



**Miami Dade College**

March 8, 2013

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Subcommittee on Government Operations

Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, College President

Miami Dade College's (MDC) Wolfson Campus is located in an urban environment, surrounded by office buildings, residential and government buildings in the middle of a vibrant downtown. Several of our other College campuses are located in high density urban areas as well. This includes our InterAmerican campus in Little Havana, Hialeah Campus and Doral Campus. Thus, we view with great interest the existence of vacant, underutilized properties in the vicinity of our campuses. MDC is the nation's largest institution of higher education, welcoming more than 175,000 students this year. Our commitment to provide access to college level learning throughout our community reflects the workforce demands of a dynamic economic environment. The College's growth dictates that we explore creative approaches, form partnerships and follow up on every opportunity. This includes challenging ones like the Dyer Courthouse, adjacent to our downtown Wolfson Campus main building.

Miami Dade College supports Congress' efforts seeking the efficient utilization of federally owned vacant properties. As you look to streamline the federal property disposal process, I believe this institution can serve as a model demonstrating the important role the education sector can play in assisting your efforts. I believe there is a great opportunity to fully engage with colleges and universities that are experiencing explosive growth. We stand ready to assist our federal partners in the conversion of vacant buildings, and in our case, even underutilized parking lots, into vibrant centers for learning and culture. Transforming these dormant properties into centers for learning and expanded opportunity represents the wisest use of our tax dollars.



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This College already has a track record of successfully converting underutilized properties, restoring historic buildings, and creating significant community gathering and learning places for the benefit of our entire community.

One successful example of this commitment sits adjacent to our campus --- the Freedom Tower, designated as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. This building is recognized as the "Ellis Island of the South" for its role in serving as the site of the federal government processing center which resettled hundreds of thousands of Cuban refugees during the 60's and 70's, including yours truly.

The Terra Group and the Pedro Martin Family donated this building to the College in 2005, one of the most significant donations in Miami's history. Prior to this the Freedom Tower's future appeared shaky; building ownership had changed hands over the years and the structure was in need of maintenance and repair. Under College ownership, the building has been renovated and once again anchors downtown Miami's main thoroughfare. The remarkable New World mural, which greeted every arriving immigrant, has been restored, and the tower's steeple, with its iconic sailing ship at the apex, reflects the building's historic significance.

The Freedom Tower is flourishing as a destination point for our students, locals and tourists alike, serving as an educational and cultural hub and a significant anchor in the economic revitalization of urban Miami. It now houses a museum quality exhibit space that has showcased the works of Salvadore Dali, Francisco de Goya and aspiring local artists. The renovated meeting space has hosted First Lady Michelle Obama, Governor Rick Scott, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Queen Sofia of Spain among others.

Given the chance, this is the type of future we envision for the Dyer Courthouse. Before I address that issue, allow me to briefly relate an additional success story that is even more pertinent to our discussion. It is federally-owned property conveyed to the College in 2009. This property, a fenced-in downtown flat parking lot currently serving Bureau of Prisons and Department of Justice employees, abuts our MDC New



World School of the Arts Building. It literally wraps around this campus building. Several years ago we began meeting with the Bureau of Prisons to express our interest in working with them to better utilize this space.

We were able to combine their need for secure parking with our need to expand and grow. After some negotiation, we forged an agreement to convey the parking lot to the College in return for constructing a classroom/parking garage building that includes an enclosed and secure parking area for our federal partners. Working with them and alongside our Congressional delegation, we were able to get conveyance legislation approved by Congress and signed by the President in an efficient and timely manner. Today, we are finishing the design plans for the new building and anticipate a groundbreaking ceremony in the very near future.

Mr. Chairman, these federal partners were willing to work with us. Even more importantly, while they had certain requirements for the property, I believe they understood the impact of our College programs.

The point I wish to emphasize is that we were able to come to this agreement with minimum bureaucracy. We had federal partners who were willing to hear us out. They understood the value of our work, and the benefit for the entire community of our coming together in the more efficient utilization of this parking lot. This was accomplished without time consuming layers of review and unnecessary screenings and delay.

Upon completion this building will represent the end result of a model federal/local partnership. It will remind us of what we can accomplish by working together with our federal partners. Much like the Freedom Tower, it will suggest the future that awaits the Dyer Building -- if we are given the chance.

As the U.S. Congress and this committee look for ways to ensure the efficient utilization of federal properties throughout the United States, there is great interest in reforming the federal disposal process. I applaud this effort to streamline this process. During the last Congress we saw several measures introduced which





established procedures for selecting federal properties to sell and for the distribution of the proceeds. Everything was on the table, from a military BRAC model of real property disposal, better real property data collection, enhanced duties for an interagency group, enhanced leasing and much more.

As new legislation is being proposed, your efforts to improve government efficiency and to generate revenue for the Treasury are to be commended. However, focusing on maximizing fair market sales should not be your only option. In many cases the costs of bringing a property to market exceed the proceeds from a sale. Legislative provisions emphasizing quick and maximum sale should be balanced with a focus on the community benefit as well. The option of maximizing a fair market value sale should be weighed against the community value of a public benefit conveyance. The end result will be a better utilization of these federal properties to the benefit of our communities and nation.

This community benefit can be quantified. Miami Dade College commissioned an economic impact study by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. Its findings indicated MDC to be a sound investment from multiple perspectives. This study quantifies the economic benefits and translates these into common sense benefit/cost and investment terms. From the perspective of our community as a whole, MDC students expand our economic base through their higher incomes, which are a direct result of their college education. Businesses that employ them also become more productive through student-added skills. Higher earnings of MDC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base by 575.8 million each year. These benefits, together with the associated ripple effects, amount to an overall economic impact on the Miami-Dade County economy of \$3.1 billion each year.

As MDC students achieve higher levels of education, they are also less likely to become wards of the state, draw welfare or unemployment benefits, or engage in crime. This translates into associated dollar savings (i.e. avoided costs) to the public equal to approximately \$35.4 million annually. From a taxpayer perspective, the College's work results in increased tax collections from higher income earners) and



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reduced government expenditures. This study found a positive rate of return for MDC of 10.0%, and benefit/cost ratio of 2.9 ---- meaning every tax dollar invested in MDC today returns \$2.90.

By extension, the findings of this economic impact study underscore the benefits that will accrue to taxpayers should the Dyer Building become part of the College, and additional opportunities for learning are made available.

Lastly, it is important for me to note that the College is working with the GSA. We have responded to a Request for Information, sharing our plans and vision for the Dyer Building as an educational and cultural center. We have been meeting with GSA representatives as we await their internal process of review and screening—a process that is inching forward. We have invited the GSA Administrator to visit our downtown Wolfson Campus and allow us to provide an introduction and tour of the Freedom Tower.

Mr. Chairman, we will continue to reach out to this agency, to our Congressional delegation, to all of you on this committee, and to the community at large. Our proposed plan for the Dyer Building is starting to generate community support. We have received a letter of support from the Dade Heritage Trust which underscores our commitment to preserving the historic legacy of this building. We have also received a resolution of support from the Downtown Development Authority, recognizing the positive impact of our plans on Miami's economy. In addition, we have received a letter of support from Chief Judge Federico Moreno.

Our message is simple. Miami Dade College sees great potential in converting the Dyer Building into an educational and cultural center. We propose a new chapter for this historic building that will be rich in promise for all. We hope our federal partners will give us this chance.

Thank you.

**Eduardo J. Padrón, Ph.D.**  
**President, Miami Dade College**

An American by choice, Eduardo Padrón arrived in the United States as a refugee at the age of 15. Since 1995, he has served as President of Miami Dade College (MDC), the largest institution of higher education in America with more than 174,000 students. He is credited with elevating MDC into a position of national prominence among the best and most recognized U.S. colleges and universities. An economist by training, Dr. Padrón earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2009, *TIME* magazine included him on the list of "The 10 Best College Presidents." In 2010, *Florida Trend* magazine named him "Floridian of the Year." In 2011, *The Washington Post* named him one of the eight most influential college presidents in the U.S. Also in 2011, he was awarded the prestigious 2011 Carnegie Corporation Centennial Academic Leadership Award. In 2012, he received the Citizen Service Award from Voices for National Service, the coveted TIAA-CREF Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence, and the Aspen Institute Ascend Fellowship. Dr. Padrón's energetic leadership extends to many of the nation's leading organizations. He is the immediate past chair of the board of directors of the American Council on Education (ACE) and is a past chair of the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). He also serves on the American Academy of Arts & Sciences' Commission on the Humanities & Social Sciences.

President Padrón is widely recognized as one of the top educational leaders in the world and is often invited to participate in educational policy forums in the United States and abroad. In 1993, President Bill Clinton recognized him as one of America's foremost educators. President George W. Bush nominated him to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board and the National Economic Summit. More recently, he represented the U.S. at UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education at the invitation of the Obama administration and President Obama appointed him Chairman of the White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. During his career he has been selected to serve on posts of national prominence by six American presidents.

Internationally, President Padrón's accomplishments have been recognized by numerous nations and organizations including the Republic of France, which named him *Commandeur* in the *Ordre des Palms Académiques*; the Republic of Argentina, which awarded him the *Order of San Martin*; and Spain's King Juan Carlos II, who bestowed upon him the *Order of Queen Isabella*.

Dr. Padrón's pace-setting work at Miami Dade College has been hailed as a model of innovation in higher education. He is credited with engineering a culture of success that has produced impressive results in student access, retention, graduation, and overall achievement. MDC enrolls and graduates more minorities than any other institution in the United States, including the largest numbers of Hispanics and African-Americans. He is nationally respected for his advocacy on behalf of underserved populations in higher education, and his in-depth research report, "A Deficit of Understanding," highlights the funding crisis that threatens access for low-income and minority students. Dr. Padrón has also championed innovative teaching and learning strategies and developed support initiatives to ensure student success. He was a member of the Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) Greater Expectations national panel that re-examined baccalaureate education in the U.S. and the Woodrow Wilson

Foundation's Commission on the High School Senior Year. More recently he has been called upon to co-chair the Century Foundation's Task Force on Preventing Community Colleges from Becoming Separate and Unequal. He also serves on the National Commission on Higher Education Attainment; CFR Task Force on U.S. Education Reform and National Security; National Governors Association's Advisory Group for College Completion Initiatives; and ACE Blue Ribbon Panel on Global Engagement.

President Padrón's transformational accomplishments at Miami Dade College have been acknowledged by the national media including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *NBC Nightly News*, *TIME* magazine, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

He currently also serves on the boards of the Business/Higher Education Forum; the Council on Foreign Relations; League for Innovation in the Community College (past Chair); RC 2020; College Board Advocacy and Policy Center; White House Fellows Selection Panel (Chair); the International Association of University Presidents; the Federal Reserve Board of Atlanta, Miami Branch (Chair); and Achieving the Dream. Dr. Padrón also serves as chairman of the White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. In past years he has held leadership positions on the boards of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (Chair); the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the White House Commission on Educational Excellence; Campus Compact; Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute; The College Board; and others. Most recently, he has been appointed to the White House/Congressional Commission of the National Museum of the American Latino.

In Florida, Padrón has served on several gubernatorial commissions and has lent his talents to numerous organizations including the Florida Humanities Council; the Florida Council of Presidents (Chair); the Council of 100; Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council (Chair); Miami Parking Authority (Chair); the Hispanic American League Against Discrimination (Chair); NAACP (Vice-President); and Greater Miami United (Co-Chair).

Under Dr. Padrón's leadership, Miami Dade College has received national recognition for its longstanding involvement with its urban community, its catalytic effect for social and economic change, and the marked difference the College has made in student access and success through pace-setting initiatives. The most recent recognitions include: 2011 CHEA "Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes;" 2010 The Washington Center "Higher Education Civic Engagement Award;" 2010 The College Board "College Keys Compact for Learning Outcomes Initiative;" 2008 Association for General & Liberal Studies "Exemplary Award for Improving General Education;" 2008-11 "U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll;" and 2008 National Center for Digital Education "Fourth Best College for Digital Transformation."

He is the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and prestigious awards. The recent list includes the 2012 Aspen Institute/Ascend Fellowship; 2012 University of Texas "John Roueche International Leadership Award;" 2012 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce "Sand In My Shoes" Award; "2008 Charles Kennedy Equity Award," Association of Community College

Trustees (ACCT); "2008 Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award," American Council on Education; "2008 Innovator of the Year," League for Innovation in the Community College; Chair Academy for Leadership Development's "2005 Paul A. Elsner Award for International Excellence;" *Hispanic Magazine's* "2004 Hispanic Achievement Award in Education;" and the Association of Community College Trustee's "2002 Chief Executive of the Year" award. He is a prolific writer with countless publications to his credit and serves on the editorial boards of *The Presidency*, *University Business*, and *Campus Technology*.

He has been featured in *People* magazine as one of the world's most influential Hispanics, in *Hispanic* magazine's list of most powerful Latinos, and in *PODER* magazine's report on "Movers and Shakers."



Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
Witness Disclosure Requirement - "Truth in Testimony"  
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)(5)

Name: Eduardo J. Padrón, Ph.D.

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2010. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

List Attached.

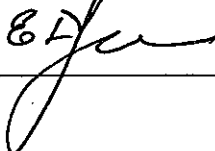
2. Please list any entity you are testifying on behalf of and briefly describe your relationship with these entities.

Miami Dade College - President since 1995 and I have worked for the College since 1970.

3. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received since October 1, 2010, by the entity(ies) you listed above. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Same list as number 1 above.

I certify that the above information is true and correct.  
Signature:



Date:

3/5/13

CPN or Contract Number	Agency	Agency Program	Amount Received By MDC	Subcontract or Subgrant Total to Fiscal Agent
2009-0051	USDOS	Community College Initiative through NOVA	\$536,454	\$1,999,999
2009-0216	USDOE	Nuclear Energy Scholarships Program	\$3,000,000	N/A
2010-0007	USDE	Title V, Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics First Year Experience (STEM FYE)	\$2,376,007	N/A
2010-0071	NRC	Nuclear Scholarship Program	\$122,483	N/A
2010-0118	USDE	Hispanic-Serving Institutions Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Articulation Programs for Transition, Retention, Advisement, and Completion (STEM TRAC)	\$5,919,756	N/A
2010-0206	HRSA	Health Center Planning Grants	\$79,779	N/A
2010-0208	USDHHS	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Campus Suicide Prevention Program	\$295,087	N/A
2010-0239	USDHS FEMA	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	\$1,155,906	N/A
2010-0284	USDE	Hispanic-Serving Institutions Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Articulation Programs, Ladder to Student Success	\$4,035,622	N/A
2011-0029	USDE	Educational Opportunity Center Grant Program	\$1,150,000	N/A
2011-0037	NEA	Artworks Presenting Program, MDC Live Arts	\$60,000	N/A
2011-0068	USDA	USDA/HISNP and Miami Dade College Initiative	\$150,000	N/A
2011-0103	USDE	Title III, Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program	\$645,138	N/A
2011-0125	NSF	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program with the University of Florida	\$309,441	\$1,002,938
2011-0126	USDA	Hispanic-Serving Institutions Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Articulation Programs, Florida-Caribbean Consortium for Agriculture Educations and Hispanic Workforce Development through Florida International University	\$713,824	unknown
2011-0164	NEA	The Big Read	\$17,100	N/A
2011-0226	USDE	Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for undergraduate Programs (GEAR Up)	\$5,064,178	N/A
2011-0260	NEH	Small Grants to Libraries and Other Non-Profit Institutions, America's Music Program	\$2,500	N/A
2011-0260	NEH	Bridging Cultures to Form a Nation through the Association of American Colleges	\$7,500	N/A
2012-0039	NSF	Alliances for Broadening Participation in STEM, Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation through Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	\$97,502	unknown

2012-006	HRSA	Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, Physician Assistant	\$1,200,000	N/A
2012-0067	HRSA	Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, Nursing	\$2,592,000	N/A
2012-0071	USDE	Upward Bound Program through Take Stock in Children, Inc.	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
2012-0076	USDOL	OSHA, Susan Harwood Training Grant Program	\$166,250	N/A
2012-0084	USDOT	Small Business Transportation Resource Center Program	\$130,500	N/A
2012-0159	NSF	Advanced Technological Education, 2013 Mentor-Connect Technical Assistance and Mentoring Support Project	\$1,200	N/A
2012-0198	National Gardening Association	Youth Garden Grant Program		
NS9001	NPS	Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Program	\$500	N/A
			\$35,000	N/A
<b>Pass-through</b>				
2011-0271	FLDOE	English Literacy/Civics Education Program	\$250,000	N/A
2011-0272	FLDOE	Adult General Education Program	\$1,500,000	N/A
2011-0298	FLDOE	Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act Program	\$2,115,032	N/A
2012-0052	FLDOE	College Reach-Out Program	\$83,844	N/A