

Miami-Dade County

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Miami Dade College receives prestigious honor

BY JOSEPH BUSATTO

jbusatto@MiamiHerald.com

Miami Dade College has been named a designated Ashoka U Changemaker Campus. This designation is for institutes of higher education that lead in social innovation education.

Miami Dade College is the only public institution in the southeastern United States to receive the honor, while joining many prestigious universities including Brown, Cornell, Duke, Fordham, George Mason, Johns Hopkins and Tulane.

"We are humbled to receive this distinction from such a renowned organization, and it affirms the diligent work we have been doing for so many years to provide our students the comprehensive tools for lifelong success and to serve as catalysts for change in our community," said José A. Vicente, president of the Wolfson Campus at MDC, in a press release.

Dr. Pascale Charlot, Honors College dean at MDC, said: "We intend to develop a model that will encourage others to engage their communities as well."

Ashoka U is a program of Ashoka, the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs. Ashoka has a vision in which "Everyone is a Changemaker."

"These student demands add a new dimension to the call for innovation in higher education," said Marina Kim, Ashoka U's co-founder and executive director, in a release. "Every student should get the chance to acquire the skills necessary to make a difference in the world."

As the largest designated Ashoka U Changemaker Campus with 165,000 students enrolled, MDC will start a pathway for all students to become changemakers by starting initiatives to instill social innovation throughout college.

As part of this initiative, the school launched the “It Takes One” campaign to challenge members of the college and local community to start social change to help local communities. “It Takes One” events and activities will take place at all MDC campuses.

“We see changemaking as the next iteration of Miami Dade College’s mission to change lives through the opportunity of education while meaningfully impacting our community,” Charlot said. “The timing is perfect given the entrepreneurial and innovation conversations gathering momentum in our city.”



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