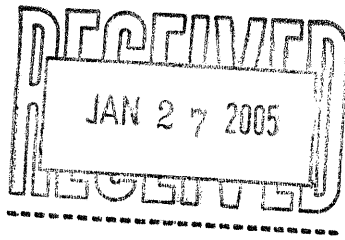


300 N.E. Second Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132-2297



**Miami Dade
College**



Eduardo J. Padrón
College President
(305) 237-3316 / FAX: (305) 237-3109
email: eduardo.padron@mdc.edu

January 25, 2005

Mr. J. David Armstrong, Jr., Chancellor
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Re: Change in Site Designation

Dear David:

In addition to the recent Miami Dade College request for State Board of Education designation of a new Campus in western Miami Dade County (Doral Campus), I am requesting a change in site designation for our Hialeah Center. Based on the state's most recent capital outlay FTE projections of 2,830 for the current fiscal year (see attached), the Hialeah Center qualifies to be designated as a "Campus". This change is consistent with the College's master plan and is being considered by our District Board of Trustees at its February 15, 2005 meeting. We have discussed this change with Ron Fahs.

Opened in 1980, the Hialeah Center has classrooms and laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment for studies in microcomputers, languages and office technology. The Center provides complete student support services in admissions, registration, advisement and financial aid. It provides College-level programs in Business and Computers, Social and Natural Science, Mathematics, Humanities, Foreign Languages and English Communications. The Hialeah Center also provides specialized training in computer technologies, information skills and English as a second language as well as vocational training in accounting, computers, marketing, customer assistance, business administration and early childhood education.

Hialeah Center has experienced a 13.4% increase in FTE enrollment since 2001-02 and is projected to grow another 44.1% by 2009-10. FTE enrollment at Hialeah is expected to exceed 3,000 in 2004-05. Current county population projections for Hialeah and adjacent minor statistical areas (MSA) indicate increases of 7.4% for Hialeah (MSA 4.3), 19.6% for Hialeah Gardens/Miami Lakes/Golden Glades (MSA 3.1) and 3% for Miami Springs (MSA 4.4) by 2015 (see attached).

While the Hialeah Center significantly exceeds the 1,000 capital outlay FTE criteria for being a campus, the College is requesting a waiver of the additional requirement that all other campuses have 3,000 capital outlay FTE as outlined in Rule 6A-14.0061, FAC. Four of the campuses have greatly exceeded 3,000 full-time equivalent students (North = 13,574; Kendall = 16,412; Wolfson = 9,771; InterAmerican = 5,424) (see attached). The FTE enrollment at the College increased 15.9% since 2001-02 with each of the Miami Dade College Campuses

experiencing substantial increases. It is expected that the College's FTE will increase from 54,438 in 2003-2004 to 77,061 in 2009-10. This increase of 41.6% over the six-year period reflects MDC's response to projected population growth in the Miami-Dade County area over this period.

Two MDC campuses fall below the 3,000 FTE threshold. Medical Center Campus, with 1,738 FTE in 2003-04, offers specialized programs in Nursing and Allied Health. The Campus works closely with community hospitals and health care agencies to provide appropriate clinical and practical experiences for students; relationships that control enrollment growth in a manner that is unique to these programs. FTE student enrollment at Medical Center Campus increased 5% since 2001-02 and is projected to increase steadily at a rate of approximately 6% per year through 2009-10.

Homestead Campus, with 2,239 FTE in 2003-2004, is located in the southern part of Miami Dade County and serves the City of Homestead and surrounding areas. Miami Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning projections show the area served by Homestead Campus is one of the few remaining areas in the county with significant capacity for growth. The Homestead area was the hardest hit from hurricane Andrew and the community is finally stabilized and growing. Homestead experienced a 31% increase in FTE since 2001-02 and is projected to continue increasing at an average annual rate of 6.5% through 2009-10.

The College is also requesting a waiver of the criteria for minimum acreage for a Campus. The Hialeah Campus will consist of approximately 70,000 gross square feet of existing facilities (academic building, student building and transformer building) on a 7.78 acre site. The Hialeah Campus will be a full service campus that is an adequate size to meet the educational needs of the students to be served (by the existing facilities and future expansions through additions and remodeling/renovation).

This change in site designation to Hialeah Campus has received support from local business, community and government leaders as well as the general public. Following our next District Board of Trustees meeting, I will forward a copy of the official board action.

Sincerely,



Eduardo J. Padrón