

News Release

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Eduardo J. Padrón awarded National Award from NASPA

Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón, president, Miami Dade College (MDC), was selected as the recipient of the *2017 Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education Award*.

This award is presented to an individual or organization that has provided dedicated service, consistent advocacy, and outstanding leadership to the higher education community on the national or international level. The honoree will have made a meaningful and appreciable contribution to the issues and concerns affecting higher education.

In his role as president, President Padrón 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 elevated MDC into a position of national prominence among the best and most recognized U.S. colleges and universities. During his career, six American Presidents have selected him to serve on posts of national prominence. In 2016, Padrón was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

Prior to his work at MDC, Dr. Padrón trained as an economist, earning his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He was about to take a job at DuPont, but instead took a faculty position at MDC. Since 1995 he has been serving as MDC's president. In 2009, TIME magazine included him on the list of "The 10 Best College Presidents". 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. He is the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and prestigious awards. He has served as chair of the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and the Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF). He also served on the American Academy of Arts & Sciences' Commission on the Humanities & Social Sciences.

Dr. Padrón and the other National Award winners will be honored in March at the 2017 NASPA Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.