

THE LAUNCH



RISING BLACK SCHOLARS

Miami Dade College



Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Miami Dade College, North Campus

Conference Center



**Miami Dade
College**



Dear Friends of MDC,

Miami Dade College has always embraced its role as a catalyst for opportunity. In the spirit of service to our community and creating positive change, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the first cohort of students of the Rising Black Scholars program. This program is a groundbreaking initiative that will provide students with valuable resources and access to life-changing opportunities.

The Rising Black Scholars program provides an early start to college with a full scholarship that covers tuition and other expenses. We are also supporting a holistic academic journey with practical and personal resources to ensure they meet the quickly changing workforce needs. MDC is a special place with a diversity of voices and opportunities, and we are committed to ensuring you have every opportunity to succeed.

To our new students I want to say, we're building a vision for tomorrow and you're part of it! You are the ones who will live out the dream of opportunity with your skills, your talents, your insights, and your dedication. I can't wait to see you shine!

Sincerely,

Madeline Pumariega

President
Miami Dade College



Greetings:

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our first cohort of MDC's Rising Black Scholars program. Rest assured that we are here to support you, our Scholars, as you embark on this important next step in your life's journey.

MDC's commitment to advancing equity for educational excellence, student access and success is stronger than ever. The College has undergone a process of self-examination to understand and purposefully address the hurdles that stand in the way of equitable outcomes for all students. MDC's Rising Black Scholars (RBS) program is one of the many focused initiatives aimed at addressing equity gaps at the College. Not only will the RBS program significantly alleviate the worry of paying for college by providing a full scholarship for tuition and associated expenses, but it will also provide academic and co-curricular experiences as well as holistic support services that further enhance the intellectual and social capital of our Scholars.

Scholars in this program will receive academic coaching, career counseling, leadership development, opportunities to apply to study abroad, as well as first hand interactions with the RBS Leadership Circle of Influencers – a core of thought leaders who care deeply about our community's socio-economic development and equitably setting the stage for our youth to be thoughtfully engaged innovators and leaders.

Leading the launch of the Rising Black Scholars program at MDC is a key priority. As a partner in our community's robust ecosystem, we will continue to do our part to create opportunities at MDC that enable a bright future ahead for our Scholars and others. Proudly, our exemplary faculty and staff will be at the forefront of teaching, mentoring, and empowering our Scholars.

Sincerely,

Dr. Malou C. Harrison

Executive Vice President and Provost
Miami Dade College



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies	Juan Mendieta <i>Director of Communications</i>
Pledge of Allegiance	Sheamar Robinson <i>MDC North Campus Student</i>
National Anthem	Kernstly Charles <i>MDC North Campus Student</i>
College President's Welcome	Madeline Pumariega <i>College President</i>
Inaugural Cohort Address	Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D. <i>Executive Vice President and Provost</i>
Keynote Speaker	Felecia Hatcher <i>CEO, Black Ambition</i>
Special Recognition	The Honorable Jean Monestime <i>Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 2</i>
Student Reflection	Mike Aloudior <i>MDC Rising Black Scholar</i>
Presentation and Oath	Jaime Anzalotta, Ph.D. <i>Vice Provost of Student Affairs- Chief Enrollment Officer</i> Professor Kimberly Carter, Ed.D. <i>English and Communications</i>
Induction-Rising Black Scholars and 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project	The Honorable Rodney Smith <i>United States District Court, Southern District of Florida</i>
Presentation-Congressional Record	The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson <i>United States Congresswoman, 24th District of Florida</i>
Closing Remarks	Professor Leighton Spence <i>English and Communications</i>
Reception	Music by Ketler Macombe <i>MDC Alum</i>



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Felecia Hatcher is on a mission to rid communities across the globe of innovation deserts by working with community leaders and government officials to create inclusive and diverse tech/startup ecosystems, that transform communities into magnetic forces for attracting talent, resources and opportunities to thrive within the innovation economy.

As a top Requested transformational speaker to fortune 500 companies, an Author, and the Co-Founder of The Center for Black Innovation, Hatcher's transformational work has been honored as a 2014 Obama White House Champion of Change for STEM Access and Diversity, Harvard Young American Leader, Comcast Innovator, featured on the Today Show, Forbes, MSNBC and a Griot's 100 African Americans Making History. Supporters of her work include Knight Foundation, Comcast/NBC Universal, Morgan Stanley, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Ford and others.

Hatcher is the author of 5 books, and a top requested speaker at Google, Ernst & Young, Walmart, Door Dash, Target, Spotify, and countless foundations, corporations and educational institutions.

Prior to making the leap from the cubicles of corporate America, Felecia worked as a marketing executive as the front office marketing manager spearheading the 10th anniversary campaign for the Minnesota Lynx/Timberwolves, and as an experiential marketing/brand manager for Sony, Nintendo and McKee foods. As an Author, Social Entrepreneur and the former "Chief Popsicle" of Feverish Ice Cream, Hatcher was named one of the Empact 100 Top 100 Entrepreneurs under the age of 30 by the White House in 2011, a 2014 Obama White House Champion of Change for STEM Access and Diversity, Harvard Young American Leader, Ruth Shack Honoree, 2017 Comcast/Nationswell Tech Impact Allstar, Echoing Green Fellow, a Black Enterprise 2017 TechConnex Game Changer and 2016 Innovator of the Week, Essence Magazine Tech Master, and featured on the NBC Today Show, MSNBC, FORBES, INC, The Cooking Channel, and; Griot's 100 African Americans Making History.



RISING BLACK SCHOLARS OATH

As a Rising Black Scholar, I pledge to strive for academic excellence. I will commit myself to leading by example, hoping to serve as an inspiration to my peers and an agent of change in my community. I will be engaged in the process of learning inside and outside the classroom. I will approach my studies with integrity, practice continual self-reflection, and always examine my motivation and relationships. I pledge to seek support and wise counsel from a position of humility and with a sense of discovery and openness. I will celebrate the differences of others and advocate for tolerance and empathy. My aspirations compel me to work diligently, remain focused, and honor the strength and pride of my heritage. I take this oath before the Board of Trustees, administrators, staff, faculty, and students at Miami Dade College, with dedication to my academic success and the expectation of mutual respect.

The Rising Black Scholars Oath was penned by MDC English Professors Dr. Kimberly Carter, Dr. Michelle Riley, and Dr. Sabrina Walters.



2021 INAUGURAL CLASS

Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Senior High School

Mike Alouidor Nyla Crawford Kunley Deller Messiah Hunter
Mike Pierre Curtis Steril

American Senior High School

Antonio Cope Jr.

Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Kai Carter

Barbara Goleman Senior High School

Souline Mervil

Booker T. Washington Senior High School

Kymari Beason Jamaya McNeil

Boyd H. Anderson High School

Eraiel Smeikle

Charter High School of the Americas

Mariangel Benitez

Coral Reef Senior High School

Michael Burnett Keimari Rolle Kyle Wallace Faith Coats

Cutler Bay Senior High School

Kyle Tucker

Dillard High School

Samantha Boston

Doctors Charter School

Jayden Cooke

Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School

Dymond Bynoe Daniel Dailey Kristie Laplante Briana Sterling

Felix Varela Senior High School

Nathanael Tulloch

Franklin Academy Charter School

Avont Leiba



2021 INAUGURAL CLASS

Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School

Jayson Justal Sasha Lake Ian Lowe Aloheem Nelson
James Richardson Shatawn Smith Jerome Warren

Home School in Florida

Marlan Bernal

Homestead Senior High School

Kelson Baptiste Kenshae Brown Darcheling Forvilus Woodjina Jean
Yoory Jeanty raquina Jones Jaiden Lee-Jones Jovnia Richard
Jeremy Romain Judith Romelus

John A. Ferguson Senior High School

Mikiah Nava

Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School

Elizabeth Blake Shemiyah Edden Alvinice Jacobs

MAST Academy

Shamori Fancher

Mater Academy Charter High School

Destiny Beaman

Mater Lakes Academy Charter High

Draeden Ramsay

McArthur High School

Jaurice Johnson

Miami Arts Charter School

Moira Archer

Miami Carol City Senior High School

Sanovia Finnie Verna Liburd Lakiriah Louis Davion Patterson

Miami Central Senior High School

Aaliyah Howard Kassidy Jefferson

Miami Edison Senior High School

Zephaniah James Michaella Pierre Terell Smith Grace St Lot



2021 INAUGURAL CLASS

Miami Jackson Senior High School

Mary Lucy Cameus John Espinal Ravia Knight Rayvon Knight

Miami Killian Senior High School

Kayla Gordon

Miami Lakes Educational Center

Nikisha Bailey

Miami Norland Senior High School

Nzinga Burrell Javon Fertilien Amaris Jones Sherell Jordan
Daniel Noel Joy Stanley Tariq Thomas Kemanni Wilson

Miami Northwestern Senior High School

Rebekah Ogionwo Jamari Reed-Jackson Mauricia Surles Aja Thompson
Lusto Vassor

Miami Palmetto Senior High School

Will-Ander Jules Timothy Readon Amir Richardson Jada Mckenzie

Miami Senior High School

Christie Sainvil

Miami Southridge Senior High School

Jacqusha Fidele Jayden Jackson

Miami Sunset Senior High School

Anika Dorsainville

Miramar High School

Zion Bennett Bryan Luke

Monsignor Edward Pace High School

Kamaiyah Schuler

North Miami Beach Senior High School

Gaëlle Ames Micalia Anakie Tchavetzkee Jean Louis

North Miami Senior High School

Marsha Bely Varnes Berger Joneil Loriston



2021 INAUGURAL CLASS

Robert Morgan Educational Center

Jude-Gabriel Eveillard Nathaniel Forbes Zoe Junious Tanoris Nelson
Khaira Webb

Somerset Academy Charter High

Shane Brown Travis Clayton Sarah Pierre

South Dade Senior High School

Bianca Jeudi Maurice Simmons

South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary

Kaleb Saintil

South Plantation High School

Hantzley Louis

Stranahan High School

Roldise Desir

Suncoast Community High School

Anna Wiley

TERRA Environmental Research Institute

Carlton Daley

William H. Turner Technical Arts High School

Beatrix Alerte Arnoudly Bossicot Kiera Bradshaw Catherine Eusebio
Lauri Faustin Milophe Jean Stephan Jean Janice Jean-Noel
Brattyan Perez Jolynn Prophete Tatyana Racine Gianni Rogers
Laura Villaron Trinity Wood

Young Men's Preparatory Academy

Alens Merilus



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English and Communications

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Social Science

Prof. Taurie Gittings

Arts & Letters

Dr. Vellisse Grimes

Social Science

Prof. Volrick Higgs

Communication, Arts & Philosophy

Prof. Monise Jean

Social Science

Prof. Barbara Johnson

Social Science

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English and Communications

Dr. Sabrina Walters

English and Communications



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Ms. Wanda Smith

Vice Provost

Institutional Effectiveness and Strategy

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