

# THE VOICE

OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION

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HACU members celebrate  
spring commencement



HACU  
HISPANIC  
ASSOCIATION  
OF COLLEGES &  
UNIVERSITIES

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OF HISPANIC HIGHER EDUCATION

VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 2 | SUMMER 2011

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(L-R) Miami Dade College (MDC) President Eduardo J. Padrón awarded President Barack Obama his first honorary associate's degree and the Presidential Medal, the College's highest honor, during their commencement ceremony on April 29. [photo courtesy of MDC.]



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## ABOUT HACU

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities represents approximately 450 member colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico and abroad with high Hispanic student enrollment rates - including federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

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(L-R) Miami Dade College President Eduardo J. Padrón awarded President Obama his first honorary associate degree and the Presidential Medal, the College's highest honor, during the College's commencement ceremony on April 29. [photo courtesy of MDC]

## *Special Section: Commencement*

HACU-member institutions across the country recently honored their graduates during spring commencement. In celebration of the Class of 2011, this *Special Commencement Section* highlights member institutions that have shared their commencement news with HACU. Congratulations to all HACU-member institutions and their 2011 graduates!

In Florida, more than 4,000 Miami Dade College (MDC) graduates heard President Barack Obama deliver the commencement address for the spring graduation ceremony of their North and West campuses on April 29.

MDC President Eduardo J. Padrón awarded President Obama his first honorary associate's degree and the Presidential Medal, the College's highest honor.

In his commencement address, the President touched on a variety of topics, including the economy, environment, health care, immigration reform and inequality. He also touted the College's

motto, "Opportunity Changes Everything," and placed the future in the hands of community college graduates.

The President's participation in an MDC commencement ceremony continues the College's longstanding tradition of hosting world leaders, renowned speakers and top thinkers at graduation. In 2007, President George W. Bush spoke to MDC graduates. Former President Bill Clinton was a speaker last year. Other past speakers include former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and former U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.