



55<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
Academic  
Awards  
2024



MIAMI DADE COLLEGE KENDALL CAMPUS  
APRIL 10

# MIAMI DADE COLLEGE KENDALL CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

**Dr. Anthony Cruz**

President, Kendall Campus

**Michael Balado**

Director of Athletics

**Dr. Jorge Michael Cuellar**

Dean of Faculty

**Jennifer Diptee**

Director of Learning Resources

**Pamela Fuentes**

Dean of Miguel B. Fernandez Family  
School of Global Business, Trade & Transportation

**Enrique Infanzon**

Dean of Continuing Education &  
Professional Development

**Cristina Mateo**

Sr. Director of Campus Administration

**Dr. Kesia Vasquez**

Dean of Students

# ACADEMIC AWARDS PROGRAM

Introduction ..... **Dr. Clairem Diaz**  
Associate Dean of Faculty

Welcome..... **Dr. Anthony Cruz**  
President, Kendall Campus

Keynote Address ..... **Anthony Valenzuela**  
Community Councilman

Recognition of Outstanding Students ..... **Professor Rita Fernandez-Sterling**  
Faculty, English & Communications

Presentation of Special Awards..... **Professor Rita Fernandez-Sterling**  
Faculty, English & Communications

Student Address ..... **Gabriella Gonzalez**  
SGA President

Closing Remarks..... **Dr. Jorge Michael Cuellar**  
Dean of Faculty, Academic Affairs

Announcements ..... **Dr. Clairem Diaz**  
Associate Dean of Faculty, Academic Affairs

Music Performed By..... **Andrea Petrash (Voice)**  
**Daniel Soto (Guitar)**

# KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY

**Anthony Valenzuela** is a Community Councilman for District 11 - making Anthony the youngest politician serving Miami-Dade County. Anthony is also the youngest real estate broker in Miami and co-owner of his family business, The Valenzuela Real Estate Group. He is the host of The Mindset Podcast, where Anthony conducts thought-provoking interviews with some of the nation's brightest and most influential leaders, politicians, and businesspeople. In 2022, Anthony founded the Young Professionals Board of Casa Familia Inc. a nonprofit with the mission of providing affordable housing for adults with intellectual disabilities. Anthony currently works for School Board Member Robert Alonso.



Anthony is a proud graduate of Miami Dade College Honors College, having earned an Associates Degree in Business Administration. He furthered his education at the University of Florida where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Additionally, he is a member of the prestigious Florida Blue Key.

In his time as a student at Miami Dade College, Anthony was elected to serve as the Student Government President of the Kendall Campus in 2020-2021 and earned the "Commissioners' Leadership Award" from the Florida Commissioner of Education for his service to the students and community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# ACADEMIC AWARDS

Allied Health.....	<b>Amanda Gottardi</b>
Art .....	<b>Karen Levy</b>
Biology.....	<b>Maria Cardenas Bayona</b>
Chemistry .....	<b>Maria Cardenas Bayona</b>
Criminal Justice .....	<b>Madison Jagielski</b>
Digital Production.....	<b>Jacqueline Villatoro Torres</b>
English for Academic Purposes .....	<b>Tayli Garcia Antuna</b>
Mathematics .....	<b>Lucas Daniel Herring</b>
Music .....	<b>Amalia Rosales Sacasas</b>
Music Business.....	<b>Rafael Felipe Camacho Bermudez</b>
Music Production .....	<b>Andrew Centeno</b>
Philosophy .....	<b>Dahlia Thompson</b>
Physics .....	<b>Gabriela Rodriguez</b>
Social Sciences.....	<b>Natalie Gelman</b>

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Accounting.....	<b>Daniel Rodriguez</b>
Business Administration .....	<b>Jaiden Tretter</b>
Economics .....	<b>Aliana Canizares</b>
<i>Upper Division</i>	
Supply Chain Management .....	<b>Laurie Moreno</b>

## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, & DESIGN

Architecture .....	<b>Nelson Perez</b>
Engineering.....	<b>Valentina Alvarez Briceno</b>
Interior Design.....	<b>Lourdes Cruz</b>
Technology.....	<b>Javier Cuñat</b>
<i>Upper Division</i>	
BS Data Analytics.....	<b>Sandra Lay</b>
BS Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology .....	<b>Yeshaya Zweig</b>

# SPECIAL AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

All Academic Student Athlete Award

**Alexis Ortega**

Earth Ethics Institute

Joyce DiBenedetto-Colton

Earth Literacy Award

**Sofia Martinez**

**Andreina Zuluaga Perez**

Maria Mari Scholarship Award

**Argenis Santos**

Miami-Dade County Retired Teachers

Carol Cortes Future Educator

Scholarship Award

**Kristen Gonzalez**

**Sarai Perez**

The Pappas-Bray Chemistry

Gold Scholarship Award

**Maria Cardenas Bayona**

The Pappas-Bray Chemistry

Silver Scholarship Award

**Alex Galiano Montes de Oca**

The Pappas-Bray Physics Quantum

Scholarship Award

**Gabriela Rodriguez**

2023 Fall Phi Theta Kappa

Coca-Cola Scholarship

**Javier Cuñat**

Phi Theta Kappa Hites Scholarship

**Javier Cuñat**

Academic Service-Learning

Student of the Year Award

**Victoria Martinez**

Changemaker Call to Action Award

**Natalie Gelman**

The United Faculty of Miami Dade College

The Wick Whalen Award

**Javier Cuñat**

The United Faculty of Miami Dade College

The Manuel Mendoza Award

**Victoria Martinez**



## MIAMI DADE COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Nicole Washington, Vice-Chair

Dr. Anay Abraham • Roberto Alonso

Maria Bosque Blanco • Marcell Felipe • Ismare Monreal

Madeline Pumariega, President, Miami Dade College

Dr. Anthony Cruz, President, Kendall Campus

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Kendall Campus