



ACES

Meet the people who are shaping the future of business with every handshake, transaction and bottom line. The passion, attitude, outlook and savvy they all share has yielded an ingrained need to succeed no matter what the consequences. These inspirational visionaries are some of the top leaders of today and tomorrow who will inspire, motivate and in many cases complement the very goals that keep you going. After all, business is all about who you know, isn't it?

Smart Lead

“My goal has always been the same: Everyone with a desire to learn has access to quality higher education. I believe everyone is college material.”

For Eduardo Padrón, there’s nothing more important than education. As the President of Miami-Dade College, he makes it his personal mission to ensure that all of his students have the best possible education and preparation for life after college. “I transform lives,” he says. “I’m very fortunate to be in a position where, along with my amazing colleagues, I have the opportunity change lives and give people a shot at The American Dream.” Inspired by his parents’ absolute insistence on getting a solid education, Padrón was later encouraged by one of his professors at Miami-Dade College to give teaching a shot. He agreed, and now he can’t imagine himself anywhere else. “I’ve been very blessed to spend my entire professional career in one place,” he says. “My first students and every class I’ve taught since have been an inspiration to me.”

Quick Facts

He loves sharing with his family: “I enjoy collecting glass and crystal — my grandkids have their way with me!”

Cutting loose: “I get a kick out of going out to dance, but don’t often get a chance to do it.”

Most important lesson growing up: “My parents and the circumstances I experienced shaped my life very early on — fleeing communism as a teenager taught me the importance of perseverance and dedication.”

What’s in his fridge: “Not much. My food is in the refrigerators of area restaurants.”

When the going gets tough: “Never stop pursuing excellence no matter the obstacles. Remember that, and nothing’s impossible.”

Text by Cristina Zuazua; Photo by Chantal Lawrie

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