and allied professions, or joined the workforce after graduation.

"The School of Science programs are dedicated to bridging the gap between completion and relevant experiential training that MDC students need to succeed in STEM careers," said Dr. Loretta Ovueraye, MDC's vice provost of Workforce Development and Professional Learning.

Dr. Esiobu is a distinguished academic and entrepreneur. She is director of the Microbial Biotechnology Laboratory at Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) Davie campus, where she has developed and taught many courses and labs. With an extensive track record in building scientific enterprises, she was awarded a Jefferson Science Fellow by the U.S. Department of State; Distinction of Service Award from the National Biotechnology Development Agency in Nigeria; and the FAU Faculty of Distinction for academic excellence and contributions to national and global scientific enterprise. She is also the founder of Applied Biotech Inc., which focuses on consulting and training the workforce in biotechnologies around Africa and the U.S.

For more information, please contact Tanya Borges, tborges@mdc.edu



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By: PRLog

May 03, 2021 at 00:36 AM EDT

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MIAMI - May 3, 2021 - PRLog -- Media Contact:

Carlene M. Sawyer

carlene@dranoff2piano.org

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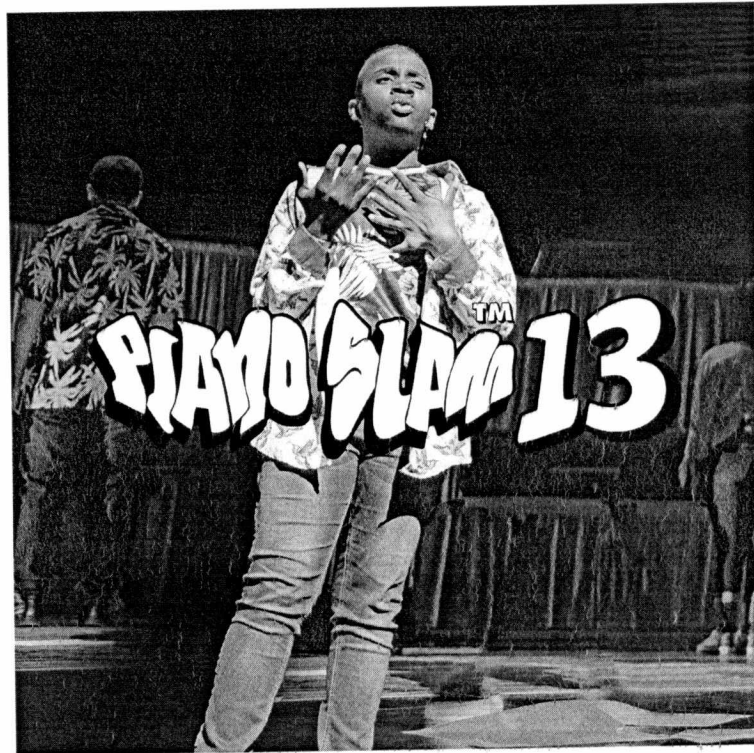
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Media Contact

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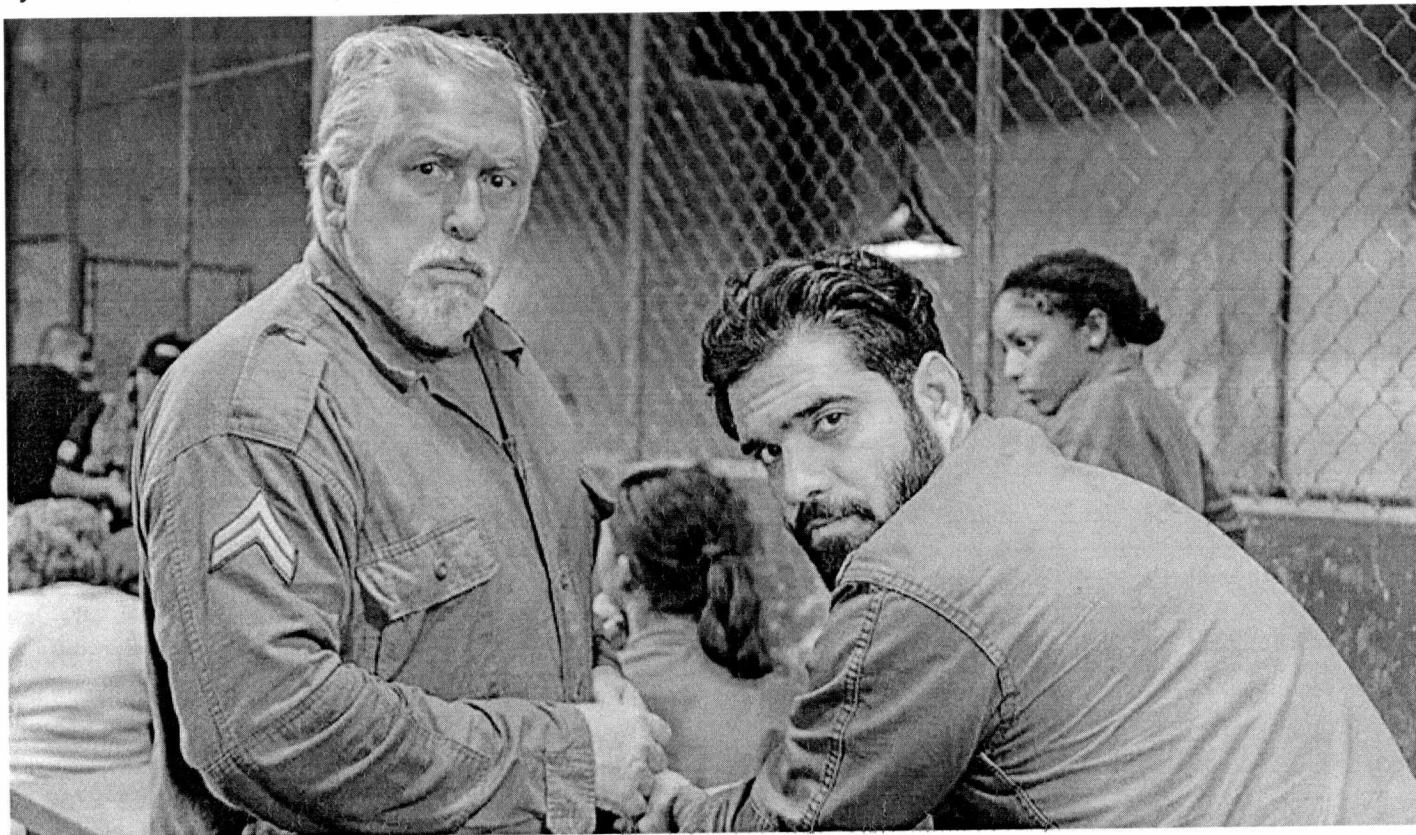
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FILM & TV

The 'Plantados,' Cuba's Immovable Heroes

By ALVARO VARGAS LLOSA | May 2, 2021 6:30 AM



Plantados (plantadosfilm.com)

Prisoners of the Castro regime spend decades behind bars but refuse to give in.

Listen to this article



IF Nelson Mandela had been Cuban rather than South African, he never would have been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize or become a 20th-century human-rights icon and statesman. Instead, he would have been a “plantado,” one of the political prisoners (the “immovable ones”) who refused to

cooperate with the regime in exchange for shorter sentences and lesser punishments.

“Cooperate” meant accepting the re-education and indoctrination program introduced in the early 1960s by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, then in charge of “La Cabaña,” an 18th-century fortress turned into a prison and execution camp.

For most of the *plantados* who spent decades in Castro’s cells, there was no redemption, except among some in Cuba’s South Florida exile community. Many in the West, including the self-proclaimed champions of civil rights, were oblivious to the plight of Castro’s political prisoners — often deliberately so.

MORE IN CUBA

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That’s why *Plantados*, a new film directed by Lilo Vilaplana, is important. Released recently at the Miami Film Festival, it follows the story of Ramón, a former *plantado* who escaped and discovers years later that his torturer, lieutenant Mauricio López, is living with impunity with his family in Miami.

Ramon’s discovery takes us back, through his painful memory, to Castro’s prisons, where he suffered the worst tortures and witnessed executions and unspeakable acts of violence against other political prisoners. The punishments included being thrown in sewer trenches, having to stand naked for days in tiny cells shared by four prisoners, where only one could lie down to sleep, suffering routine beatings, watching the humiliation to which their loved ones were subjected when visiting them, and other degrading experiences.

In Miami, Ramón and his family, among them the son of Jorge (nicknamed “the poet” by other inmates), who died in Mauricio’s prison, confront the impossible dilemma: whether to kill Mauricio and avenge their suffering or try to bring him to justice, which probably would yield no result in U.S. courts.

The *plantados* were known to favor justice over vengeance, but it is one thing to be principled in the abstract and another to have to confront the dilemma in flesh and blood. Vilaplana’s movie presents the spectator with the wrenching gamut of moral dilemmas and psychological drama derived from the *plantados*’ story.

At one point, the wife of one of the prisoners tells her husband that she and her family are living like pariahs for being associated with counterrevolutionaries, not to speak of the sexual humiliations suffered when entering the prison on visit days.

The story of the *plantados* and their persecutors also carries long-lasting moral implications for the latter. Mauricio’s family, confronted with details of his shameful past, initially refuse to acknowledge the truth — that is, accept that they have been blind to the atrocities the loving husband and father committed in the past.

And then there is the crucial question of how much responsibility those who served in Castro’s prisons had for carrying out the orders they received. At one point, a corporal who throws the prisoners into the sewer trenches tells one of them, a dissident: “You were part of the victors and ended up with the vanquished . . . and we sided with the communists.” What he is telling him is that in a totalitarian system there is only one way to survive.

Years later Mauricio, confronted by Ramón and his nephew, tells them he was not responsible for setting up the system; he was just following orders: “If it

hadn't been me, it would have been someone else. . . . Now I am with you.”

But the moral of *Plantados* is that you always have a choice, no matter how narrow the options and how strenuous the circumstances. They opted for resistance knowing it could cost them their lives, as when they drew blood from their own veins to color a piece of tissue red so they could brandish it from their cell's window, as if it were a Soviet flag, while jeering a visiting dignitary.

Mario Chanes de Armas, who served 30 years in Castro's cells, died without the world recognizing his heroism. Eusebio Peñalver Mazorra, who endured 28 years of torture, some of it racially motivated because he was black, never got the Nobel Peace Prize — nor will the others who lived to tell the tale and give brief personal testimonies at the end of Vilaplana's movie. None of them will receive the recognition they deserve.

Vilaplana's film begins, only begins, to do justice to these immovable heroes.

Plantados by Lilo Vilaplana | 38th Miami Film Festival





ALVARO VARGAS LLOSA is a senior fellow at the INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE in Oakland, Calif. He is the author of several books, including *THE CHE GUEVARA MYTH* and, most recently, *GLOBAL CROSSINGS: IMMIGRATION, CIVILIZATION AND AMERICA*.

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Herald-Tribune

REAL-ESTATE

FLORIDA BUILDINGS I LOVE: No. 82: Freedom Tower, 1925, Miami

600 Biscayne Blvd. Schultze & Weaver, architects

Harold Bubil Real Estate Editor Emeritus

Published 6:45 a.m. ET May 1, 2021

Miami is a city of architecturally exciting towers, and perhaps the most distinctive, and historic, is one of its oldest.

Freedom Tower was built in 1925 as the Miami News and Metropolis Building at the height of the Florida Land Boom. This was a time when the Sunday editions of Miami's newspapers had upwards of 500 pages, most of them chock-full with real estate advertisements. The News' printing press, located in the building along with the newsroom and advertising departments, was basically printing money.

Flush with cash, the News hired one of America's legendary architecture firms to design its new building. Schultze & Weaver designed, at the peak of the boom, the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables and The Breakers in Palm Beach. Based in New York, S&W also designed the famous Waldorf Astoria. George A. Fuller was the firm's lead designer on the Miami project.

As at the Biltmore, Fuller was inspired by the Giralda Cathedral Bell Tower in Seville, Spain. Mediterranean Revival detailing adorns the tower, which is 255 feet tall.

The News stayed in the building until 1957, when it moved into a new building on the Miami River. But, in an early example of adaptive reuse, the tower was used by the federal government from 1962 to 1974 as a reception center for Cuban refugees. Such was its status as an icon for freedom-loving Cubans that it became known as the "Ellis Island of the South."

In 1997, the building was purchased by businessman Jorge Mas Canosa, who restored it as a monument to Cuban refugees. Developer Pedro Martin of Terra Group bought it in 2004, but his plan to build a high-rise condo on the site, while preserving the tower, was opposed by preservationists. Eventually, Martin donated the property to Miami Dade College, which uses the structure as an art museum and cultural center on its Wolfson Campus.

How does a building survive a century in downtown Miami's supercharged real estate market, where distinctive new towers pop up like mushrooms on cool, wet mornings? Look no further than Vitruvius' definition of good architecture as having commodity, firmness and delight.

The useful, strong and beautiful Freedom Tower has all three in full measure.

"Florida Buildings I Love" is Harold Bubil's homage to the Sunshine State's built environment. This article originally ran on July 7, 2018.

https://www.insidetucsonbusiness.com/media_technology/tech_talk/not-just-for-the-pros-arizona-high-schools-colleges-turning-to-baseball-analytics-technology/article_eece7cb2-a9db-11eb-9fa8-9b53663b2824.html

Not just for the pros: Arizona high schools, colleges turning to baseball analytics, technology

Joshua Iversen and Koki Riley/Cronkite News

Apr 30, 2021



The Arizona State baseball coaching staff often shows younger players video of former standout Spencer Torkelson, comparing his swing from his freshman season to his junior year as an example of how he improved during his time with the Sun Devils.

John Korduner/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images via Cronkite News

PHOENIX – GateWay Community College coach Rob Shabansky admits he wasn't a huge fan of technology and analytics in baseball.

He didn't understand its true purpose, or the information it produced. He couldn't grasp how this data could help improve the performance of his players on the diamond.

Shabansky, like many others in the baseball industry, was skeptical of this numbers-based approach.

"A lot of that information was, to a certain degree, recoded for people who really knew it," Shabansky said. "But if you didn't know it, you didn't get much from it."

Then Shabansky started talking to coaches he trusted in the collegiate and professional ranks who were familiar with the data, like Vanderbilt pitching coach Scott Brown and Arizona pitching coach Nate Yeskie. The more he learned from their experiences and about the data itself, the more he wanted to learn about how he could use it, too.

Shabansky's views began to change and he isn't alone in embracing a new approach. Across all levels of baseball in Arizona, coaches and players are following the lead of Major League Baseball innovators and turning their attention toward analytics-based development.

Baseball analytics | Cronkite News



Even some high schools have gone that route although it is still more exception than rule. Cronkite News surveyed various Arizona high school baseball coaches and asked them to rank their use of analytics compared to their competitors on a scale of one to 10. The average score among 30 respondents was 4.6.

For Shabansky, “I think when it really clicked with me was two summers ago and I was spending some time with USA Baseball. (Brown) was there helping us and kind of breaking the data down and how they use it and really just helping me look at it a little bit differently.

“I was really trying to learn it and understand it.”

He began to see how analytical tools, like Rapsodo and TrackMan, could help the development of his players.

And now GateWay’s baseball program has its own Rapsodo technology.

Rapsodo is a system of high-speed cameras connected to a dashboard application, which can be viewed on desktop, tablet or mobile devices. Its use has become more common in recent years, especially for pitching, as it can track metrics such as spin rate, axis and efficiency, horizontal and vertical movement and release point.

“We can make adjustments and we’re getting instant feedback,” Shabansky said. “(These tools) help us quicken up the process of trying to help someone overcome something, or help develop something.”

‘A friend of the program’

One program following this model is Canyon View High School in Waddell., which uses the analytical tool Rapsodo to help further develop its pitchers and share “hard data” on its players.

“I’m on board with anything that’s going to help move our players in the right direction,” said Canyon View coach Nick Swanson.

Canyon View acquired a Rapsodo system only a couple of months ago, borrowing the technology from “a friend of the program” in Major League Baseball: Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Brad Boxberger.

Boxberger, besides lending his \$5,000-plus pitch-tracking machine, has shared pitching advice and trained with Canyon View’s team over the offseason, setting an example for the Jaguars players in the process.

"His thoughts on how he works through his own mechanical deficiencies kind of helps our players with, 'Well, if he's a major leaguer trying to figure stuff out and coming out not throwing the ball as hard as (he) can every single day, maybe I kind of need to get on that track, too,'" said Randy Wilson, Canyon View's pitching coach.

Swanson is open to the benefits of Rapsodo but is not the primary collector and distributor of the data. That job belongs to Wilson, who is also the team's data analyst.

Having studied kinesiology at Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State, Wilson became interested in the analytical side of the game through his curiosity in biomechanics.

He remembers his initial exposure to this kind of technology during a visit he made to UCLA's pitching center, which is within the school's biomechanics department. Wilson saw how the center's technology could track stress points on a pitcher's elbow and shoulder, which he explained, are dependent on the player's arm angle.

"It was way over my head," Wilson said. "They had technology that I had never seen (before)."

But now, Wilson has a much better understanding of advanced baseball technology and is using his knowledge to help his pitchers at Canyon View demonstrate their potential value to recruiters.

"You can use the new Driveline metrics or the Rapsodo metrics and you can say, 'Well, his spin rate was x, his velocity was x, his horizontal and vertical movement were x; therefore, yes, he might have given up a couple of runs. But if you look at the metrics, that's going to transition into what you want at the collegiate level,'" Wilson said.

The information Rapsodo provides has helped Wilson refine his understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of his pitchers.

For example, Rapsodo's ability to track spin rate – the rate of rotation of the ball when a pitcher releases it – has allowed Wilson to understand the type of movement and break his pitchers can expect from their breaking balls in a quantifiable way.

Bauer units, which is a pitch's spin rate divided by its velocity and horizontal break – the difference between the horizontal location of a pitch that was thrown with no spin to a pitch that was actually thrown – are among the variety of metrics that Rapsodo captures and Wilson

uses to determine which pitches to call during a game and which locations in the strike zone work best for each pitcher.

Wilson, who has been a pitching coach for 12 years, believes the extra information has only made him better at his job.

"I can use the data that I'm seeing from my pitchers and kind of determine who I can and can't call pitches up in the zone with," Wilson said. "Using the horizontal break, I can determine what locations I call with a two-seam (fastball) or sinker ball type of guy to determine if it's going to flatten out to an outside pitch, or whether (he) can maintain that horizontal break."

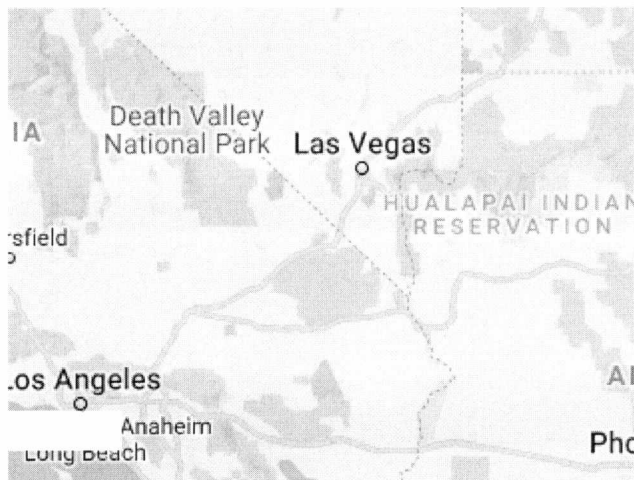
Swanson said that the more information Wilson has, the better the outcome.

"You add this tool to his repertoire and to our players, and it just gives us more ways to attack hitters," Swanson said.

The Jaguars are rare among high school teams in using such advanced technology. Those surveyed by Cronkite News said they began using technology within the last few years. Many use simple video analysis or statistical breakdowns through aggregators like Hudl or GameChanger. Five coaches said they use Blast Motion sensors, which can be fitted to the knob of a bat to measure swing metrics, while only two said they use any form of Rapsodo.

Baseball analytics and technology in the Valley ☆

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Terms

'The limit of your potential'

At the Division I collegiate level, having access to Rapsodo devices and similar technology is common. Arizona State is among the programs that have fully embraced the analytical movement in baseball.

Led by Caleb Longley, the director of hitting development and analytics, and Dylan Olsonawski, a graduate manager and the head of pitching development and analytics, ASU uses a variety of technologies to develop players and improve performance.

Longly and Olsonawski had notable playing careers, Olsonawski as a pitcher for Concordia College and Longley as a first baseman and outfielder at East Tennessee State. After college, Longley even spent a season with the independent league Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers.

However, neither had the raw talent to make it as a pro, which prompted them to turn to data and coaching.

"I was always a guy that probably wasn't blessed with the best tools," Longley said. "I always wanted to be the best I could be. And sometimes when you reach the limit of your potential, you start looking for other things, you know?"

ASU is the latest stop in Longley's career in player development. He owned and founded a baseball training center in Nashville, Tennessee, called High Intent Training, and is the creator and CEO of MARV training, a flexible-band program used for hitting prep and arm care.

Meanwhile, Olsonawski is a graduate student at Arizona State's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law studying sports law and business.

Along with ground-unit Rapsodo cameras installed around their home field at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, the Sun Devils have multiple high-speed Yakkertech cameras, which measure metrics such as pitch movement and exit velocity during games.

And the team has programs such as Synergy Sports technology and PITCHf/x that track specific play-by-play data, which produces detailed reports for ASU's players and coaches.

Longley and Olsonawski's jobs are to then translate the high-level data programs to ASU's players and coaching staff in a way that can be easily understood. Both have credited their past playing experience as helpful in attempting to explain their data-driven coaching and analysis to the Sun Devils players and coaching staff.

"There are some teams that have guys with just straight-up economics degrees that come in, you know, they know how to run regression tests," Olsonawski said. "They know how to do stuff like that. They're good at coding. And it's like, 'OK, but like ... what's your knowledge on the game?'"

Both are relatively new additions to ASU coach Tracy Smith's staff. Longley joined in early 2020 followed by Olsonawski in October of the same year. But the rest of the coaches accepted them immediately, eager to implement some of their ideas to help ASU improve.

Smith has been especially receptive. Longley recalls a recent conversation with ASU's skipper about lineup construction, and the recent trend of batting a team's best hitter second in the order. Smith jumped in to say that he was one of the first college coaches to do so, batting Nationals slugger Kyle Schwarber second during their time together at Indiana University.

"You talk about a guy (in Smith) that's been around the game forever, but continues to adapt, and wants to learn more," Longley said. "He's not satisfied with the same strategy he had back in '95. He wants to be a better coach. And that's why he continues to have success and gets players in here and gets players that move on to the next level."

Since the advent of the MLB amateur draft in 1965, Arizona State has produced 450 selections and 111 major league players, second only to only Miami-Dade College and the University of Southern California, respectively, among all colleges and universities.

ASU will likely add at least two more players to their list soon. Outfielder Hunter Bishop was selected 10th overall by the San Francisco Giants in 2019, and corner infielder Spencer Torkelson was picked first overall by the Detroit Tigers one year later.

Longley said that his staff shows ASU's younger players video of Torkelson and Bishop, along with recent MLB draft selections Gage Workman and Trevor Hauver, comparing their swings from their freshman season to their junior year as an example of how they all improved during their time with the Sun Devils.

As an overall teaching tool, both Longley and Olsonawski believe in the importance of video as an easily understood medium to help communicate high-level concepts to players.

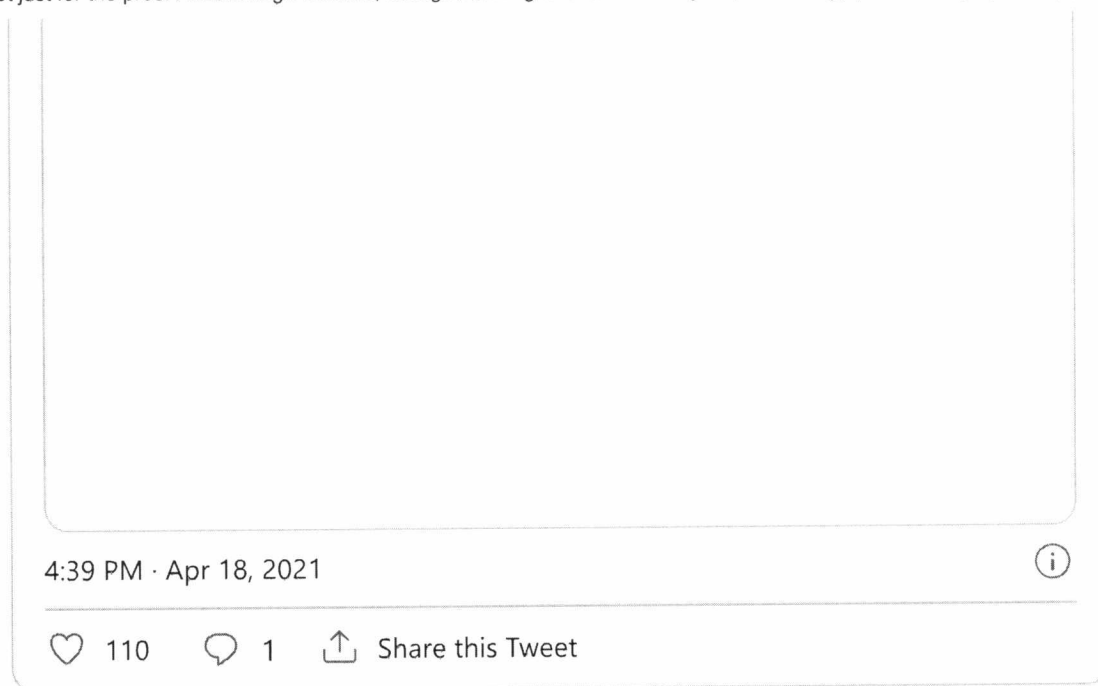
"I can understand this stuff. I can tell them this stuff. (But) I don't know if they comprehend it," Olsonawski said. "So at this point, what we can do is we take stuff they can visually see ... it's a lot easier to just be able to show them."

One video teaching tool Olsonawski uses for his players is pitch overlays. Popularized by Rob Friedman, known as "Pitching Ninja" on Twitter, a pitch overlay places video of one pitch type directly over video of another. Playing both pitches at once allows for a clear visualization of similarities and differences between the two pitches, such as movement, location and release point.

Rob Friedman 
@PitchingNinja



Chris Bassitt, 96mph Fastball and 73mph Curveball,
Overlay.



Olsonawski will also show players video of current MLB pitchers who have similar physical builds, pitching motions and pitch repertoires as their own.

“To be able to say, like, (redshirt junior Justin) Fall, he’s looking like a James Paxton comp (comparison),” Olsonawski said. “I can say, ‘Hey, go home, we’re going to watch video on this guy. That’s essentially the same mechanically, you know, same mechanics as what you have.’”

Fall began the season as a potential closer, but injuries forced him back to the rotation. There, he’s been effective as the 6-foot-6 left-hander throws his fastball in the mid-90s from an extreme downward plane because of his height.

On the other end of the physical spectrum is redshirt sophomore Tyler Thornton, one of ASU’s analytical darlings. The right-handed pitcher, who transferred from Saint Mary’s before the 2020 season, doesn’t throw particularly hard. His fastball usually averages in the high 80s or low 90s.

But Thornton produces an extremely high spin rate, putting him at about 27 or 28 Bauer units. This makes Thornton difficult to hit when combined with a relatively high vertical approach angle, especially when he locates fastballs high in the strike zone.

“He will probably pitch in the big leagues because it is such an extreme,” Longley said of Thornton’s approach angle. “(His) velocity isn’t in the top of our team, but he’s going to get guys out because he is different. He’s a top-of-the-pyramid type guy when it comes to that.”

ASU also has four undergraduate assistants who help run some of the technology during games. Juniors Ben Castiglia and Joey Rusnack and sophomores Jake Sher and Cameron Deck are in the press box for every home game managing Synergy, Yakkertech and PITCHf/x.

Longley and Olsonawski then aggregate the data the four collect, compiling relevant information into reports through a program called Baseball Cloud. The two create data dashboards that can be easily understood by players and other coaches, who also have access to Baseball Cloud.

The recent hires of Longley and Olsonawski show a new emphasis on analytics-based development for ASU, and it isn't stopping there.

The school built the Malone Hitting Complex in 2019, part of \$4.8 million in renovations to Phoenix Muni. Now, construction is underway on a state-of-the-art pitching lab attached to the right field bullpen. The lab will house, among other player development tools, high-speed Rapsodo cameras.

Just 'play the game'

The Sun Devils aren't alone in their focus on data. While not yet as extensive, ASU's in-state rivals, Grand Canyon University and the University of Arizona, also have their own growing baseball analytics teams.

GCU's numbers department is led by Rock Hudgens, who manages the Lopes' analytics staff, otherwise known as the "A-team." They use Synergy to track in-game numbers and compile pitching and hitting reports for upcoming opponents. Like ASU, they use Yakkertech and Baseball Cloud.

The Lopes do not solely rely on the numbers when analyzing their players, Hudgens said. But he adds that the data has helped in certain instances.

"One of our harder-throwing guys was not doing so well in the fall. And we were kind of wondering why because he was the hardest thrower," Hudgens said. "We kind of sat down and saw some of the numbers and saw that his horizontal break was almost zero ... and so for that example, this is a great tool because we're not necessarily getting so involved in the numbers that it's taking away from other stuff."

But as the director of analytics and operations with the Lopes, Hudgens “wears a lot of hats” on the team, and not just within the analytics department. He also organizes GCU’s team budgeting, scheduling and “day-to-day operations stuff.”

Cameron LeBlanc, like Hudgens, holds a “jack-of-all-trades” position at Arizona. One of his primary responsibilities is heading up the Wildcats’ video and analytics department.

LeBlanc is in his second year in the role, in which he manages a team of “managers” who help collect Trackman data, which uses radar to measure on-field movements. They also shoot video.

UA and GCU have found success on the field this season, despite their less analytically driven approaches than ASU’s. And Grand Canyon is even winning games that the underlying numbers suggest they shouldn’t win.

“Absolutely numbers help, but it’s not everything, that’s for sure,” Hudgens said.

Hudgens has had more than his fair share of debates with his father about the usefulness of analytics and technology in baseball. Now the bench coach for the Toronto Blue Jays, Dave Hudgens hasn’t been a fan of the data-driven direction the game has taken.

But Rock agrees with his father that, given how difficult of a sport baseball is, keeping the game as simple as possible is the best way for players to learn and develop. He isn’t married to the data, despite being GCU’s analytics guru.

“I really don’t think, as a player, you should be thinking about that kind of stuff – especially when you’re actually in a game,” Rock said. “I think you should just clear your head, clear your mind and just frickin’ play the game.

“But off the field, I think you want to be a student of the game.”

Longley argues that technology and data-driven analysis in baseball have raised the level of play from a pitching perspective, but perhaps at the detriment of hitting development.

“Guys are throwing harder than ever. Guys are developing pitches that are more effective than ever,” said Longley said, who believes that hitting will “go back to being a bit more old-school,” with greater focus on pitch-by-pitch adjustments and improved motor skills at the plate.

"Now, technology-wise, we've caught up with pitching, right?" Longley said. "But until we're able to make that adjustment and then take it to the field, raise OPS and lower strikeout numbers, improve efficiency – that's the disconnect. I think that's where the game needs to see improvement."

Longley said that disconnect explains a recent trend. Teams are shying away from the traditional stats-only types of employees who have dominated front offices in the 21st century. Instead, teams are hiring former players with similar skills in the hopes that they can translate the numbers.

The Texas Rangers and Philadelphia Phillies hired former players Chris Young and Sam Fuld, respectively, as general managers during the 2020-21 offseason.

"I think we're seeing a little bit of a turn, especially at the professional level of newer-school guys who are being let go by teams," Longley said. "And we're kind of going back to – not necessarily old-school – but guys who are more inclined to preach for success in the game, and not necessarily so much on the computer reading."

What's next in baseball technology? LeBlanc points to Hawk-Eye, an advanced video tracking system originally popularized in tennis. MLB implemented Hawk-Eye in 2020 to replace Trackman and the newer technology is able to measure much more specific movements than Trackman, including biomechanics of the players.

While more universally accepted now than ever before, the debate over analytics rages on at all levels of the game.

Some coaches are intrigued, but wonder how a school with limited resources, especially at the high school level, can use data to make a difference. Traditionalists reject it in favor of keeping baseball the way it has always been.

But to Shabansky, the recent data convert, the solution is simple: blend the old with the new.

"For the guys who are skeptical about it, I try to tell them that it's a blend of old-school stuff and things that you use to help guys get over issues or fix a problem or develop a pitch," Shabansky said. "Ultimately, it's just going to give you real-time data to figure out, 'is it actually working?'"

Many of these “new-school” ideas have existed for decades, even if they weren’t spotted by a computer program. Opposing defenses often shifted on Red Sox legend Ted Williams during his heyday. Coaches have always taken notice when a pitcher’s fastball has “rise” or a batter hits a ball particularly hard.

The difference is, there are now ways to measure those observations. And to Shabansky, that means there’s no excuse for ignoring data.

“Honestly, for the skeptics out there, it’s not changing old-school ways or changing how to help people,” Shabansky said. “It’s just helping you determine the ways a lot faster.”

. **Diario Las Americas**

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**Compartimos la felicidad
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que recibirán sus
diplomas de graduados**

30 de abril de 2021 - 17:04 - Por [Madeline Pumariega](#)

Las ceremonias se llevan a cabo al aire libre, en el estadio de los Miami Marlins. Un paso de avance en esta nueva realidad, pero con énfasis en la protección y la seguridad

Madeline Pumariega



Madeline Pumariega, presidenta del Miami Dade College.

Durante más de 60 años, el Miami Dade College ha llevado a cabo sus ceremonias de graduación, en las que participan miles de estudiantes jubilosos y deseosos de que llegue su oportunidad de subir al escenario.

Tengo el gran honor de estar presente, el 1º. de mayo, por primera vez como presidenta del MDC, en tres ceremonias en la que algunos de los 14.000 graduados de este año participan. Es un privilegio ser testigo de este momento que les cambiará la vida para siempre.

Las ceremonias se llevan a cabo al aire libre, en el estadio de los Miami Marlins. Un paso de avance en esta nueva realidad, pero con énfasis en la protección y la seguridad. Se toman medidas preventivas, como distanciamiento social y el uso obligatorio de mascarillas, tal como lo hicimos en nuestras ceremonias del pasado mes de diciembre.

Este año, los oradores invitados son Noubar Afeyan, director ejecutivo de Flagship Pioneering, y co-fundador y presidente de la junta directiva de Moderna; Francis Suárez, alcalde de la ciudad de Miami; y Monica Richardson, directora ejecutiva de The Miami Herald y de El Nuevo Herald.

Entre los graduados abundan las historias de superación y perseverancia. Gran parte de nuestros alumnos combinan trabajo, familia y estudio para alcanzar sus metas. La labor del Miami Dade College es garantizar su éxito, ofreciendo todo tipo de ayuda con becas, incentivos y otros programas de asistencia.

Estos alumnos, destacados, aprovechan esas múltiples oportunidades y logran vencer obstáculos. Un ejemplo es Amalia Abraham Martín, que acaba de recibir la beca Barry Goldwater, una de las más prestigiosas para estudiantes que desean cursar carreras de investigación en ciencias naturales, matemáticas e ingeniería. Amalia fue elegida entre más de 1.250 solicitantes provenientes de 438 instituciones universitarias.

También está Chislon Griffiths, quien cursó estudios en el programa de enfermería. El estudiante de origen jamaicano, de 34 años, presta servicio activo en la reserva militar, y recibió el Premio Acción Cívica y el Premio Anual de Excelencia Académica.

Quiero mencionar además a Thomas Bezombe, especializado en tecnología de sistemas informáticos, quien cumplió su sueño gracias a DACA. Thomas aprovechó plenamente esa oportunidad sobresaliendo académicamente y obteniendo numerosas distinciones, como el National Scholarship Award.

Otro ejemplo notable es el de Adriana Dos Santos, quien combinó exitosamente sus compromisos docentes con la labor de directora editorial del periódico estudiantil The Reporter, a cargo de más de 40 reporteros estudiantiles y la operación general de la publicación bisemanal, incluyendo la presencia en los medios sociales. Adriana proseguirá estudios en el campo de las comunicaciones.

Algunos de nuestros graduados continuarán sus estudios en universidades en Georgetown, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, Yale y Johns Hopkins, entre otras prestigiosas instituciones universitarias del país, y tienen como objetivo especializarse en tecnología, medicina, negocios, estudios internacionales y ciencias políticas. Otros, por su parte, se incorporarán a la fuerza laboral, brindando un aporte esencial a la economía local y nacional.

Verlos desfilar para recibir sus diplomas en el día de hoy será un verdadero honor. El futuro de nuestra nación no puede estar en mejores manos.

Mis más sinceras felicitaciones a los nuevos graduados, así como a todas las madres que verán a hijos e hijas recibir sus diplomas. Para mí, es el mejor regalo que pueden recibir ahora que estamos tan cerca del Día de las Madres.


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En tres ceremonias presenciales se gradúan 14,000 estudiantes en Miami

Los familiares y amigos de los graduados tuvieron la posibilidad de ver las ceremonias por transmisión directa

Unos 14,000 estudiantes de la universidad Miami Dade College (MDC) se graduaron este sábado de manera presencial en un estadio miamense, aunque hubo tres ceremonias en lugar de una para poder cumplir con las normas de prevención de la covid-19.

Desde que estalló la pandemia esta ha sido la mayor ceremonia presencial de graduación en MDC, una de las universidades más grandes y diversas de EE.UU..

Además de togas, esclavinas, birretes y borlas, los graduados debían llevar mascarillas y guardar la distancia de seguridad.

Cada una de las tres ceremonias en el famoso Marlins Park, el estadio de los Marlins de la liga profesional de béisbol MLB, tuvo sus propios oradores, entre ellos Francis Suárez, alcalde de la ciudad de Miami, Noubar Afeyan, director ejecutivo del laboratorio Moderna, y Monica R. Richardson, directora ejecutiva de los diarios Miami Herald y El Nuevo Herald.

Para garantizar la seguridad de estudiantes, profesores y trabajadores de MDC, a las ceremonias solo pudieron asistir los estudiantes que se graduaron en el curso académico 2020-2021, los directivos de MDC, y un grupo


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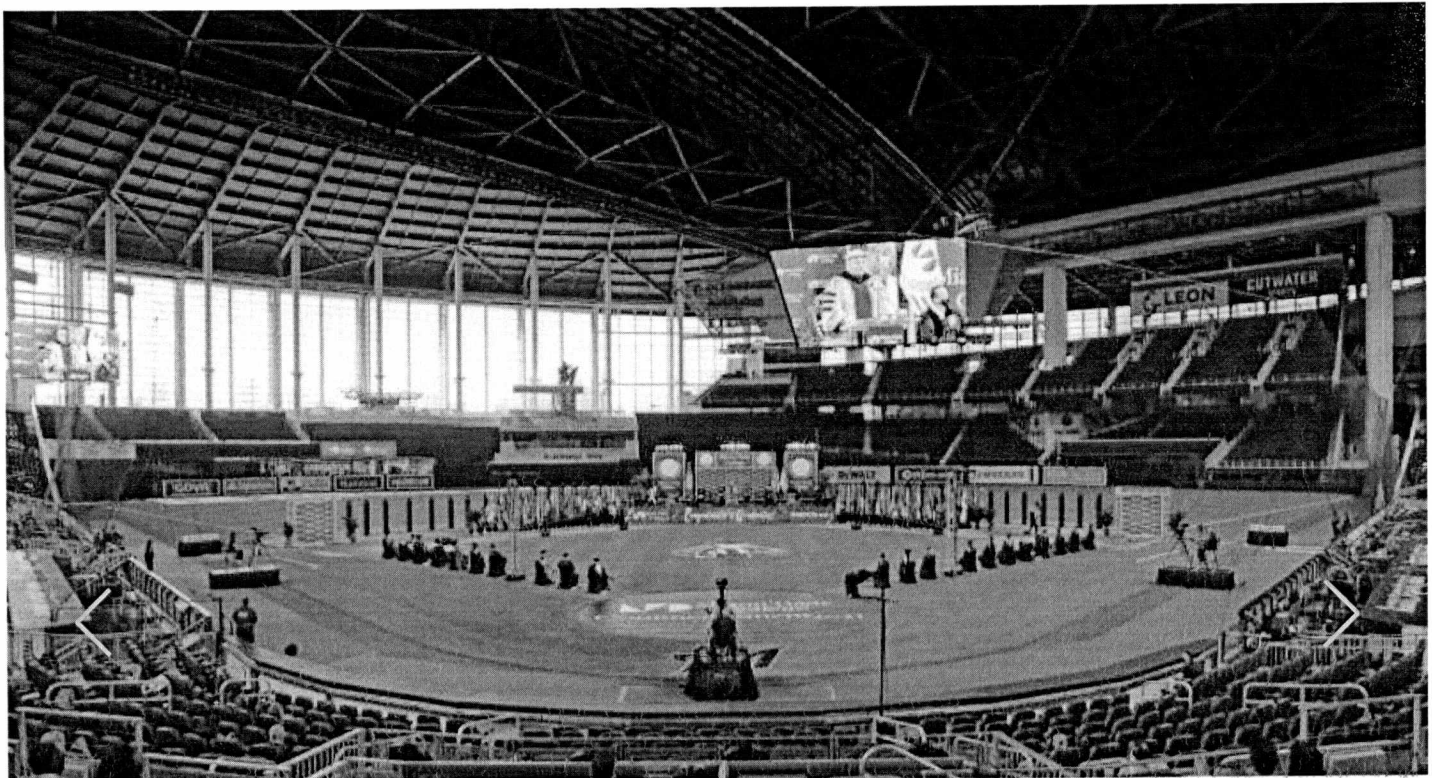
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Miami, 1 may (EFE).- Unos 14.000 estudiantes de la universidad Miami Dade College (MDC) se graduaron este sábado de manera presencial en un estadio miamense, aunque hubo tres ceremonias en lugar de una para poder cumplir con las normas de prevención de la covid-19.

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Fotografía de la graduación masiva de estudiantes de los recintos Norte, Médico y Oeste del Miami Dade College (MDC) hoy, en el Marlin Park en Miami, Florida (EEUU). EFE/Giorgio Viera

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Los familiares y amigos de los graduados tuvieron la posibilidad de ver las ceremonias por transmisión directa.

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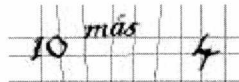
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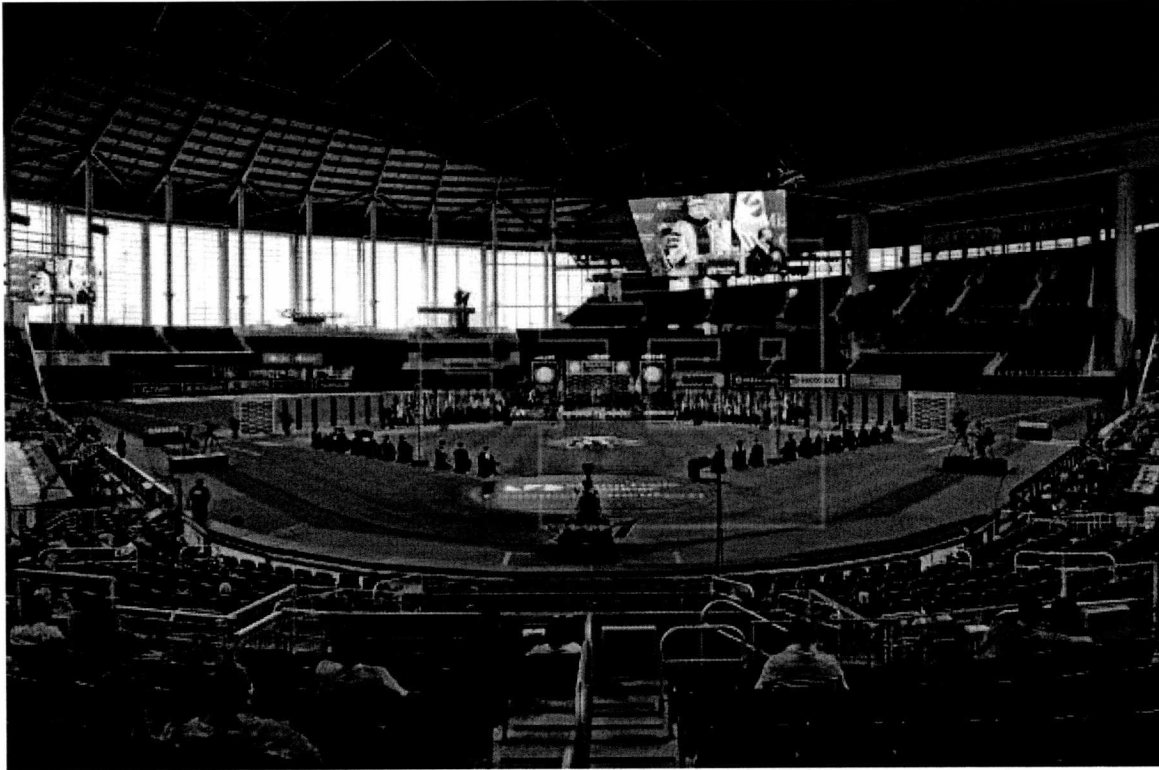
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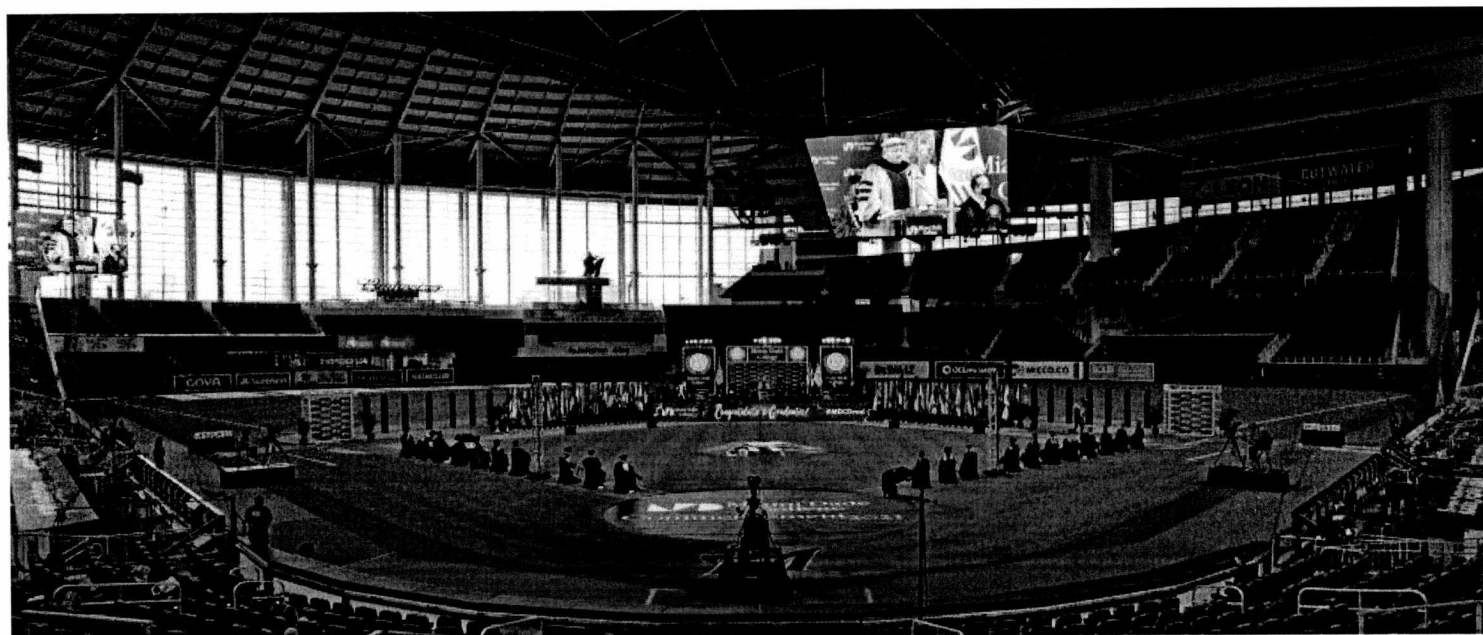
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Graduación masiva de estudiantes de los recintos Norte, Médico y Oeste del Miami **EFE**



Por **Rayshel Flores**
rayshel.flores@laestrella.com.pa

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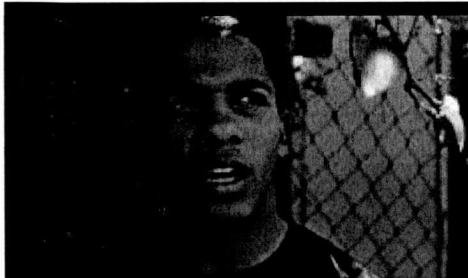
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La llorona del 3 de mayo de 2021



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Contigo Más

MIAMI

Estudiantes del Miami Dade College se gradúan este año en el estadio de los Marlins

El estadio LoanDepot Park fue el escenario para la graduación de 1400 estudiantes del Miami Dade College. Se realizaron diferentes ceremonias para mantener la distancia social y el uso de mascarillas fue obligatorio.

POR: UNIVISION 2 MAY 2021 - 01:14



¡Nuevo! Presiona aquí para reaccionar

Los estudiantes del Miami Dade College se graduaron de manera presencial en el estadio de los Marlins y los invitados cumplieron medidas de seguridad para evitar los contagios del coronavirus.

1400 alumnos recibieron su título en el LoanDepot Park, ubicado en la Pequeña Habana, durante todo el sábado.

El Miami Dade College planificó tres ceremonias en la que los alumnos podían invitar a dos personas. Todos se sentaron en el parque manteniendo distancia social de tres asientos y usaron mascarillas durante la graduación.

La graduación fue histórica no solo por la suspensión de las ceremonias el año pasado durante la pandemia, sino porque fue presidida por Madeline Pumariega, la primera mujer presidenta del Miami Dade College, luego de 62 años.

Uso de mascarillas en residentes vacunados de Florida crea confusión

El secretario de salud de Florida actualizó esta semana las recomendaciones sobre el uso de mascarillas en espacios públicos para quienes ya están vacunados contra el coronavirus. y muchos se están preguntando qué deben

hacer, pues de nuevo las guías del estado difieren de las de los CDC.

Más sobre Miami



“Debido a la amplia disponibilidad de la vacuna del covid-19, ya no se debe aconsejar a personas completamente vacunadas que se cubran la cara con mascarillas o eviten actividades sociales y reuniones recreativas, excepto en circunstancias limitadas”, dijo el secretario de salud de Florida, Scott Rivkees en un aviso de salud pública divulgado el pasado jueves.

En el aviso de dos páginas también se pide a las oficinas gubernamentales que retomen todos sus servicios en persona.

Sin embargo este aviso l personas q

Así mismo espacios a recomienda mascarilla

**Ma
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Cargando Video...

Personas vacunadas no deben ser obligadas a llevar mascarilla en Florida, dice cirujano general del estado





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67,16
-0,09 (-0,13%)Oro
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48.644,95
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Agencia EFE

En tres ceremonias presenciales se gradúan 14.000 estudiantes en Miami

Agencia EFE

sáb, 1 de mayo de 2021 7:43 p. m. · 1 min de lectura

Miami, 1 may (EFE).- Unos 14.000 estudiantes de la universidad Miami Dade College (MDC) se graduaron este sábado de manera presencial en un estadio miamense, aunque hubo tres ceremonias en lugar de una para poder cumplir con las normas de prevención de la covid-19.

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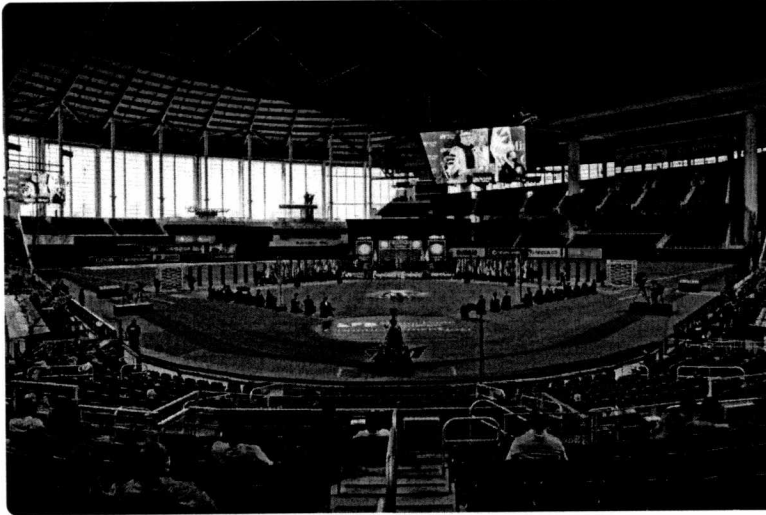
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MÁS POPULARES

1. CreakyJoints lanza ArthritisPower Español
2. El padre de las niñas desaparecidas en Tenerife hizo varios viajes entre el coche y el barco antes de zarpar
3. Navantia estrena su nuevo centro de formación en San Fernando (Cádiz)
4. El voto por correo aumenta un 41% en Madrid respecto a 2019
5. Castilla y León no cree que sea momento para la vuelta de público a estadios



Los familiares y amigos de los graduados tuvieron la posibilidad de ver las ceremonias por transmisión directa.



(c) Agencia EFE

Nuestro objetivo es crear un lugar seguro y atractivo en el que los usuarios puedan conectarse para compartir intereses y pasiones. A fin de mejorar la experiencia de nuestra comunidad, hemos suspendido temporalmente los comentarios en artículos.

ÚLTIMAS NOTICIAS



Business Wire

CreakyJoints lanza ArthritisPower Español

CreakyJoints®, la comunidad multicultural digital de artritis para pacientes y cuidadores internacional y parte de la Fundación Global Healthy Living Foundation (GHLF), ha anunciado hoy la disponibilidad de ArthritisPower...

hace 3 minutos



El HuffPost

El padre de las niñas desaparecidas en Tenerife hizo varios viajes entre el coche y el barco antes de zarpar

El capitán del puerto deportivo confirmó que Tomás Gimeno trasladó una serie de bolsos.

hace 8 minutos



Agencia EFE

Navantia estrena su nuevo centro de formación en San Fernando (Cádiz)

Cádiz, 3 may (EFE).- Navantia ha presentado hoy su nuevo centro de formación en San Fernando (Cádiz), que ha llamado NTC (Navantia Training Center), y que pretende mejorar el adiestramiento de sus plantillas y...

hace 10 minutos



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Vacunación coronavirus
3 de mayo: personas...



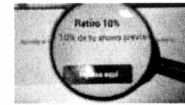
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EFE:

En tres ceremonias presenciales se gradúan 14.000 estudiantes en Miami

Agencia EFE hace 1 día



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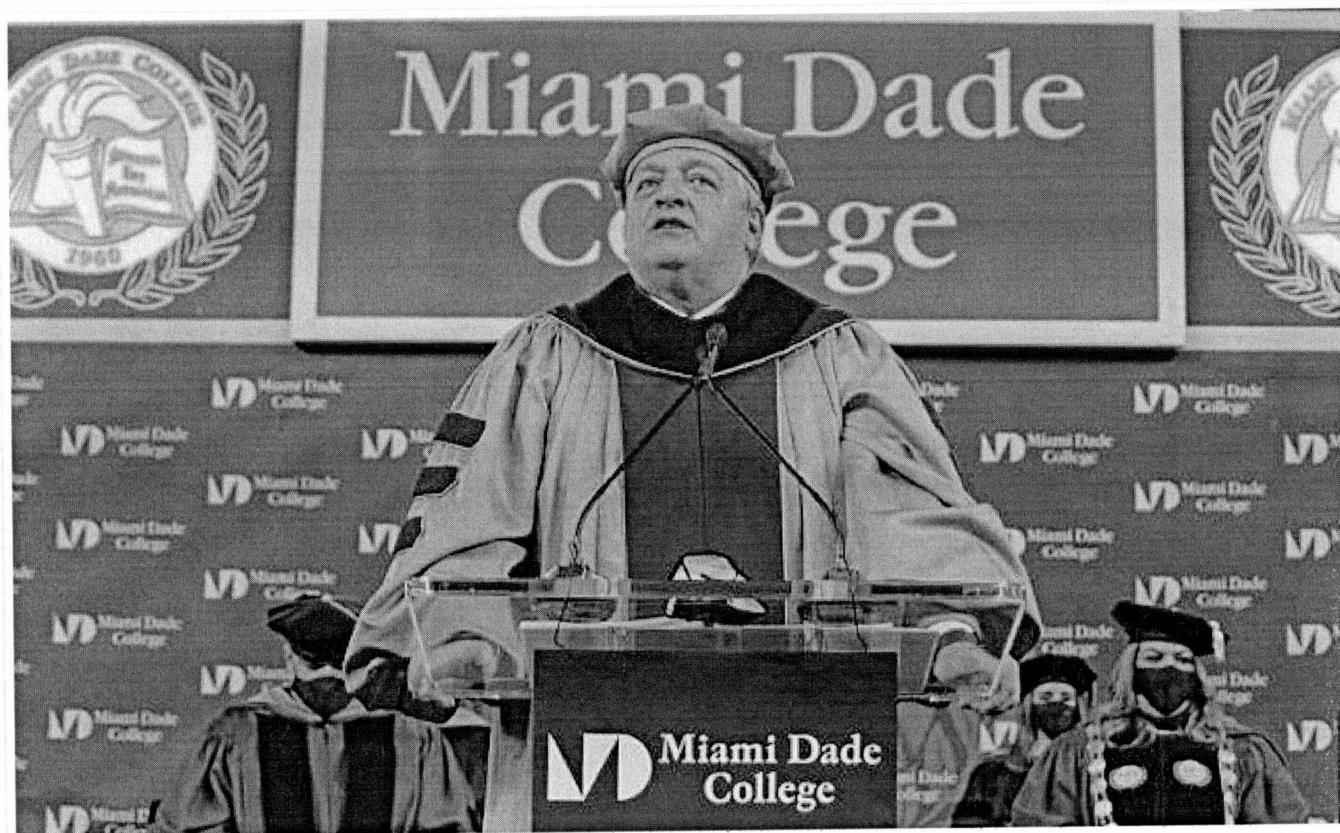
MONDAY, 3 MAY 2021, 9:13:38 AM

La voz de tu comunidad **La Conexión USA** 25 ANIVERSARIO

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EN TRES CEREMONIAS PRESENCIALES SE GRADÚAN 14.000 ESTUDIANTES EN MIAMI

[Portada \(../Portada.Asp\)](#) > [Secciones](#) > [Salud Y Medio Ambiente](#)



👤 Fuente: EFE 🕒 05/01/2021

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Los familiares y amigos de los graduados tuvieron la posibilidad de ver las ceremonias por transmisión directa.



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Mundo

Ceremonia masiva de graduación en Miami

por Jennifer Garlem 2021-05-01 - 19:24:47 Actualización: 00:00:00

Familiares y amigos de los 14 mil graduados, pudieron ver las ceremonias por transmisión directa



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Foto: EFE

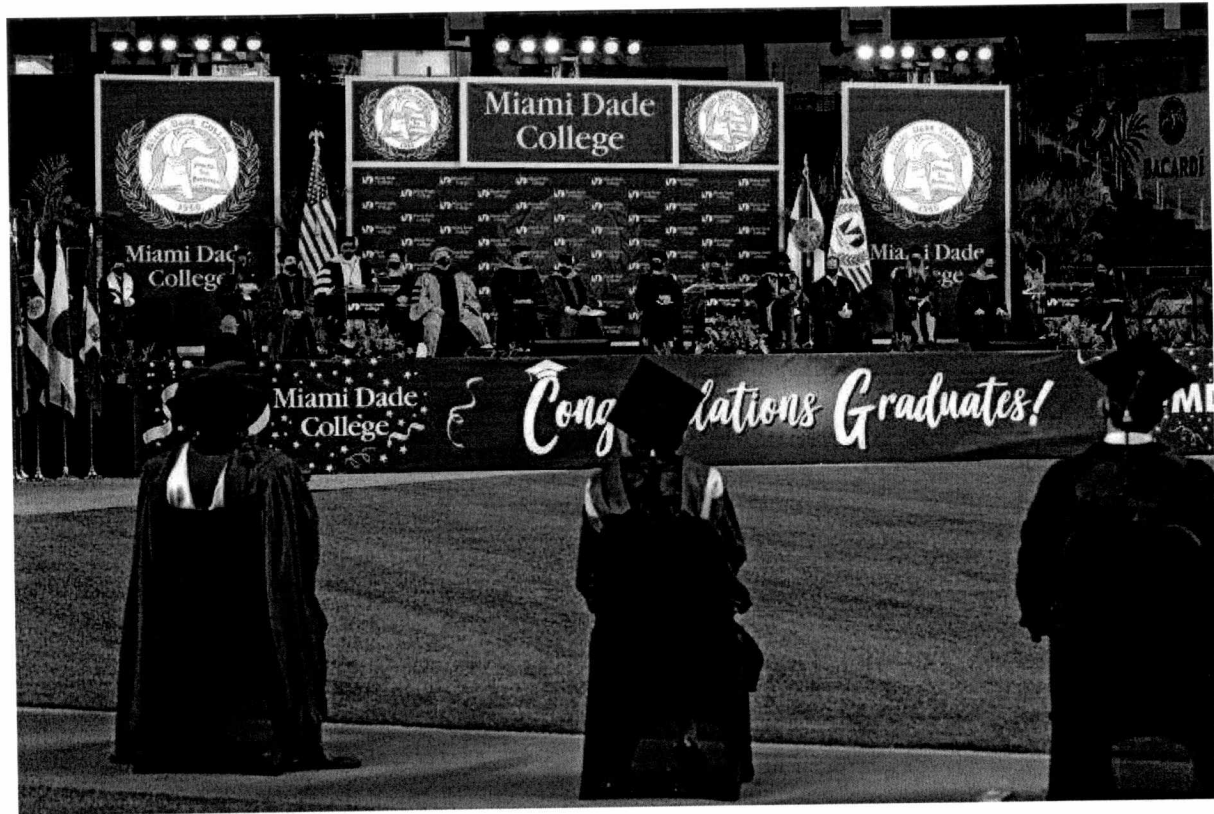
Este sábado, se llevó a cabo de manera presencial un ceremonia de graduación masiva en Marlins Park, estadio en Miami, aproximadamente 14 mil estudiantes de la universidad Miami Dade College se graduaron en tres ceremonias, para garantizar la seguridad y con la finalidad de poder cumplir con las normas de prevención de Covid-19; sólo pudieron asistir los estudiantes que se graduaron en el curso académico 2020-2021, los directivos, un grupo reducido de profesores y administradores. Los familiares y amigos de los graduados, pudieron ver las ceremonias por transmisión directa.



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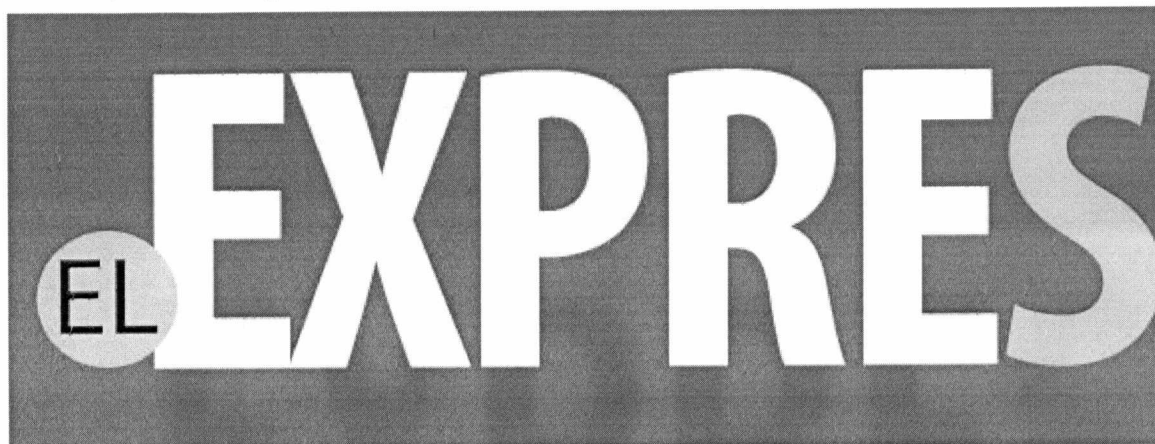
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 01 DE MAYO DE 2021  23:11  0 [Compartir](#)





Estudiantes de los recintos Norte, Médico y Oeste del Miami Dade College (MDC) asiste a la ceremonia masiva de graduación celebrada hoy, en el Marlin Park en Miami, Florida (EEUU). EFE/Giorgio Viera

1 2 3

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Florida facilita vacunación de indocumentados y turistas al eliminar prueba de residencia

En enero, en respuesta al arribo de turistas ávidos por inmunizarse cuando las vacunas contra el coronavirus aún eran escasas, Florida impuso la prueba de residencia como requisito para recibir la inyección



En esta foto del 1 de abril de 2021, los autos se alinean mientras las personas esperan recibir la vacuna contra el coronavirus Covid-19 en el Hard Rock Stadium en Miami, Florida. (Foto de CHANDAN KHANNA / AFP).

Actualizado el 30/04/2021 03:56 p. m.
Agencia AFP

Los mayores de 16 años pueden vacunarse en Florida desde este viernes sin prueba de residencia, anunciaron autoridades de salud, lo que abre

la vía a la inmunización de personas indocumentadas y, en los hechos, facilita el “turismo de vacunas” en este estado de Estados Unidos.

En enero, en respuesta al arribo de turistas ávidos por inmunizarse cuando las vacunas contra el COVID-19 aún eran escasas, **Florida** impuso la prueba de residencia como requisito para recibir la inyección.

La medida afectó a los trabajadores indocumentados, que muchas veces no tienen licencia de conducir, contratos o facturas a su nombre, por lo que legisladores y activistas han estado pidiendo al gobernador **Ron DeSantis** que eliminara este obstáculo.

Ahora que más de seis millones de personas se vacunaron en **Florida** y la demanda es mucho menor, el Departamento de Salud revirtió su decisión de enero.

La vacuna estará disponible para todo *“el que sea residente o esté presente en **Florida** con el propósito de ofrecer bienes o servicios a beneficio de los residentes y visitantes del estado”*, indicó la noche del jueves el Departamento de Salud de **Florida**.

Esto permitirá a las personas sin papeles acceder a la vacuna con solo indicar, verbalmente, que viven en el estado o que proveen un servicio aquí.

La alcaldesa demócrata de **Miami-Dade**, Daniella Levine-Cava, celebró el viernes este cambio de rumbo.

“Es una victoria para todos los que llamamos hogar a nuestra comunidad”, escribió en Twitter.

En los hechos, la decisión también facilitará el llamado *“turismo de vacunas”* que los obstáculos impuestos en enero pretendían contener.

Pero *“los beneficios de abrir la vacunación para los floridianos indocumentados son mucho mayores a [la necesidad] de limitarla para evitar a los turistas”*, dijo

Guadalupe de la Cruz, de la ONG de justicia social American Friends Service Committee de **Florida**.

“Es lo mínimo que **Florida** puede hacer para incluir y proteger el bienestar de los miembros de su comunidad”, dijo a la AFP.



Las personas hacen fila para recibir la vacuna contra el coronavirus COVID-19 en el Miami-Dade College, Florida, Estados Unidos. (Foto: EFE / EPA / CRISTOBAL HERRERA-ULASHKEVICH).

“Ahora es más fácil”

Las anteriores restricciones no impedían a los turistas venir a **Florida** a vacunarse. Desde enero, latinoamericanos adinerados habían estado circunvalando creativamente el requisito de residencia.

Lo hacían mostrando cuentas bancarias con una dirección en **Estados Unidos** o contratos de alquiler temporarios, de **Airbnb** por ejemplo, que eran luego cancelados.

Por ejemplo María, una diseñadora de interiores argentina que vino a vacunarse el fin de semana pasado a **Miami**, contó a la AFP que hizo el viaje porque en su país

“no hay ni miras de vacunas” para la gente de su edad, 46 años.

“Yo tenía este contrato temporario por seis meses con mi nombre, nada muy formal, el chico [en el centro de vacunación] lo miró y constató que mi nombre coincidiera con el de mi pasaporte y eso fue todo”, contó, pidiendo no ser identificada con su apellido.

Ahora, sin necesidad de mostrar documentos de residencia, “va a ser mucho más fácil”, dijo María este viernes, añadiendo que sabía de “un montón” de personas en **Argentina** que estaban tomando la misma decisión que ella.

“Mucha gente está viajando a Miami para hacerlo. Ahora calculo que irán más, aunque los pasajes están bastante caros”, prosiguió la mujer, ya de regreso en Buenos Aires con una sola dosis de **Pfizer**.

El viernes de la semana pasada, el alcalde de **North Miami Beach**, Anthony DeFillipo, dijo que su ciudad ha vacunado a numerosos turistas con solo presentar la dirección del hotel o de su consulado.

“Sí pueden venir aquí a North Miami Beach, tenemos una gran población de gente internacional que ha podido venir con sus pasaportes y una dirección aquí local”, dijo **DeFillipo** en un Facebook Live con entrevistadores en Colombia.

Su aparente invitación a todos los latinoamericanos a viajar a vacunarse se difundió con entusiasmo en medios de la región y, el lunes, la ciudad debió desdecirse “por el malentendido”, según informó el diario local Miami Herald.

NO TE PIERDAS

Contenido de Gestión

G

A un año de la pandemia Produce crea grupos de trabajo con comerciantes de Gamarra y Mesa Redonda

Ventas online representaron un 19% del total en el 2020 por confinamientos, según la ONU

G



Coronavirus: Florida facilita vacunación de indocumentados y turistas al eliminar prueba de residencia

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El comisionado de la ciudad de Miami Beach, David Richardson (izquierda), ayuda a las personas que llegan para recibir la vacuna Johnson & Johnson Janssen Covid-19 en un sitio de vacunación emergente en Miami Beach, Florida, el 8 de abril de 2021. (CHANDAN KHANNA / AFP).

Actualizado el 30/04/2021 02:36 p.m.

REDACCIÓN DIARIO CORREO

Los mayores de 16 años pueden vacunarse contra el coronavirus en Florida desde este viernes sin prueba de residencia, anunciaron autoridades de salud, lo que abre la vía a la inmunización de personas indocumentadas y, en los hechos, facilita el "turismo de vacunas" en este estado de Estados Unidos.

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Fuente: AFP

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- **Píldora de Pfizer contra la COVID-19 comenzó ensayos en humanos**

NO TE PIERDAS

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C

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C

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Florida: no pedirán documentos para vacunarse contra el coronavirus

La medida que optaron los centros de vacunación estatales de Florida busca hacer más simple la inmunización para los inmigrantes y también abre la puerta para quienes no viven en el país

Fuente: *infobae*



Un centro de vacunación estatal en el campus del Miami Dade College en Miami, Florida (REUTERS/Marco Bello)

Cada vez hay menos restricciones para recibir la vacuna contra el COVID 19 en el estado de Florida. Desde comienzos de abril toda persona mayor de edad (o inclusive los mayores de 16 años acompañados por un padre o tutor encargado), pueden ser vacunados sin necesidad de pertenecer a un grupo de riesgo. **La única limitación era la exigencia de presentar una prueba de residencia en la Florida. A partir de ahora, en la mayor parte de los centros grandes de vacunación, ya ni siquiera exigirán ese requisito.**

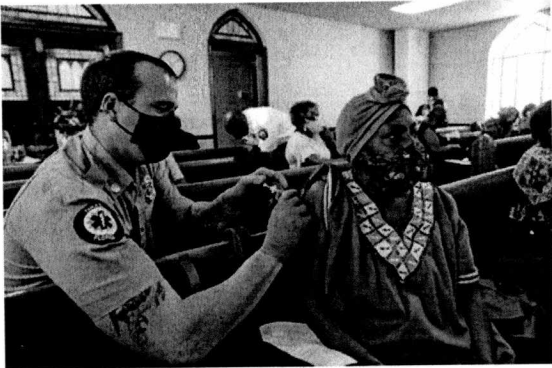
A partir de hoy viernes, en todos los centros de vacunación controlados por el estado o el gobierno federal (que en el sur de la Florida incluyen los centros montados en los estadios o en los campus universitarios), **ya no van a pedir documentos que prueben residencia en el estado**. Por el contrario, pasarán a manejarse con un sistema de control verbal.

Al llegar a uno de estos centros de vacunación **se requerirá completar un formulario con preguntas médicas y datos personales, como nombre y fecha de nacimiento**. De manera verbal, uno de **los funcionarios del centro de vacunación va a pedir confirmación oral de que se vive en la Florida**, pero sin pedir ningún tipo de documento que pruebe tal declaración. El sistema se basa en la confianza y buena fe.

El objetivo es eliminar las complicaciones que hasta ahora pusieron trabas a la comunidad indocumentada para vacunarse en la Florida, o inclusive para aquellos que están temporalmente trabajando aquí.

“A los individuos **se les va a preguntar si son residentes de Florida o si están aquí para proveer de bienes o servicios**”, dijo a la prensa local la vocera de la división del manejo de emergencias del estado, Samantha Bequer.

La medida fue oficialmente anunciada a través de un comunicado por el cirujano general de Florida, el doctor Scott Rivkees. Con esta novedad se expande oficialmente la elegibilidad para la vacuna en el estado.



Una mujer reciba la vacuna de Pfizer en un centro de vacunación improvisado en una iglesia en Tampa, Florida (REUTERS/Octavio Jones)

A través del mismo comunicado, el doctor Rivkees estableció además que **el estado anima al restablecimiento de las operaciones y servicios presenciales del gobierno**.

“Como las vacunas ahora están disponibles para todos los floridanos en el estado entero, las oficinas de gobierno deben ofrecer sus servicios y operaciones en persona”, establece el comunicado.

La alcaldesa de Miami-Dade, el condado más densamente poblado de Florida y el que más afectado se vio por el virus, celebró la medida.

“Esta es una victoria para todos los que llaman hogar a nuestra comunidad. Eliminar las barreras que separan a la gente de la vacuna debe seguir siendo una prioridad para todos en nuestro gobierno, a todo nivel”, afirmaba la alcaldesa Daniella Levine Cava a través de su cuenta de Twitter.

Es probable que, de todos modos, pidan algún tipo de documentación (no necesariamente de la Florida) para corroborar la edad de la persona que va a recibir la vacuna. **Las vacunas desarrolladas por Moderna y Johnson & Johnson tienen autorización para ser colocadas en mayores de 18 años. La desarrollada por Pfizer puede ser colocada en mayores de 16 años.**

Los números indican que las minorías han tenido menor acceso a las vacunas desde el comienzo del proceso, particularmente aquellos que no poseen documentación legal en Estados Unidos. Pero **la eliminación del requisito de presentar prueba de residencia también le abre la puerta a que los turistas se vacunen.**

Al comienzo del proceso de vacunación el llamado turismo sanitario (aquellos que no viven aquí y venían solo a vacunarse) generó mucha polémica entre los locales. Hoy, con un extendido acceso a las vacunas, es menos el interés que el tema genera localmente.