



Miami Dade College

Wednesday, April 21, 2021



The Daily News Clippings

Miami Dade College Office of Media Relations
300 N.E. Second Ave., Suite 1350
Miami, Fl. 33132
Tel. 305-237-3366 - Fax. 305-237-3228
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IBM donating more than \$10 million to Miami Dade College to teach skills of the future

BY ROB WILE APRIL 20, 2021

Graduates at the 2020 commencement ceremony at Miami Dade College North Campus in December 2020. Support from IBM will help MDC better prepare its graduates for jobs in technology. *LILIANA MORA / MIAMI DADE COLLEGE*

Artificial intelligence. Cloud computing. Cybersecurity. Quantum computing.

These are the fields for a future that has already arrived. Miami Dade College is making sure its students are ready for them.

On Tuesday, the school announced that IBM's Global University Programs group has committed more than \$10 million in support over the next three years to prep students for careers in advanced technology. Much of that contribution will come from volunteer IBM Academic Ambassadors, who will offer guest lectures, mentoring, curriculum advice, and other counsel digitally and on campus to faculty and students.

The announcement builds on the MDC/IBM Skills Academy initiative launched last summer.

"We have witnessed the impact of these dynamic programs in recent years in getting our students employed upon completion," said Antonio Delgado, dean of Engineering, Technology and Design at MDC, in a statement. "This support can be a game-changer for so many."

The announcement comes two months after the Knight Foundation's \$15 million investment to boost advanced skills at Florida International University, the University of Miami and Baptist Health. And it occurs at a time when employers, especially in tech, seek to diversify their worker ranks.

“As we continue to anticipate the needs of a rapidly growing technology industry, we’re collaborating with Miami Dade College to equip students, faculty and the community at large with the resources to attract, train and empower a diverse and inclusive workforce,” said Jeff Welser, vice president for exploratory science and university collaborations at IBM Research, in a statement.

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“Skills are the most important issue of our time, and we need to equip students with the right skills to participate in the digital economy,” said Naguib Attia, vice president of IBM Global University Programs, in a statement. “As part of this new collaboration, we will work closely with Miami Dade College to ensure curricula addresses industry needs and trends so both students and faculty have an opportunity to develop the skills needed today for the jobs of tomorrow,”

Miami Dade College launched an IBM Cybersecurity Practitioner last June that is designed for students interested in pursuing a career as a security analyst.

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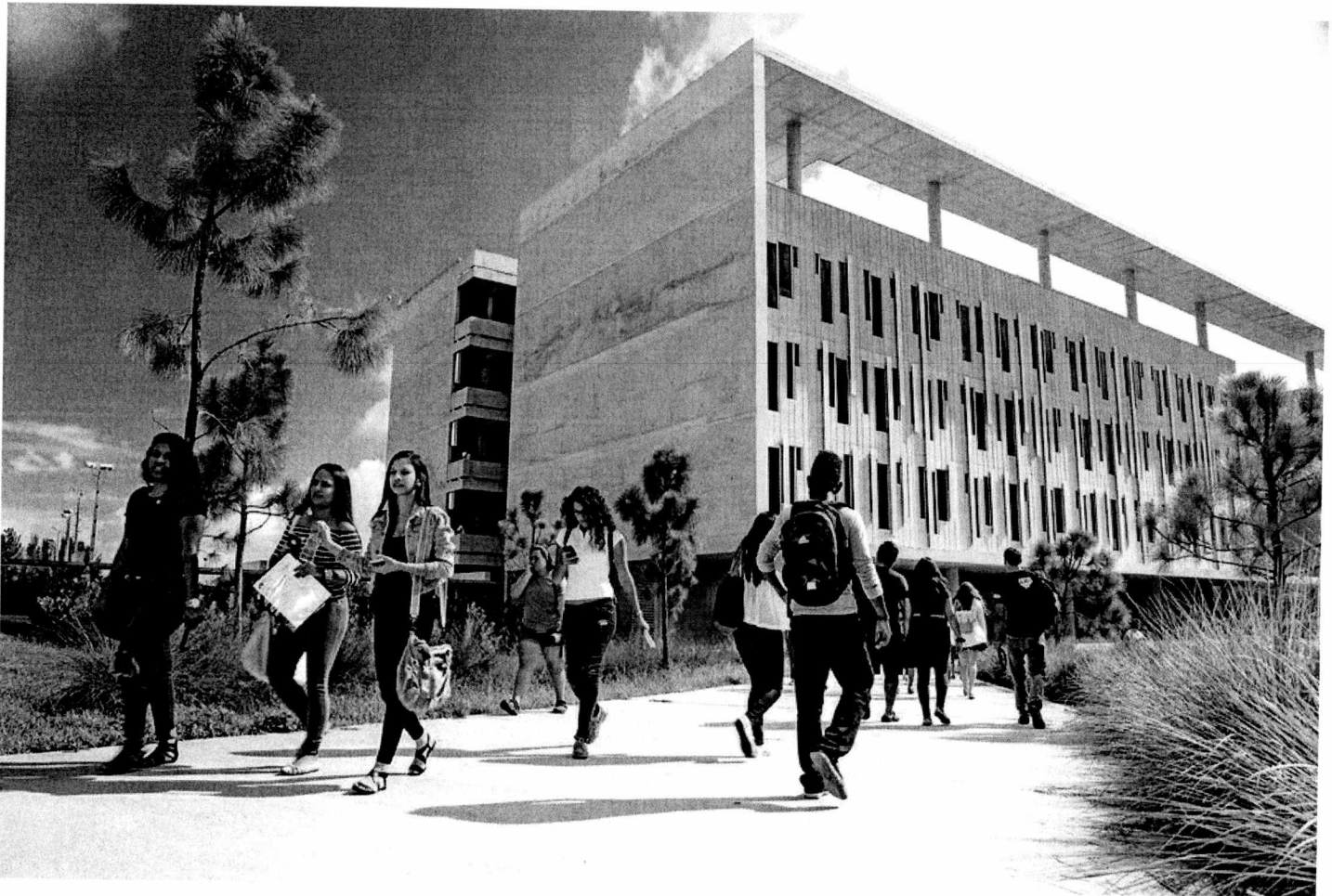
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IBM Gives Miami Dade College \$10M for Advanced Tech Classes

Over the next three years, IBM's Global University Programs group will help fund career development at Miami Dade College in fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, quantum computing.

BY ROB WILE, THE MIAMI HERALD / APRIL 20, 2021



MIAMI DADE COLLEGE



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IBM donating more than \$10 million to Miami Dade College to teach skills of the future



Rob Wile

Tue., April 20, 2021, 9:30 a.m. · 2 min read



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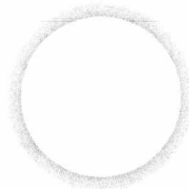
LOCAL NEWS

Vaccines slowing down as South Florida hits 40% immunization

Christina Vazquez, Reporter

Published: April 20, 2021 4:14 pm

Tags: **Coronavirus, Miami-Dade County, Broward County**

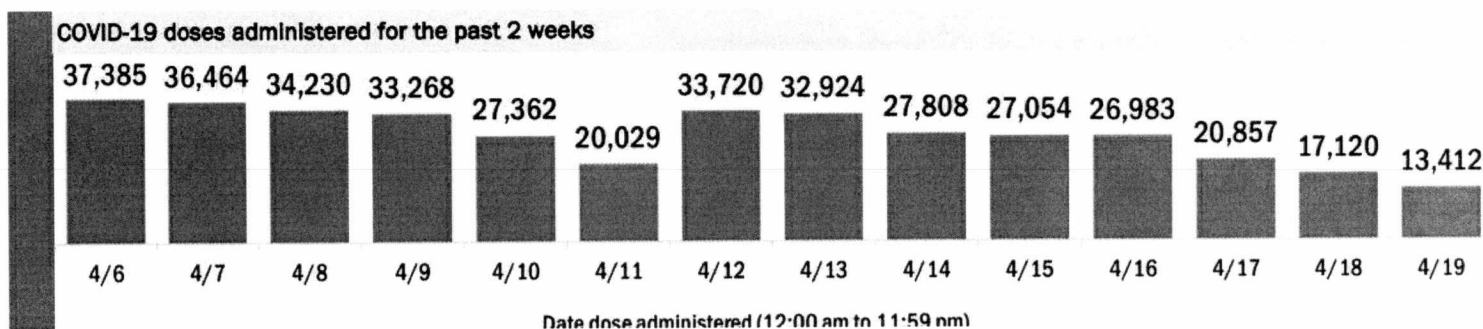


MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. – As supply becomes ampler for COVID-19 vaccines, demand is beginning to soften, which raises questions about what happens if we don't hit community immunity — and how to best approach vaccine hesitancy.

According to the latest numbers from state health officials, the vaccination rate in Miami-Dade County just hit 40% of the population, and Broward County has risen up to 38%.

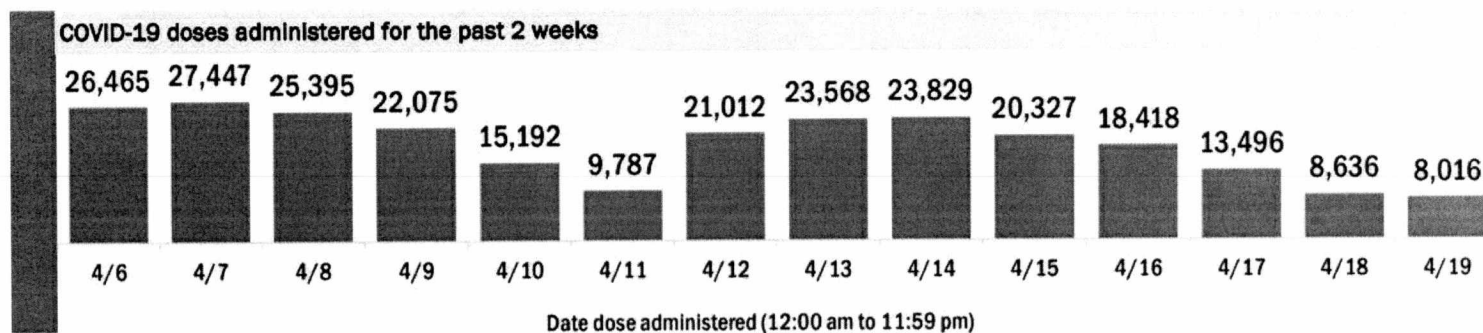
But also of note, as access and eligibility expand, the number of doses administered is slowing each day:

MIAMI-DADE:



A look at the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered over recent days in Miami-Dade County. (Florida Department of Health)

BROWARD:



A look at the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered over recent days in Broward County. (Florida Department of Health)

Infectious disease expert Dr. Aileen Marty of Florida International University says that with variants in the mix, we may need to hit 80% of us getting the vaccine to reach community immunity.

“That helps all of us get to getting rid of this virus in our community,” she said.

But what happens if we miss the mark?



"That really is a challenging question," she said. "That means we'll have a smoldering problem that lingers and lingers and lingers, and that's what we have to consider. Do we want to tolerate having higher numbers of overall people who have died? "

For policy leaders planning another round of public awareness campaigns, Dr. Marty said now would be the time to launch them — in addition to developing targeted outreach strategies coordinated with community leaders of groups more hesitant than others to get a shot.

"We have to figure out where are the pockets of hesitancy, and who are the leaders in those communities, so we can do a train the trainer," she said.

[RELATED: See data on vaccine hesitancy in Miami-Dade and Broward]

More than 8.1 million people have received COVID-19 vaccines in Florida, with nearly 5.2 million in the state fully vaccinated.

Miami-Dade has had 1,097,580 people receive at least one shot, Broward has had 749,410, Monroe County 31,799 and Palm Beach County 598,241, according to the latest numbers from the state.

Tuesday marked the return of Pfizer first doses at the federally funded vaccination site at Miami Dade College's north campus. The site pivoted after the CDC and FDA recommended pausing Johnson & Johnson shots as regulators review rare blood clot cases.

Also new, Jackson Health has started a walk-up service for Pfizer doses at its vaccination sites. Appointments are no longer needed at these three locations:

- Christine E.. Lynn Rehabilitation Center, 1611 NW 12th Ave., Miami
- North Dade Health Center, 16555 NW 25th Ave., Miami Gardens
- Jackson South Medical Center, 9333 SW 152nd St., Kendall

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POSTED ON APRIL 20, 2021 BY FORT LAUDERDALE

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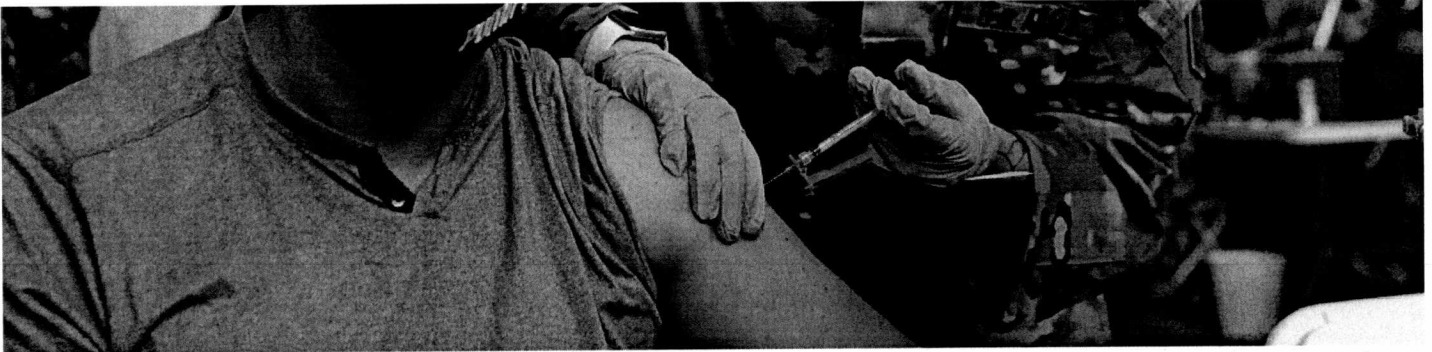
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An event in one Miami-Dade County city will allow residents to get their needed doses while Broward County takes one step forward in a return to normalcy for their residents.

Here's what we know today about the coronavirus outbreak in Florida, and the effort to stop it.

FIU, Florida Department of Health Bringing Vaccine Bus to Campus Starting Tuesday

The bus, a partnership between the school and the state, will be located in the northeast corner of campus Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

The vaccine bus will offer the Pfizer vaccine on a first come first served basis. In addition, a limited allotment of vaccines will be available at the bus for FIU students, faculty and staff age 18 or older, or those 16 and older accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The health department vaccine bus will return to administer second doses the week of May 11.

FEMA Site at Miami Dade College to Resume First Doses of Pfizer on Tuesday

The move came after the pause on Johnson & Johnson one dose vaccines last week amid concerns over rare complications in some who had received it.

The site opens at 7 a.m. and anyone ages 18 and older are eligible to get the vaccine while those ages 16 and 17 can get it with a guardian's consent. The site was scheduled to close in May, but officials have not said if that would be extended.



Florida News

FEMA COVID-19 Vaccination Sites To Administer First Doses Of Pfizer

By Will Althoff

Apr 19, 2021



State run FEMA vaccination sites are making another big change Tuesday.

COVID vaccination sites like those at Miami-Dade College's North Campus and the Tampa Greyhound Track are going to once again be administering first doses of the Pfizer vaccine starting Tuesday.

The change comes after the CDC recommended a pause in the use of Johnson and Johnson's vaccine.

FEMA spokesman Mike Jachles says they want to administer as many doses as possible. You must be at least 16 years of age, a Florida resident and have proof.

Those sites open everyday at 7a

Photo credit: Getty Images



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STATE'S FEMA VACCINE ROLLOUT FAILED BLACK COMMUNITIES, EXCEPT IN ONE PLACE

April 20, 2021



Former educator Nancy Dawkins, 97, who worked for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for more than 30 years, reacts to receiving a vaccine at the FEMA-supported, state-run COVID-19 vaccine satellite site inside the Samuel K. Johnson Youth Center at Charles Hadley Park in Liberty City on March 19.

DANIEL A. VARELA/MIAMI HERALD/TNS

*BY NICHOLAS NEHAMAS, BEN CONARCK AND SARAH BLASKEY
THE MIAMI HERALD/TNS*

MIAMI — When the state of Florida partnered with the federal government to open COVID-19 vaccine sites around the state in early March, the pilot program was supposed to help boost lagging vaccination in underserved communities.

Just over a month into the program — which used city parks, youth centers, community colleges and sometimes even roving vans to administer vaccines — state officials are claiming success, touting data that show people of color received the majority of the hundreds of thousands of FEMA shots.

But in Black communities, where vaccination rates are lowest statewide, the FEMA-supported vaccination effort fell flat, at least during its initial rollout, according to a Miami Herald analysis of vaccination data provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the period between March 4 and March 23.

All but one of the 41 federally supported vaccination sites across Florida vaccinated a disproportionately low number of Black people compared with the demographics of the surrounding areas, the Herald analysis found. The only exception was a neighborhood center in Central Florida's rural Haines City, where city officials quickly leveraged existing relationships with Black community leaders to raise awareness, without help from state or federal officials.

Overall, Black Floridians make up 17% of the population in the counties where the sites were located — but accounted for only 13% of vaccine recipients at those sites, the analysis found. (The percentage is calculated out of those recipients who disclosed their race and ethnicity, the vast majority of people.)

NO HESITANCY

While both state and local leaders have blamed vaccine hesitancy in the Black community for low numbers, national polling shows that Black adults are now nearly as willing as Whites and Hispanics to get vaccines.

Instead, Gov. Ron DeSantis' tight restrictions on who could get vaccinated — eligibility criteria that favored age over other risk factors — and the state's failure to coordinate with local officials to get the word out about the sites contributed to the failure, according to interviews with more than a dozen local elected leaders and public health experts.

"It's a breakdown in the entire system," said Michael Joseph, a commissioner from North Miami Beach, where FEMA and the state set up a site at a local community center for one week in March. Of the 3,113 people who showed up to the site, located in a majority-Black neighborhood in a predominantly Black city, only about 12% were Black.

"How can you have 12% in an area like this?" Joseph said. "It doesn't make sense. I know the people who live here want to get vaccinated."

NO OUTREACH

Joseph and fellow North Miami Beach Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond blamed a lack of outreach by state officials, for instance, failing to place ads on local Haitian-American radio stations such as Radio Mega and WLQY, as well as the television station Island TV.

Harold Sido, 18, got a vaccine at the Allen Park site in North Miami Beach in March. Sido only heard about it from his parents — his mother is a nurse — and was able to get a doctor's note. A Haitian American freshman at Miami Dade College, Sido said he never

saw the site advertised or talked about but he was grateful for the opportunity to get a shot. "I can finally hang out with my friends again," he said.

The Herald interviewed a dozen elected officials from the greater Miami, Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville areas, where FEMA worked with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to establish vaccination sites in March. All the officials told the Herald that the state did not make early, systematic efforts to advertise the sites. Often local leaders found out about the sites just a week before they opened, leaving them scrambling to develop outreach plans.

Gwen Myers, a Tampa commissioner, said she learned that FEMA-supported sites would open in her district from news reports. Angie Nixon, a state representative from Duval with two sites in her district, said no one from the state ever called her. Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings heard FEMA sites were coming to town from Valencia College, which agreed to serve as Orlando's main vaccination hub, not the state.

"There is no question we were in the dark," said Demings. "We could have fashioned a rollout that would have been much more effective than what we ultimately ended up with. We've been playing catch-up."

AGE RESTRICTIONS

A few sites that outperformed county demographics seemed to have two things in common: earlier notice from the state, and local elected officials who went beyond using social media and contacting church leaders to spread the word.

In addition to a lack of outreach by state officials, DeSantis' age criteria disproportionately restricted Black people from the federal vaccination program, even though COVID-19 has hit Black people hardest and federal health officials had said their access should be prioritized. The age restrictions dramatically reduced the number of eligible Black people in participating counties, where only around 13% of the residents age 65 and older are Black.

Most people under that age would have needed a doctor's note, which experts say is a hurdle that disproportionately affects Black communities, where fewer people carry health insurance or have access to a doctor.

"You can see the effects of the barriers, both by age and asking an individual to bring a doctor's note, how it leads to inequitable distribution even if you're bringing the doses in closer proximity to the communities," said Rebecca Weintraub, an assistant professor in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Some states like Vermont explicitly prioritized minority populations in their vaccine rollout, allowing people of color to receive the vaccine before white people of the same age. In Vermont, vaccination rates for Black people are keeping pace with the population.

“For people of color, especially Black people, what we’re seeing is that younger people are getting COVID, and they’re dying ... at younger ages than what you see for the White population,” said Zinzi Bailey, a University of Miami professor who studies health care inequities and reviewed the Herald’s analysis. “So our criteria for vaccination do not match our criteria for the risk of COVID and death from COVID.”

“We keep on reproducing systems of inequity by some of these restrictions,” Bailey said. “By not prioritizing essential workers, by not prioritizing folks who are in certain conditions, then it’s really going to be benefiting white people as opposed to people of color.”

STATE EFFORTS FAIL

The state defended its efforts to raise awareness, saying it had sent out more than 126,000 texts and 400,000 emails to people who live near the FEMA-supported sites; knocked on the doors of nearly 300,000 homes; distributed fliers in English, Spanish and Creole; and sent mobile billboards into communities.

“Florida has been a leader in the vaccine rollout. The state has mobilized thousands of individuals to create, undoubtedly, the largest vaccination operation in the country,” said Jason Mahon, a DEM spokesman. “If any local official would like an outreach team to visit or revisit their community, we would certainly accept that feedback and visit as soon as possible.”

While the rate of Black vaccination at FEMA-supported sites appears somewhat higher than the overall statewide rate published by Florida’s Department of Health, the comparison has limited value as the state and FEMA define “Black” in different ways. (Black Hispanics are included in the state count but not FEMA’s.)

State emergency management director Jared Moskowitz said the FEMA-supported sites — which had vaccinated nearly 400,000 people as of early April — are working.

“My job is to get shots in arms,” Moskowitz said. “I view [the FEMA sites] as a success because they have vaccinated hundreds of thousands of people. How can that be a failure?”

He credited the state with pushing for the sites to be walk-up, rather than asking people to make appointments online, and also for setting up smaller temporary sites that

rotate through predominantly minority communities, in addition to a main vaccination hub in each of the four metro areas.

Still, Moskowitz acknowledged the low numbers in the Black community.

"It's not for the lack of trying. We sit here every day trying to do more," he said. "This is not just a Florida problem. This is a problem in many other states."

In a statement, FEMA said that getting the word out about the sites is the state's responsibility.

'FEMA CAMPS'

In the early months of the state's vaccine rollout, DeSantis made dozens of appearances to publicize his administration's vaccination program, several times standing in front of Publix supermarkets with a "Seniors First" placard placed behind his lectern.

But the governor didn't make a single appearance at the federal sites, which he disparagingly called "FEMA camps." The sites were planned by the incoming Democratic administration even before President Joseph Biden was sworn in.

They were supposed to draw people who didn't live near a Publix or inside a gated community, two locations often chosen by state officials for vaccination campaigns. Instead, many of Florida's federally supported sites felt like ghost towns in the early weeks.

"'Build it and they will come' does not work," said Miami Commissioner Jeffrey Watson, whose district hosted a FEMA-supported site at Charles Hadley Park in predominantly Black Liberty City.

While the site, an anchor of Miami's Black community near one of South Florida's oldest housing projects, was more successful than others in Miami-Dade, its 24% Black vaccination rate still fell far below the percentage of Black residents in the surrounding area.

"The state didn't do anything. Just some generic signs," Watson said. "You could go door to door. You could do some radio, you could do some TV."

Records provided by the state show that emergency management officials did not start sending out canvassing teams in the neighborhoods around the sites until nearly two weeks after the federal program launched, even as local leaders asked for a robust political-style awareness campaign. (Moskowitz said the state didn't want to start door-knocking until DeSantis lowered age requirements and more people became eligible.)

The governor's office did not respond to requests for comment for this report.

LOW METRICS

As news stories proliferated in March about the program's slow start, state officials were reluctant to produce metrics.

When the Herald pressed last month for a detailed racial/ethnic breakdown for people who had been vaccinated at the federally supported sites, DeSantis' office refused. The state's emergency management division has still not answered a public records request for those numbers.

The Herald was ultimately able to obtain the data from FEMA.

The results disappointed public health experts, who said they should have matched or exceeded demographics for Black residents in the surrounding areas.

"I think it's a shame," said Bailey, the UM professor. "Miami-Dade and Orange County are where we want to be pushing the most in terms of addressing issues of health equity, and they're largely underperforming ... and underperforming at a pretty big level."

Still, some Black leaders applauded Florida's efforts to bring vaccines to their communities.

"Without the state's help in providing vaccinations and logistical support, the sites would not have been possible," said Kionne McGhee, a Miami-Dade commissioner who served alongside Moskowitz, a fellow Democrat, in the Florida House of Representatives.

Otis Wallace, the mayor of Florida City, said he never asked the state for money or resources to help with outreach at a federally supported site in his city.

"We didn't mind doing the legwork in our own community," including outreach to pastors, advertising on social media and door knocking, Wallace said.

HISPANICS VACCINATED

Reflecting statewide trends, the federally supported sites did a better job vaccinating Hispanics than Black people, especially in Miami-Dade, where Hispanics make up a majority of residents. However, the sites still fell short of vaccinating Hispanics at a level proportionate to the ethnic breakdown of the surrounding areas. Hispanics make up 40% of the population in the eight counties with FEMA-supported sites, but just 38% of vaccines went to Hispanics.

Nationwide, FEMA said the vaccination hubs, which have also been set up in New York, California, Illinois, Texas, North Carolina and more than 10 other states, are a success.

"Our data shows that 58% of all vaccine doses administered [nationwide] at the federal pilot [sites] went to communities of color," FEMA said.

The national data was not broken down by race.

Florida's federally supported sites are expected to remain open through May 26.

Statewide, FEMA-supported sites administered more than 245,000 doses between March 4 and March 23. Roughly 1.8 million shots were given out during that period across Florida overall.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

The vaccine rollout looked a little different in Haines City, a rural community of 26,000 in Polk County where local leaders took advantage of the city's existing communications network with residents.

While the city's small federally supported site gave out just more than 1,000 shots, one in three of them went to Black people, outperforming the area's demographics. Black people make up about 20% of residents in the surrounding ZIP code and 15% of county residents overall.

From the beginning of the pandemic, Haines City had kept people informed using an email list of 2,300 community leaders that included pastors, neighborhood groups, service organizations, homeowners associations and student body leaders. It blasted news about its FEMA site over the list. Word of mouth took over.

"The citizens knew that we had been working on this," said Deric Feacher, the Haines City manager. "They were ready."

Haines City was the only federally supported site in Florida that vaccinated a disproportionately large number of Black residents when compared to both local and countywide demographics.

The site was located at a park in the heart of Haines City's historically African American Oakland community. For days before the site opened, a prominent digital marquee at the neighborhood's entrance advertised the opportunity to get a shot.

"People go there to play basketball, have a picnic," said Feacher. "Seniors play checkers there. The Bethune magnet school is there. So parents saw the information daily. ... You don't just put it in the newspaper or a tweet."

'COULDN'T WAIT ON THE CAVALRY'

Successful vaccination campaigns require visibility and proactive outreach like the one in Haines City, public health experts and politicians agreed.

Too often, leaders think the job is done once they've talked to Black pastors, said Nixon, the Jacksonville-area state representative whom state officials never called about sites in her district.

"We have to take this outside the four walls of the church," Nixon said. "The Black community is not as much tied to the church as it used to be."

The federally supported site with the highest proportion of Black vaccine recipients statewide was Orlando's Northwest Neighborhood Center, where 47% of people vaccinated were Black — but in an area where Black people are nearly 70% of the population and make up the majority of seniors.

Only eight other sites across the state performed even that well — outperforming county demographics while still falling short in the immediate surrounding area.

Experts consulted by the Herald called the results in Orlando "mixed." The site's moderate success appeared to be the result of local efforts more than state outreach.

Regina Hill, an Orlando commissioner, said she got roughly a week's notice about the state's plans to open a FEMA site at the neighborhood center, which is in her district. She knew there was no time to waste.

"We treated it like a [political] campaign," Hill said. "That's what it is: A COVID campaign."

She organized a team of five people who knocked on doors at more than 8,000 homes around the site over three days. Two people working at phone banks arranged transportation for residents who needed it. Hill also organized a robo-call and text message campaign.

"There was no help in the beginning from the state. It was like pulling teeth at first to find someone to work with," Hill said. "But this was a life-and-death situation. I had people crying to me trying to figure out how to bury their loved ones. My brother died. People were getting sick left and right. They were petrified. I knew I couldn't wait on the cavalry."

Eventually, she said, the state sent out its own canvassing teams.

Hill is planning to seek reimbursement from FEMA for the \$2,700 her outreach campaign cost.

McClatchy White House correspondent Michael Wilner contributed to this report.

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The main news of the day in Miami and South Florida – Telemundo Miami (51)

BY **EXPLICA.CO** APRIL 20, 2021

U.S.

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officer Derek Chauvin, charged in the death of George Floyd. The prosecution and defense presented their final arguments and the case is now in the hands of the jury.

2. Two new coronavirus vaccination centers have opened in Miami-Dade. One is in Homestead, in Harries Field Park, and another in Hialeah, in downtown Milander, on Palm Avenue and East 48th Street, where 300 daily Moderna vaccinations will be administered. Meanwhile, starting today, the first and second doses of Pfizer will be applied on the north campus of Miami Dade College.

3. The parents of a six-month-old baby who had seven leg fractures, retinal detachment and a hematoma on the brain were arrested. Sheila Stephanie Aráuz, 28, and Joshua Ávila, 30, face charges of child neglect. According to the police, they knew of his son's injuries but did nothing to seek medical assistance.

4. Former Vice President Walter Mondale, who served during the presidency of Democrat Jimmy Carter between 1977 and 1981, has died. According to the official statement, Mondale died surrounded by his family at his home in Minneapolis. He was 93 years old.

5. Graduation events return to Universal Orlando Resort starting next year. Park officials announced that Grad Bash and Gradventure will return in April and May 2022. Grad Bash is for high school graduates and Gradventure is for middle school graduates. NBC Universal is the parent company of Telemundo 51.

The universe could be a simulation designed to fool our senses

Chorizo potatoes 🍌 – Easy recipe -👁️ Guacamouly



LOCAL NEWS

Capitol Watch: April 20, 2021



(Source: News Service of Florida)

By **News Service of Florida** | April 20, 2021 at 7:00 AM EDT - Updated April 20 at 7:00 AM

TALLAHASSEE (News Service of Florida) - Here's what's on tap in the Capitol today.

ELECTIONS BILL DEBATED: The Senate Rules Committee is slated to take up numerous high-profile issues, including a measure (SB 90), sponsored by Ethics and Elections Chairman Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, that would add a series of restrictions to voting by mail. Other bills on the agenda include a proposal (SB 522), filed by Sen. Manny Diaz Jr., R-Hialeah, that targets local regulation of vacation-rental properties; a proposal (SB 1922), filed by Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, that would revamp alimony laws; and a proposal (SB 2012), filed by Sen. Kelli Stargel, R-Lakeland, that could block transgender females from participating in girls' and women's high-school and college sports. (8:30 a.m. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)

HOUSE TO TAKE UP VOUCHERS REVAMP: The House will take up dozens of issues during a floor session, including a proposed revamp of the state's school-vouchers programs. The proposal (HB 7045), sponsored by PreK-12 Appropriations Chairman Randy Fine, R-Brevard County, would expand eligibility for vouchers and consolidate current voucher programs. Among other bills, the House will take up a proposed constitutional amendment (HJR 1461), sponsored by Rep. Sam Garrison, R-Fleming Island, that seeks to impose eight-year term limits on county

school board members and a bill (HB 1559), sponsored by Rep. Anthony Rodriguez, R-Miami, that would overhaul the state's alimony laws. (10 a.m., House chamber, the Capitol.)

SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET: The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to meet to set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. (15 minutes after the Rules Committee meeting, 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)

HOUSE RULES MEETS: The House Rules Committee is slated to meet. (15 minutes after the House floor session, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

MEDICAID EXPANSION BACKED: U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-Fla., state Sen. Annette Taddeo, D-Miami, and state Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, are expected to take part in an online rally to support expanding eligibility for Medicaid. The event will be hosted by the group Health Care for Florida. (6 p.m. Register at <https://www.healthcareforfl.org/2021>)

Also:

NEW COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will hold an online meeting. (2:30 p.m. <https://ncf.zoom.us/j/91515384981>. Meeting ID: 91515384981)

WATER, SEWER RATES AT ISSUE: The Florida Public Service Commission will consider a proposal by Utilities, Inc. of Florida to raise water and wastewater rates in Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Seminole counties. (9:30 a.m. Online at <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/Conferences/AudioVideoEventCoverage>)

DRUG POLICY DISCUSSED: The Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council will meet. (8:30 a.m. Call-in number: 850-792-1375. ID: 861461119)

VIRTUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETS: The Florida Virtual School Board of Trustees will hold an online meeting. (9 a.m. <https://flvs.zoom.us/j/89425596085>. Meeting ID: 89425596085. Passcode: 602645. Call-in number: 1-312-626-6799)

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees will meet. (9 a.m., EpiCenter, 13805 58th St. North, Clearwater.)

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The Miami Dade College Board of Trustees will meet. (8 a.m., Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, Chapman Conference Center, 300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. Livestream at <https://www.mdc.edu/livestream>)

TRIUMPH GULF COAST MEETS: The Triumph Gulf Coast Board will meet, with the agenda including a \$3.86 million truck-driver training program at Pensacola State College and a \$2.84 million grant for the Okaloosa County School District's Artificial Intelligence Learning Institute. (9:30 a.m. Central time. Call-in number: 1-877-568-4106. Code: 733061565)

FAU TRUSTEES MEET: The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. (10 a.m., Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton Campus, Schmidt Family Complex, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Online at <https://www.fau.edu/webcast/vclive/>)

UNION MEMBERS FIGHT DUES BILL: Republican members of several unions will hold a news conference to oppose a bill (SB 1014) that would make a series of changes affecting public-employee unions. (Noon, outside the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.)

PATRONIS TOUTS LIABILITY PROTECTIONS: State Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis will hold a news conference in Duval County to discuss the recent passage of a bill (SB 72) that shields health-care providers from lawsuits related to COVID-19. (2 p.m., Brooks Rehabilitation, 3599 University Blvd. South, Jacksonville.)

SANTA FE COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The Santa Fe College Board of Trustees will hold a workshop, followed by a regular board meeting. (Workshop at 2 p.m., board meeting at 4 p.m., Santa Fe College, 3000 N.W. 83rd St., Gainesville.)

PENSACOLA COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The Pensacola State College Board of Trustees will meet in Santa Rosa County after holding committee meetings. (Committees at 5 p.m., with full board at 5:30 p.m., Pensacola State College, Milton Campus, 5988 Highway 90, Milton.)

NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The North Florida College Board of Trustees will meet. (5:30 p.m., North Florida College, Lakeside Room, Student Center, Madison.)

PASCO-HERNANDO COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The Pasco-Hernando State College Board of Trustees will meet. (6 p.m., Pasco-Hernando State College, Spring Hill Campus, Rao Musunuru, M.D. Conference Center, 450 Beverly Court, Spring Hill. Online at <https://phsc.zoom.us/j/95402898356#success>. Meeting ID: 95402898356. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656)

CHIPOLA COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET: The Chipola College Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. (6:30 p.m., Chipola College, Public Service Building, Marianna.)

HURRICANE MICHAEL MONEY AT ISSUE: The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity will hold a meeting in Jackson County to gather input about the state's efforts to access \$46.9 million in federal mitigation funding for communities affected by Hurricane Michael. (5:30 p.m. Central time, Chipola College Continuing Education and Conference Center, Building S, 3094 Indian Circle, Marianna.)

STATE ROAD 20 DISCUSSED: The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a hearing to discuss improvements to State Road 20 from Okaloosa County to Washington County. (5:30 p.m. Central time, Heritage Church, 926 County Highway 83A West, Freeport.)

FRIED SPEAKS TO VOLUSIA DEMOCRATS: Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried is slated to speak during an online meeting of the Volusia Young Democrats. (7 p.m. Register at <https://www.mobilize.us/volusiayoungdemocrats/event/380831/>)

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Meet Some of the Top Grads at MDC

More than 14,000 students will earn MDC degrees for the 2020-21 academic school year



Commencement 2019- Kendall and West Campuses; Watsco Center UM; 05/04/2019

More than 14,000 graduates from Miami Dade College's eight campuses will earn degrees for the 2020-21 academic school year, continuing to demonstrate steady resolution and hard work despite the pandemic. This year's graduates will receive their diplomas at three Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 1, at Marlins Park.

Find out more about the Commencement ceremonies and livestream (<https://www.mdc.edu/commencement/>)

The Class of 2021 represents 167 nations. Many have already demonstrated leadership abilities and are making significant contributions in their communities, from volunteer work to blazing trails for minorities and running their own nonprofits.

Meet some of the 2021 outstanding graduates:

HIALEAH CAMPUS

This May, **Heily Rivas**, 17, is the fourth in her family to earn an MDC degree. Her mother and both her siblings graduated in the past two years with associate degrees and highest honors. Together with her father, a renowned musician in his native Colombia, they run a music school, Rivas Music & Video, have their own family band, El Grupo H., and host a radio show that airs on Sundays via Facebook page, Radio Paz 830 AM, and 96.1 FM. Rivas is receiving a degree in graphic design and has applied to the Fashion Institute of Technology, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and Savannah College of Art and Design. At the Hialeah Campus, she served as president of the Beta Pi Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, and Student Government Association vice president. She co-founded the Rivas Perdomo Family Foundation to deliver toys, scholarships, musical instruments, clothing, and shoes to underserved children and families in Latin America. Rivas aspires to become a fashion designer with her own brand rooted in the environment, human rights and prosperity.

Wendy Rodriguez is graduating from MDC with a bachelor's degree in information systems technology with a concentration in cybersecurity. She's headed to Carnegie Mellon University to pursue a master's degree in information security policy and management, a first for anyone in her family, who emigrated from Cuba. In addition to her studies, Rodriguez was Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) Fellow, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers president, vice president of Honors in Action (PTK), Women in Cybersecurity, Participating in the National Cyber League (NCL), and Hialeah Campus SCHOLARS peer mentor. She was named to the 2020 Phi Theta Kappa All Florida Academic Team and was a recipient of the UFMDC Scholarship, Presidential Volunteer Award; Rodolfo Cruz Scholarship; AT&T Scholar, Being the First (SHPE); and 2021 Phi Theta Kappa Florida Region Best Essay.

HOMESTEAD CAMPUS

First-generation college student **Jada Watkins**, 20, came to MDC determined to finish what her mother, who raised three children as a single parent, could not. Now, the biomedical sciences major is on her way to fulfilling her dream of attending medical school. The small community at Homestead Campus surrounded her will all the support necessary to allow for total immersion in the college experience. She is the recipient of several prizes and other accolades, including the MDC American Dream Scholarship, the 2020 MDC iCED President Award, and most recently, she was named a 2021 All-Florida Academic Scholar. Watkins was also active in school and community organizations, such as

TRIO Student Support Services, Rotary Club of Miami, Phi Beta Lambda and Student Government Association, to name a few. After graduation, she plans to attend Georgia Southern University to pursue her ultimate career goal of becoming an anesthesiologist and a community activist.

Social work major **Brenda Itzep**, 18, overcame obstacles, found support and excelled at MDC. Her brother motivated her to join MDC's Dual Enrollment Program; and MDC speech professor Adam Vellone provided words of wisdom that inspired her to look beyond negativity. Itzep's academic success has been recognized with endowments, such as Regions' First Generation and MDC's American Dream Scholarships. She also participated in Student Government Association and volunteered her time as a Sunday School teacher and helped recent immigrants connect with resources to support them. She plans to continue her studies at Florida International University and hopes to one day work with Child Protective Services. Her biggest aspiration is to liberate children from the trauma of living in abusive homes and provide them with a stable life to prosper and reach past their limits.

KENDALL CAMPUS

Karl-Julius Müller considers his existence a testament to the power of modern medicine. When his Cuban mother was in her teens, she had endometrial cancer and was told she would never have children. Years later, she became pregnant with him and underwent several surgical procedures to save her son before he was even born. Now he's on track to become an orthopedic surgeon and business administrator with a goal of improving other people's lives in developing countries. Müller, who's father is German, has applied to Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Yale, Cornell, Brown, Princeton, Duke, and the University of Pennsylvania. Müller completed three years of work experience as a business development manager in the hearing care industry, two medical observerships, research with the math department, research with the University of Florida microbiology department, and was a part-time lab assistant in the biology department at MDC. He graduates from MDC with a 3.98 GPA and continues to work to help support his family.

Joshua Ynirio, who was homeschooled his whole life, chose to study economics with the goal of positively impacting the lives of others by helping to analyze, develop and shape public policy. This year, he was a finalist for the prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship Award, the highest honor for student engagement leadership. Ynirio holds a Congressional Certificate of Recognition from Congresswoman Debbie Murcasel-Powell as a Councilmember on the Youth Advisory Council for Florida's 26th District; and was named Pathfinder of the Year (for the faith-based Pathfinder program). He also served as Director of Legislative Affairs for the Florida College System Student Government Association; Senator in the Legislative Committee in the Kendall Student Government Association; founding executive member and Secretary of Logistics of the United Model Nations Kendall Chapter; Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society member; and Phi Beta Lambda board member; among other student organizations. He also serves as a volunteer coordinator with Christ Fellowship church, enjoys learning new languages and playing the cello, violin, and piano.

MEDICAL CAMPUS

Nursing major **Krista Garcia**, 25, had a master's degree in autism spectrum disorder when she found her true passion and decided to become a nurse. She chose MDC's high quality accelerated nursing program, which is taught by leaders in the field, and works in partnership with Jackson Health to provide unique clinical opportunities for students. As a nurse, she hopes to care for, educate, and inspire her community. Garcia plans to work as a trauma or ER nurse and eventually wants to earn a doctoral degree in nursing and teach. During her time at MDC, Garcia, who graduates with 4.0 GPA, participated in extracurricular activities, such as the Special Olympics and Special Needs Ministry. She also devoted countless hours tutoring and encouraging many of her nursing cohorts. She is the recipient of the Joan K. Stout RN Advanced Cardiovascular Nursing Scholarship.

Chislon Griffiths also joined MDC's nursing program encouraged by its history of excellence. The 34-year-old Jamaican student is also active in the military reserve. He first heard of MDC after moving from Georgia to a military base in Homestead. He is the recipient of the Civic Action Award and the Annual Academic Excellence Award. His ability to remain cool under pressure, strong focus and critical thinking skills are among some of the many qualities that Griffiths' professors and mentors have identified as key to his success and journey in the nursing field. After graduation, he plans to attend Walden University with the goal of one day obtaining a master's in nursing informatics.

NORTH CAMPUS

As the editor-in-chief of *The Reporter*, MDC's award-winning student newspaper, mass communication and journalism major **Adriana Dos Santos**, dedicated over 20 hours per week to overseeing a staff of more than 40 student journalists and the biweekly paper's overall operation, including a strong social media presence. All of this, while maintaining good grades and participating in Phi Theta Kappa and the Venezuelan Student Alliance, among other volunteer activities. Born in Venezuela, Dos Santos credits MDC and her mentor, newspaper advisor Manolo Barco, with effectively helping her navigate the college system, finding her leadership style, opening up to new opportunities, and developing her personality. The 4.0 GPA graduate will continue her journey in the communications field and her goal is to become a public relations professional working for a major corporation or firm.

Biology major **Lucwilerna Raymond** came to the U.S. from Gonaïves, Haiti with her family four years ago. She is the middle child in a family of seven. Together they faced the struggles of starting a new life and stayed on track grounded in a strong belief that education is key to success. Now her brothers are all in school, from middle school to college, and her parents are also pursuing degrees at MDC simultaneously. At MDC, Raymond divided her time between schoolwork, volunteer activities and student organizations, including Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Doctors Without Borders, Student Government Association, The Chemistry Club, and TRIO Student Support Services, to name a few. Her hard work has been recognized with several scholarships, such as Leaders of Promise, conferred by PTK and other grants provided by MDC. She plans to attend the University of Miami in pursuit of her dream to become a pediatrician and open health clinics to serve low-income individuals and families.

PADRON CAMPUS

Chemistry major **Patricia Ruiz**, 19, first enrolled at MDC just to complete some basic college courses, but soon discovered she was at the absolute best place to earn a degree with a curriculum that far exceeded her expectations and a community of educators, peers, and advisors who took a personal interest in her progress and future goals. Born in Morelia, Mexico, Ruiz grew up in a single-parent home. At MDC, she excelled academically as part of the Honors College, worked as a student assistant in the STEM department and founded MDC's first thrift center at the Padron Campus, a free store for students. She graduates with a 3.9 GPA and a goal to pursue a master's degree in pharmaceutical and cosmetic science, hoping to one day open her own business and develop a line of environmentally friendly products.

Biology major **Amalia Abraham Martin** arrived in the U.S. from Cuba five years ago with a dream of becoming a computer engineer, like her father. But in 2018, while in the hospital caring for her mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer, she fell in love with the medical profession. At MDC, she served as vice president of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (<https://www.tribeta.org/>) and was website designer for the campus' award-winning literary magazine *Urbana* (<https://www.urbanalit.com/>). In her free time, she helped raise funds for the cancer nonprofit Sebastian Strong (<https://www.sebastianstrong.org/>). Last year her outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential earned her inclusion in the selected group of MDC students named 2020 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars. Most recently, she was awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious endowment for undergraduates pursuing research careers in natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering in the country. She plans to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Princeton, or Johns Hopkins University to pursue a career as a doctor and researcher specializing in oncology.

WEST CAMPUS

When he was one, information systems technology major **Thomas Bezombe** left his native Argentina with his mother in search of a better future in America. Like many undocumented students, Bezombe, now 19 years old, achieved his college dream thanks to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which has allowed him to study and work in the United States. He has fully leveraged this opportunity excelling academically and earning many accolades, including The National Scholarship Award, conferred by TheDream.US, and recently, he was one of 15 MDC students included in the 2021 All-Florida Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, of which he was vice president. Bezombe is graduating with a bachelor's degree and currently works part-time at MDC. His goal is to work as a network technician for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Nursing major **Mily Vargas** has faced many adversities. She lost her father at a young age and her mother had to raise five children on her own, working against food insecurity and financial hardship. Vargas then married and found herself in an abusive relationship. But she didn't give up. Strengthened by adversity, she set out to take control of her life and make the best of it. That is how she arrived at MDC, sure that she was at the right place to make it happen. She found a community that felt like home and the support of mentors who encouraged her and presented her with great opportunities. Vargas blossomed in every aspect, getting involved in multiple boards and committees

across MDC. She was also the recipient of the MDC FAITH scholarship, vice president of the Student Government Association, was a Newman Fellow finalist, and qualified for the President's Volunteer Service Award. After graduation, the 20-year-old will continue her education to one day become a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse.

WOLFSON CAMPUS

Political science major **Diana Montalvo** attributes her academic success to the skills acquired at MDC's Honors College. The 19-year-old Miami native had a tremendous run at MDC, earning the respect of her peers who selected her President of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for the 2020-21 academic year. In that role, she made it a priority that every chapter, officer and member was fully engaged in activities to assist the community during the difficult period of the pandemic. She draws inspiration and courage for everything she does from Diego, her older brother who is autistic. Seeing him endure difficult situations, such as hospitalizations while maintaining a positive outlook, always fills her with optimism and the belief that she can conquer anything. She is one of a handful of MDC students selected as finalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which supports exceptionally talented community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees. Montalvo's goal is to become a malpractice attorney and later open her own law firm.

Nicolas Arce, a sociology major, aspires to one day work full-time as a community activist. He's already built a solid foundation. Arce is a Civics305 Fellow with Engage Miami and during his tenure at MDC supported several organizations and causes, such as Save LGBT and Love the Everglades Movement. He also served as vice president of the YES! Club, Student Government Association, and was a mentor for the WIT (Whatever It Takes) program. Most recently, as the District 6 representative for the Transit Alliance Miami Riders Council, his Better Bus Project, a music video about adopting designated bus lanes across Miami-Dade County, caught the attention of Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, who committed to building the bus lanes by the end of the year. His dedication to public service and civic leadership earned him a scholarship from Point Foundation, a national LGBTQ+ scholarship fund, and a spot among 14 MDC finalists for the Newman Civic Fellow Award. Arce, who arrived at MDC with "subpar academic grades," ends his journey on a high note as an Honors College student with a 4.0 GPA.

Miami Dade College gets NSF grant to fund advanced cloud computing

By: Sue Arrowsmith April 20, 2021

Miami Dade College (MDC) has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for nearly \$600,000 to fund the development of new, advanced technical programs in cloud computing and help close the skills gap in this in-demand field. The programs will create a pathway for underrepresented populations to enter or re-enter the workforce with highly specialized skills.

The NSF grant will support three years of funding for the implementation of MDC's Emerging Cloud Hub Opportunities (ECHO). Building on the efforts of the current NSF Dade Enterprise Cloud Initiative grant, ECHO will develop advanced cloud certificates in cloud-related areas, such as DevOps and Data Analytics, and leverage the college's existing partnerships with Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft, IBM and Google to strengthen MDC's academic offerings leading to academic credentials, industry certifications, and ultimately employment.

ECHO also will implement advanced professional development training for MDC technology faculty members to teach the new cloud computing courses.

The grant will support students in the completion of the new programs. Additionally, an annual Cloud On-Demand Series summit will be held for faculty, students, community leaders and employers to network and learn about cloud technology trends and opportunities.

“Advancing regional cloud computing knowledge and skills is significant for MDC students to accelerate their careers,” said Prof. Lawrence E. Meyer Jr., principal investigator.

As part of this project, MDC’s School of Engineering and Technology (EnTec) already is developing a Business Industry Leadership Team (BILT) to identify knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by “right-skilled” future graduates. BILT engages dedicated local and national cloud experts to evaluate required job skills, ensuring a future-ready workforce. BILT will also help connect MDC cloud graduates and local cloud-based companies to cultivate and invest in diverse talent.

“With businesses moving rapidly to cloud, this opportunity could not have come at a better time,” said Dr. Elodie Billionniere, co-principal investigator of the grant.

MDC currently offers an Associate in Science and college credit certificate in cloud computing. To learn more, visit www.mdc.edu/cloudcomputingcenter.



<https://communitynewspapers.com/kendallgazette/miami-dade-college-gets-nsf-grant-to-fund-advanced-cloud-computing/>

MDC, NSU announce new agreement for cybersecurity graduate degrees

By: Allison Horton, April 20, 2021

In an ongoing effort to expand post-graduate opportunities for students, Miami Dade College (MDC) and Nova Southeastern University (NSU) established a new "4+1" articulation agreement that allows MDC graduates with a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity to seamlessly transfer to a master's degree at NSU with a special tuition discount.

"We are very excited to provide a pathway to our bachelor's in cybersecurity graduates to one of the strongest master's program in the region," said Antonio Delgado, dean of engineering, technology and design at MDC. "This collaboration will help close the gap that currently exist in cybersecurity."

The agreement provides assurance that students graduating from MDC's School of Engineering and Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher, become qualified for admission into the Master of Science in Cybersecurity Management at NSU's College of Computing and Engineering. Additionally, MDC graduates enrolled in the Master of Science in Cybersecurity Management program will receive a 10 percent discount of tuition.

“At NSU, we recognize the demand for cybersecurity professionals and embrace the opportunity to support a strong diverse talent pool,” said Meline Kevorkian, dean of the College for Computing and Engineering at NSU.



<https://communitynewspapers.com/kendallgazette/mdc-nsu-announce-new-agreement-for-cybersecurity-graduate-degrees/>

Miami Dade College announces dates of free on-site open house events

By: Norma Ardila April 20, 2021

Miami Dade College (MDC) is hosting on-site open house events at its campuses. All sessions are open free to the public.

Open to new and current students, parents, and anyone interested in starting a new career or advancing in their current one, open houses provide valuable information about hundreds of educational and job training opportunities available at MDC, including valuable information about high in-demand careers, as well a financial aid, scholarships, admissions, student organizations and more.

MDC has taken proactive steps to ensure safety on campus. **Open House attendees will be required to wear a face covering at all times.** Additional safety protocols include social distancing of at least six feet and routinely disinfecting frequently touched surfaces in accordance with public health officials and the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Homestead Campus, Thursday, May 6, 5-7 p.m., Building D breezeway;

Kendall Campus, Thursday, May 13, 5:30-8 p.m., Fred Shaw Memorial Plaza, between Building 2 and Building 9;

Padrón Campus, Tuesday, May 18, 5-7 p.m., Flag Courtyard, and

**Wolfson Campus, Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m.-noon, Kyriakides Plaza/
Building 2 breezeway.**



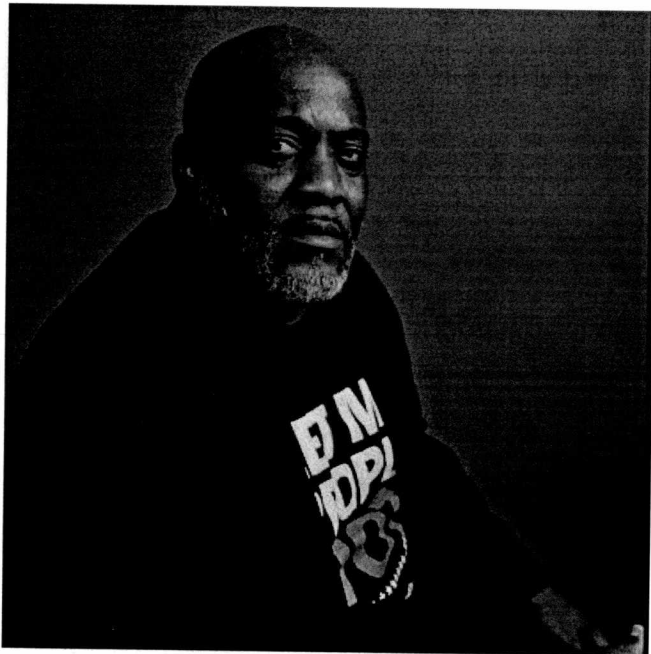
<https://communitynewspapers.com/kendallgazette/miami-dade-college-announces-dates-of-free-on-site-open-house-events/>

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES: Visit [Penn State's virus information website](#) to keep up with the latest from the University on the global coronavirus outbreak.



PennState

Voting rights advocate Desmond Meade to receive 2021 Brown Democracy Medal



Desmond Meade, executive director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, will be the recipient of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy's 2021 Brown Democracy Medal. He will visit University Park November 11 to receive the medal and present a public lecture on his work.

Image: Photo Provided

April 20, 2021

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — For Desmond Meade, the right to vote is not simply a bedrock of American democracy. It is a personal struggle. He knows what it's like to lose that right and he has spent the past 15 years working to help formerly incarcerated people in Florida fight to regain it.

Meade, the executive director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC), will be honored for his work as a democracy advocate with the McCourtney Institute for Democracy's 2021 Brown Democracy Medal. Under his leadership, the FRRRC launched Amendment 4, a ballot initiative that asked Florida residents whether voting rights should automatically be restored for people with prior felony convictions. The measure passed in November 2018 with support from 65% of the state's voters.

Meade lost his own right to vote in Florida when he went to jail in 2001 for felony possession of a firearm. He was released from prison in 2004 and introduced to the FRRRC in 2005 as part of a drug rehabilitation program and volunteered to start taking notes during meetings.

Meade said he considered the experience with FRRRC to be just as much of an education as the degrees he earned from Miami-Dade College and Florida International University College of Law. He quickly rose through the organization's ranks as it became clear that his lived experience as a formerly incarcerated person would be crucial to changing the hearts and minds of Florida voters in the Amendment 4 campaign.

"Me being a returning citizen and not being able to vote and not having my civil rights restored, there was a level of pain that I had that others didn't," Meade said. "The overwhelming majority of people want to be forgiven if they ever make a mistake, which opened the door for us to talk about second chances, rather than focusing on partisan politics."

Over the past decade, ballot initiatives have been used to strengthen democracy in states across the country by ending partisan gerrymandering, advancing reforms like ranked-choice voting and expanding the right to vote, as in the case of Amendment 4. Meade sees initiatives as an essential tool for citizen-led democracy reform that can unite people across the political spectrum to effect change.

"I think that every state should have a process in which citizens of that state can say that they want something different, something other than what the politicians want, and we're going to come together and make it happen," Meade said. "With Amendment 4,

the tool of democracy was being utilized by the people who are closest to the pain and I think it says a lot about what's possible."

McCourtney Institute for Democracy Director Michael Berkman said Meade's leadership and work on the Amendment 4 campaign symbolizes the institute's mission to be "partisans for democracy" and recognize those who are working across divides to promote fairness, equality and the common good.

"The Amendment 4 coalition was democracy working in service of democracy," Berkman said. "Their bipartisan appeal went directly to Florida citizens and was grounded in their sense of fairness and inclusion."

Meade is the author of the book "Let My People Vote: My Battle to Restore the Civil Rights of Returning Citizens" and was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in 2019. He will accept the Brown Democracy Medal and present a public lecture on his work at University Park on Nov. 11.

Established in 2014, the Brown Democracy Medal is funded by Larry and Lynne Brown to recognize new and innovative scholarship or practice in democracy. Both are Penn State alumni, and Larry is chair of the McCourtney Institute's Board of Visitors. Recent recipients include nonviolent activist Srdja Popovic and David Farrell and Jane Suiter of the Irish Citizens' Assembly.

Last Updated April 20, 2021

Education

How Did Institutions Spend COVID-19 Relief Funding?



White Robert

2 days ago

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Diverse[®] ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Last year, the effects of COVID-19 caused unemployment rates to increase and forced many businesses to shut their doors.

For higher education institutions, the transition to virtual learning resulted in revenue loss and created more awareness around existing equity gaps.

Dr. Julie Alexander

However, the passing of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March 2020 offered a temporary funding solution for individuals and industries.

Among the \$2.2 trillion allocated under the CARES Act, \$14 billion was distributed to the Office of Postsecondary Education as part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). More recently, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided \$40 billion to the higher education sector.

To understand how colleges and universities used their emergency grant funding, consulting firm Whiteboard Advisors hosted a virtual panel discussion with higher education leaders and advocates on Monday.

"For all of higher education, this was a challenging time," said Dr. Julie Alexander, vice provost for academic affairs at Miami Dade College (MDC). "For many institutions, like Miami Dade, it was particularly difficult beyond the academic endeavors. Life for all of us has been hard. Life for individuals that already have hard lives is that much more difficult."

Due to its close proximity to ski resorts and reliance on the local economy, Colorado Mountain College (CMC) acted before the CARES Act funding guidance was announced. To encourage students to stay within the mountain communities rather than leaving for urban cities, CMC offered summer 2020 tuition at no cost.

Despite ultimately not being able to use stimulus funding to cover the tuition, CMC was still able to offer the free program. Now, crediting this initiative and others, the school is on pace to graduate its largest class in history, according to CMC President and CEO Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser.

"The more that we can do to support our economy recovering is actually good for us," said Hauser. "It's very much a holistic ecosystem."

At Georgia State University, two processes were developed to distribute the CARES Act funding. Students filled out an application to indicate their needs. More than 4,000 grants were given out over the last year. However,

wanting to reach more students, the university used their existing data to automatically identify students who faced financial hardships. Using this method, more than 40,000 grants have now been administered to students.

"We think that proactive approach to distributing CARES Act and subsequent federal aid has been critical in distributing the money more equitably and also eliminating equity gaps," said Dr. Tim Renick, executive director of the National Institute for Student Success at Georgia State.

Dr. Tim Renick

Institutions also used funding to address accessibility challenges brought on by virtual learning.

At MDC, students had the ability to check out mobile hotspots and over 3,000 laptops were distributed. Additionally, the institution also referred students to free available resources provided by larger internet providers.

"There is a lot that we have done," said Alexander. "But there is certainly a long way to go into ensuring that students have adequate access to internet."

Access to technology was not just a challenge for students. Faculty and staff members also experienced it. To address this, CMC offered its

employees a remote learning stipend to help with technology upgrades and other needs while working remote.

In addition to courses, mental health support also moved online. At Georgie State, the online platform for its group counseling sessions has increased participation.

"We think this is because the stigma has been reduced," said Renick. "Rather than having to show up in a room physically, you are instead popping up on a screen. In that sense, it's been kind of a bright spot."

As institutions and students continue to grapple with the effects of COVID-19, the panelists also provided recommendations around needed state and federal policies.

Rather than focusing on merit-based programs, Dr. Wil Del Pilar, vice president of higher education policy and practice at The Education Trust, advised states to invest in need-based initiatives.

At the federal level, Hauser emphasized the need to increase Pell grant amounts and offer more flexibility on the use of financial aid.

Currently, the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) rules require students to maintain a 2.0 grade point average to receive federal aid. Out of fear that students will begin "falling out of compliance" for federal aid eligibility, Renick encouraged policymakers to adjust the rules.

"Business is not as usual," he said. "Students cannot be expected to perform in the same way during a pandemic. If we do not adjust that policy, what we are going to be doing is finding even more students, especially from low-income and underserved backgrounds, walking away from higher education."

Sarah Wood can be reached at swood@diverseeducation.com.

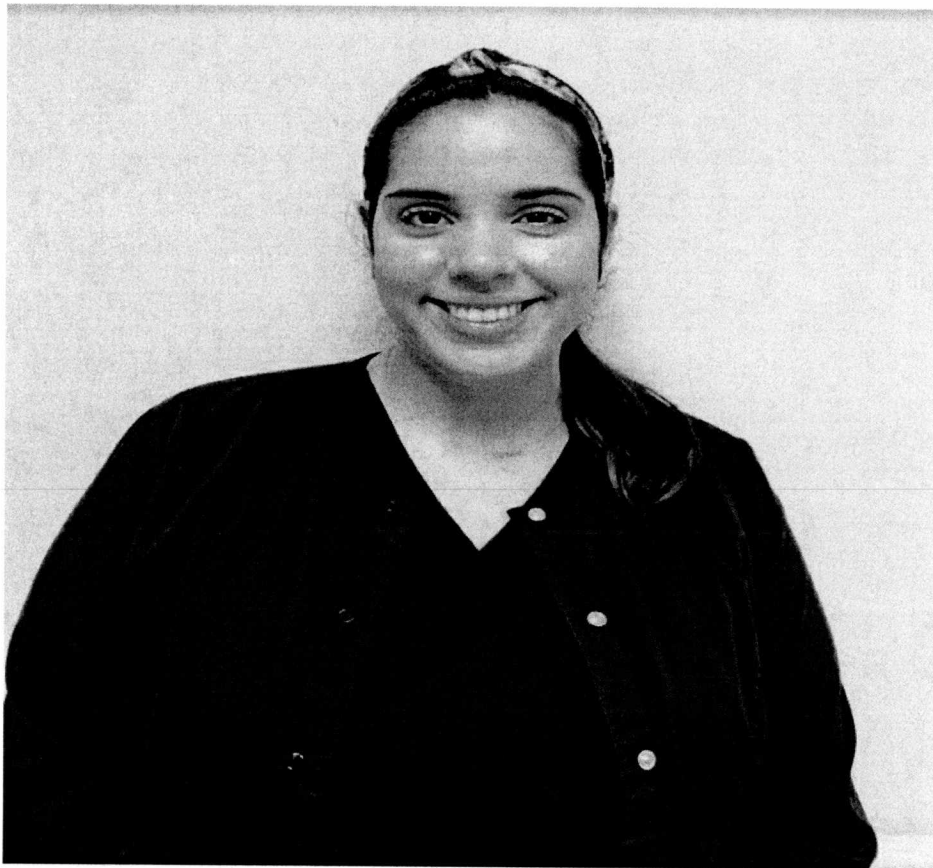
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MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWS

Miami's Community News

Meet Amanda Montero from Coral Gables Hospital

By: Community News Releases
April 21, 2021



Amanda Montero

Amanda Montero is a nurse at Coral Gables Hospital. Amanda has a passion for nursing and a passion for taking care of her community. Her career in nursing has translated into almost 3 years of healthcare experience in the medical surgical unit where she has oriented new employees and even served as charge nurse when needed.

Amanda earned her nursing degree at Miami Dade College. At the start of the COVID pandemic Amanda was pregnant, but when she returned to work she was eager to help on the COVID unit.

During her spare time, she enjoys photography as well as spending time with family and friends. Amanda takes great pride in her work and has found a passion for serving her community.



<https://communitynewspapers.com/coral-gables-news/meet-amanda-montero-from-coral-gables-hospital/>

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Ready to move on? Revalidate your title in Miami without spending extra money or time

April 20, 2021 by archyde

Apr. 20 – As a city of immigrants, often arriving from elsewhere with a career and work experience, Miami offers everyone a second chance for professional development. But the beginnings are usually confusing and above all expensive for those who want to work in the United States in the same as in their country.

The Venezuelan educational consultant Gustavo Méndez has advice for those who want to revalidate their degree in the United States. “Do not ask a friend or the neighbor but people who know.”

As happened to himself when he arrived in Miami, and later saw a common pattern among foreigners who had to evaluate educational credentials, people often waste time and money paying for services that they will not need.

“The first question you should ask yourself is what steps you want to follow in your profession,” he told el Nuevo Herald Méndez, who made and supervised more than 20,000 evaluations when he worked at Josef Silny & Associates, the only authorized office in the South. from Florida to make the equivalences of grades of the studies abroad.

This Saturday, April 24, Méndez will offer a virtual talk that will address three fundamental topics: Steps to follow to practice your profession in the United States; what is a regulated and unregulated profession, and the requirements to legally practice a profession.

Méndez explains that a long list of professions and trades are regulated in the United States and the fact that a person obtains an evaluation from one of the offices authorized to issue the equivalences of degrees between his country and the United States does not mean that he can practice it. .

He gives the example of an engineer, a regulated profession, who goes to the local authorized office to obtain the equivalence of his degree, and when he has it in hand, he cannot practice because he has to comply with the requirements of Florida.

Regulated professions include architects, doctors, dentists, accountants, lawyers, real estate salespeople, home appraisers, and trades such as plumber, electrician, hairdresser, and manicurist. Some of them may require only obtaining a license and others passing several exams and then exercising training or residency, as in the case of doctors, who have a long way to go.

To find out if your profession is among those regulated, check with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the entity that regulates businesses and professions.

At the same time, Méndez urges people not to lose the momentum to reinvent themselves or continue their studies, but pointing out that the first thing to do should be to dedicate time and

effort to learning English because it will be needed to practice most professions.

In the same way, he advises to take advantage of the courses they have already taken in their country because they can be used to earn a living here, or as equivalences of courses that will save you time and money to graduate from an American institution.

“There are people who are computer savvy and have multiple certificates. Some of those certificates can be turned into courses that have academic credit value,” said Méndez, who works in Miami Dade College’s Prior Learning Assessment office, which allows college students earn academic credit for their professional experience.

“You may be an aircraft pilot in Peru,” he exemplifies, “and you want to take a course in Aircraft Maintenance. The idea is to present the documents you have and talk to someone who will guide you first. Think about how many years it took you to graduate from your career. in your country. You can’t think that in two years everything will be ready. “

In Miami, which constantly welcomes experienced adults, especially from Latin America, the option of shortening the time to get to a better-paying job is worth its weight in gold.

Méndez, who also collaborates with non-profit organizations, offers the talk for the benefit of the Association of Venezuelan Journalists Abroad (APEVEX). Journalism, by the way, is an unregulated profession in America, but there are many professionals looking beyond their own field.

Revalidation of the title in Miami

More than a revalidation, it is an evaluation of the academic credentials that a person obtained in another country. These are essential for those who want to continue studies in the United States, for example, obtain a master’s or doctorate. Educational institutions will ask foreign students for the documents of the courses they took in their country, evaluated by a United States office.

In South Florida, the only office authorized to offer academic equivalences is Josef Silny & Associates, Inc., in Southwest Miami. They are authorized to evaluate academic credentials from any country in the world.

The Josef Silny & Associates, Inc website has a series of common questions and answers about the evaluation process and the necessary documents. The original grades and title must be submitted, signed and stamped by the university institution that issued them. In addition to the originals, the English translation made by a certified professional and a detailed explanation of the courses are attached.

The cost of evaluations depends on the complexity of the cases and the services requested. The equivalency process usually takes about 15 days after the office receives it.

After the evaluation is issued, the person can follow the steps required to practice the profession, such as obtaining licenses, or continuing to study at an institution in the United States.

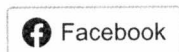
In Florida, there is only one other office authorized to do academic evaluations, Academic Evaluation Services (AES), in Tampa.

“The pandemic affected all of us, not just restaurant, airline and cruise ship workers, and many are trying to return to the field where they studied. Do not make hasty decisions,” advised Méndez, author of the title Revalidation brochure. : How to work and study in the USA, which can be obtained on Amazon.

The expert also offers help on a Facebook page and can answer short questions, free of charge, to those who write to gustamor@outlook.com

To register for the Virtual Conference Revalidation of Titles, Save Time and Money, April 24, 11 am, you can do so at: apevex@apevex.org. Cost: \$ 5 for Apevex affiliates, and \$ 15, general price.

You can also consult Josef Silny & Associates, Inc., experts in evaluating the educational credentials of foreigners. 7101 SW 102 Ave., (305) 273-1616.

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Live Arts Miami to present performances of Michelle Grant-Murray's RoseWater

By **Norma Ardila** - April 20, 2021



Live Arts Miami (LAM) will present Michelle Grant-Murray's *RoseWater*, the first of six unforgettable new performances addressing climate change and sustainability produced by LAM's 2020/2021 LALA Artists in Residence. The live performances will take place on Friday, Apr. 23, and Saturday, Apr. 24, 7:30 p.m., at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. Shows are open free to the public with limited capacity.

A hauntingly beautiful piece of dance theater, *RoseWater* is a dance ritual inspired by the ancestral practice of rosewater baths prepared by the artist's grandmother. The performance masterfully blends sobering revelation with hopeful inquiry, calling for transformational change and acknowledging the multigenerational legacy of healing and restoration passed down through ancestral lines in Black communities.

This thought-provoking, outdoor performance will transform Pinecrest Gardens into a space of inspired ritual movement, critical inquiry, and embodied memory, all organized into various stages and performances throughout the grounds, featuring some of Miami's most talented performers accompanied by projections of originally-produced video works related to the themes of the performance.

The project begins the much-anticipated LALA Performance Series, the capstone to Live Arts Miami's Live Arts Lab Alliance Artist (LALA) residency program, which empowers local performing artists from different backgrounds and disciplines to generate new work and establish new networks of creative feedback and collaboration.

In 2020, Live Arts Miami announced its latest cohort: six locally-based artists selected across performing arts disciplines to develop works centered on climate change and sustainability in Miami, including Michelle Grant-Murray, Dale Andree, Sandra Portal-Andreu, Fereshteh Toosi, Susan Caraballo, and Hattie Mae Williams.

Choreographer, director, and producer Michelle Grant-Murray is an independent choreographer, performer, and artistic director of Olujimi Dance Theatre. Currently, she is associate professor and coordinator of dance at Miami Dade College, where she also is the artistic director of the Jubilation Dance Ensemble and executive director of the annual Artistry-in-Rhythm Dance Conference.

Prof. Grant-Murray holds a bachelor's degree in dance from Jacksonville University, a master's degree in African studies with a pedagogy and cultural studies concentration from Florida International University, and an MFA in choreography from Jacksonville University.

Performers include A'Keitha Carey, Melissa Cobblah-Gutierrez, Erika Loyola, Shanna Woods, and Prof. Grant-Murray. Films by Woosler Delisfort and C.W. Griffin. Apon Nichols is the light designer, Edwena Hernandez is the costume designer.

This show will be presented live to a limited audience with COVID-19 safety protocols in place. All guests must register in advance and show their e-ticket on their mobile device at the door for a contactless experience. All are required to adhere to social distancing guidelines and wear the appropriate facial coverings correctly throughout the event, except when eating or drinking. This live performance is open free to the public with limited capacity. RSVP required.

For more information about the artist, cast, and crew, visit www.liveartsmiami.org. RSVP at www.liveartsmiami.org.

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Norma Ardila

37 Years MIAMI TODAY

Filming in Miami: April 22, 2021

Written by Miami Today on April 20, 2021

These film permits were issued last week by the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory & Economic Resources' Office of Film and Entertainment, (305) 375-3288; the Miami Mayor's Office of Film, Arts & Entertainment, (305) 860-3823; and the Miami Beach Office of Arts, Culture and Entertainment-Film and Print Division, (305) 673-7070.

InspiredD3, Miami. Commercial for Roy Care Plus. South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

Park Pictures, New York. Commercial for Dicks Sporting Goods. Triple Bay Hangar.

IFCM Corp d/b/a FilmGate, Miami Beach. Documentary for 1MMS. Liberty Square.
5 Towns Media House, Valley Stream, NY. Music video for Sammy Sosa. Tamiami Park.

New Pop Culture Productions, Los Angeles. Television series for LHHM4. La Fourchette.

Lucky 8 TV, New York. Television series for To Catch a Smuggler. Miami International Airport.

Melanin Voyage, Vestavia Hills, AL. Still photography for Melanin Voyage 25k photoshoot.
Miami Executive Airport.
Miami Photo Safari, Miami. Still photography for Small Miami Weddings Styled Photo Shoots. Crandon Park Gardens.

Select Services A Production Company, Miami. Still photography for Swimsuits for All.
Haulover Beach Park.

Drishti Dream Corp., Doral. Still photography for Mother's Day Mini Seasons. Crandon Park Gardens.

New York Film Academy, New York. Student project for Do It. Rickenbacker Causeway Fishing Pier.

Miami Dade College School of Entertainment & Design, Miami. Student project for Soft Driven Mad. Greynolds Park.

<https://www.miamitodaynews.com/2021/04/20/filming-in-miami-april-22-2021/>

Film

OUTshine Miami Film Festival Again Goes Virtual (/Film/outshine-miami-film-festival-again-goes-virtual.html)

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"Beyto," a Swiss film about a young Turkish immigrant's relationship with his swimming coach, is one of the films featured in the 2021 OUTshine Miami LGBT Film Festival. Credit: Salzgeber.

The OUTshine Miami Film Festival, April 23 – May 2, will once again showcase the best in new LGBT-themed features, shorts and documentaries with a combination of mostly streaming and outdoor screenings.

The festival will open at Dezerland Drive-In in North Miami with "Potato Dreams of America," a semi-autobiographical comedy film that chronicles director Wes Hurley's childhood in Russia and immigration to the United States with his mail-order bride mother.

More than 80 films will then be available via internet streaming beginning April 24. And, like past OUTshine Miami and Fort Lauderdale festivals held since the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered theaters, the online films will be available to viewers across the state and not limited to audiences in either city.

"No matter who you are or what your coming out journey has been, we have a film for you," promised Victor Gimenez, executive director. "One of the greatest strengths of the festival being virtual is that it allows us to show the films for longer periods of time and to a broader audience across the entire state of Florida."

Like traditional festivals, organizers will still host virtual Q&A sessions with filmmakers and talent and stream them on OUTshine's Facebook and YouTube channels.

"These will be great because we can we can really go in-depth

with talent located across the globe," Gimenez explained.

The festival will conclude on May 2 with an outdoor screening of "Charlatan" at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden.

The pandemic offered organizers an opportunity to introduce viewers to new opportunities to enjoy LGBT programming throughout the year: OUTshine At Home. After the festival's conclusion, members will be able to access eight to 10 films every month, a mixture of brand-new titles and older festival favorites that are not available on any other streaming services.

OUTshine at Home "will enable our audience to discover incredible new content and remain engaged in LGBTQ+ film throughout the year," Gimenez pointed out.

Here are SFGN's mini-reviews of five films being screened during the festival's first weekend:

"Potato Dreams of America"

East Coast Premiere

Friday, April 23, 7 p.m., Dezerland Drive-In

U.S./English/95 mins.

The festival opens with this autobiographical dark comedy about a gay boy growing up in the Soviet Union, his mail-order bride mother and their adventurous escape to America. When they arrive in Seattle, Washington in 1990 to live with Lena's new husband, they both realize life in America is different than they imagined.

SFGN: Fans of the Oscar-winner "The Favourite" or Hulu series "The Great" will appreciate writer/director Wes Hurley's oddball humor and unconventional approach. Some audiences will scratch their heads, but there's still plenty of heart — and art — in his story.

"A Good Man"

Florida Premiere

France/French with English subtitles/108 mins.

Benjamin, a transgender man still transitioning, and Aude are making a life together in Brittany, France. The couple is about to step into uncharted territory, though, as there is no alternative for having a child, other than Benjamin carrying the baby.

SFGN: LGBT festival line-ups are frequently loaded up with coming out stories. It's refreshing to see trans stories being told, even if this film reminds us of a real-life couple that inspired tabloid headlines in the U.S. a few years ago.

"Beyto"

Switzerland/German and Turkish with English subtitles/98 mins.

Beyto is a terrific swimmer and everybody's buddy. But as the young Turkish-Swiss man falls in love with his handsome coach Mike, his perfect world seems to fall apart. For Beyto's parents there is only one solution to maintain the tradition and honor of their family: He has to marry a woman as soon as possible.

SFGN: Honestly, we've seen this coming-out story before, yet it's still fresh and engaging, thanks to the good looks and onscreen charisma of stars Burak Ates (Beyto) and Dimitri Stapfer (Mike). Definitely one of our favorite films.

"Narcissus and Goldmund"

East Coast Premiere

Germany, Austria/German with English subtitles/94 mins.

In the dark middle ages, young unruly Goldmund is sent to a monastery by his father to atone for the sins of his mother who abandoned them. There, the passionate, outgoing boy meets Narcissus, a brilliant, scholarly novice, who is introverted and aloof. Quickly, a unique and deep life-long friendship is born.

SFGN: Kids today just don't realize how good they have it. Think "Name of the Rose" (1986), just without Sean Connery and a twinkish Christian Slater ... and murder and that monk conspiracy. Not your usual LGBT festival fare.

"Saint-Narcisse"

Southeast Premiere

Canada/French with English subtitles/101 mins.

When he learns that his birth mother is still alive, a narcissistic young man embarks on a quest to find her. Not only does he discover her living with another woman, but he also learns that he has a twin brother who's serving as a whipping boy-toy for a particularly depraved priest.

SFGN: We wish we had thought of this particularly eloquent description from the film's promotional materials: "Saint-Narcisse" is "[an] occasionally twincestuous tale of doppelgängers, doppelbängers and skewed family values." Freaky!

Watch next week's issue of SFGN for more mini-reviews from the festival's second weekend.

The OUTshine Miami LGBT Film Festival runs April 23 – May 2 and films can be screened from anywhere in Florida. Tickets for most individual films are \$12 each with discounted packages available. For tickets and more information, go to [OUTshineFilm.com](https://outshinefilm.com/) (<https://outshinefilm.com/>).

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Ciencia y Tecnología

Miami College e IBM impulsan diversidad y centro de inteligencia artificial

2021-04-20



Miami, 20 abr (EFE News).- El Miami Dade College (MDC), la universidad más diversa del país y la multinacional IBM se asociaron para identificar nuevos campos tecnológicos de estudios, ofrecerlos a estudiantes de diversos orígenes y experiencias e impulsar en el futuro un nuevo Centro de Inteligencia Artificial.

La inteligencia artificial, la computación en la nube híbrida, seguridad cibernética y computación cuántica serán algunas de las nuevas ofertas de programas del MDC para la formación de profesores y estudiantes para suplir las nuevas necesidades del mercado laboral, detalló este martes la universidad en un comunicado.

La idea es proveer "los recursos para atraer, capacitar y empoderar a una fuerza laboral diversa e incluyente", manifestó este martes Jeff Welser, directivo del brazo de investigación IBM.

"Con nuestros programas de creación de destrezas, nuestro objetivo es eliminar las barreras comunes de acceso a campos tecnológicos emergentes", agregó el directivo de este proveedor mundial de servicios de nube híbrida, Inteligencia Artificial y servicios empresariales.

Madeline Pumariega, presidenta del MDC y de origen cubano, subrayó que se trata de "satisfacer la creciente demanda de expertos en tecnología en todo el país".

La universidad de Miami tiene actualmente estudiantes que representan a 167 naciones y 63 idiomas e imparte más de 300 programas.

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Pumariega detalló que la alianza e inversión de IBM en el MDC proporcionarán a los estudiantes, y al sur de la Florida en general, "la máxima ventaja para aprovechar nuevas oportunidades" de las necesidades de la fuerza laboral.

"Este apoyo puede ser un punto de inflexión para muchos", expresó por su parte Antonio Delgado, decano de Ingeniería, Tecnología y Diseño del MDC.

El Programa Global de Universidades de IBM donará más de 10 millones de dólares en activos durante los próximos tres años para la financiación de conferencias, contenido curricular, insignias digitales, software y capacitación docente.

El futuro Centro de Inteligencia Artificial del MDC operará con un enfoque en Inteligencia Artificial (IA) aplicada, explicó la universidad.

Precisó que usará un método muy diferente a los centros convencionales de investigación de IA, y será relevante para el currículo en general, no sólo del de quienes estudian tecnología.

El centro también brindará acceso a alumnos con otras especialidades que quieran aprender nuevas tecnologías.

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Miami College e IBM impulsan diversidad y centro de inteligencia artificial

20/04/2021 3:29: PM



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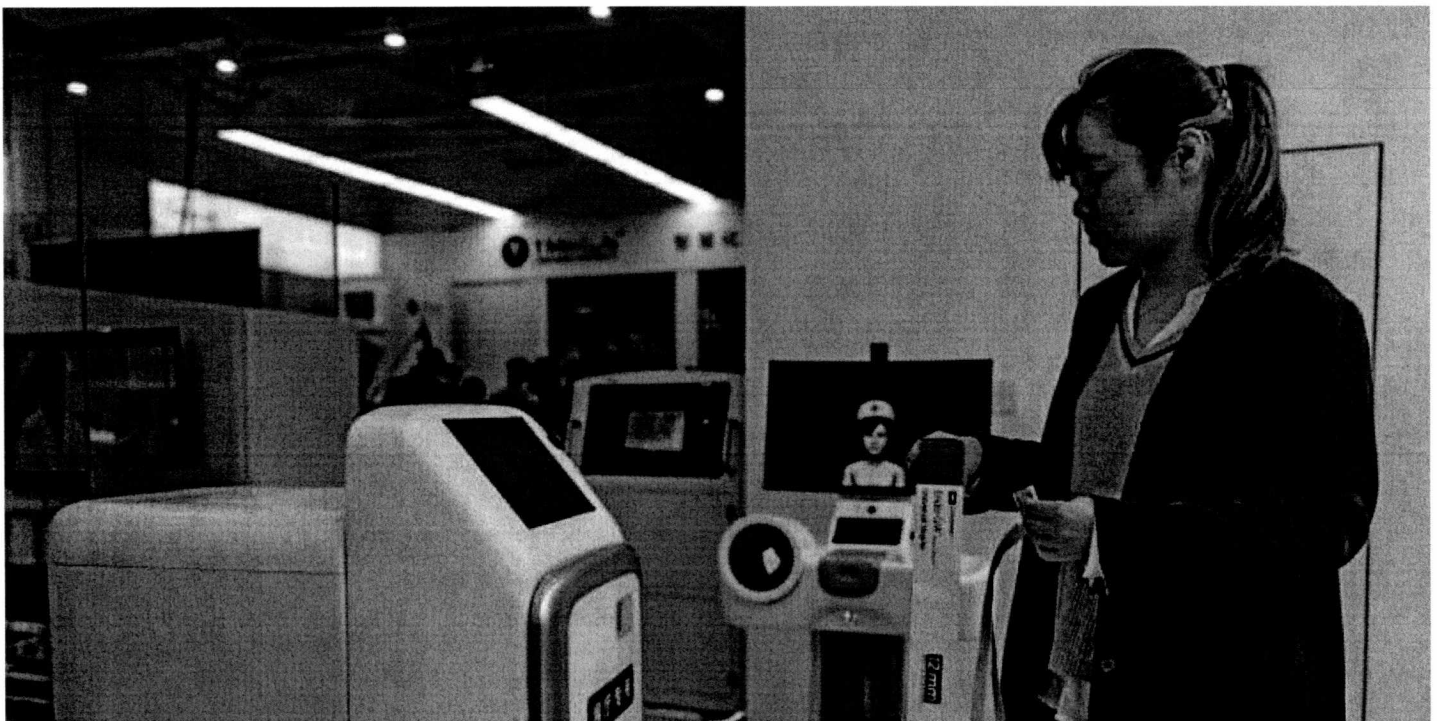
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Miami College e IBM impulsan diversidad y centro de inteligencia artificial

Miami, 20 abr (EFE News).- El Miami Dade College (MDC), la universidad más diversa del país y la multinacional IBM se asociaron para identificar nuevos campos tecnológicos de estudios, ofrecerlos a estudiantes de diversos orígenes y experiencias e impulsar en el futuro un nuevo Centro de Inteligencia Artificial.

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La inteligencia artificial, la computación en la nube híbrida, seguridad cibernética y computación cuántica serán algunas de las nuevas ofertas de programas del MDC para la formación de profesores y estudiantes. EFE/EPA/Alex Plavevski/Archivo

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La idea es proveer "los recursos para atraer, capacitar y empoderar a una fuerza laboral diversa e incluyente", manifestó este martes Jeff Welser, directivo del brazo de investigación IBM.

"Con nuestros programas de creación de destrezas, nuestro objetivo es eliminar las barreras comunes de acceso a campos tecnológicos emergentes", agregó el directivo de este proveedor

Madeline Pumariega, presidenta del MDC y de origen cubano, subrayó que se trata de "satisfacer la creciente demanda de expertos en tecnología en todo el país".

La universidad de Miami tiene actualmente estudiantes que representan a 167 naciones y 63 idiomas e imparte más de 300 programas.

Pumariega detalló que la alianza e inversión de IBM en el MDC proporcionarán a los estudiantes, y al sur de la Florida en general, "la máxima ventaja para aprovechar nuevas oportunidades" de las necesidades de la fuerza laboral.

"Este apoyo puede ser un punto de inflexión para muchos", expresó por su parte Antonio Delgado, decano de Ingeniería, Tecnología y Diseño del MDC.

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INTELIGENCIA ARTIFICIAL +

Miami College e IBM impulsan diversidad y centro de inteligencia artificial

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Miami Dade College (MIAMI DADE COLLEGE)

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TEMAS

Estados Unidos IBM Inteligencia artificial Tecnología

+ Leídas

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Fiscalía federal pide no se le permita a Raphy Pina venir a RD para nacimiento de su hija



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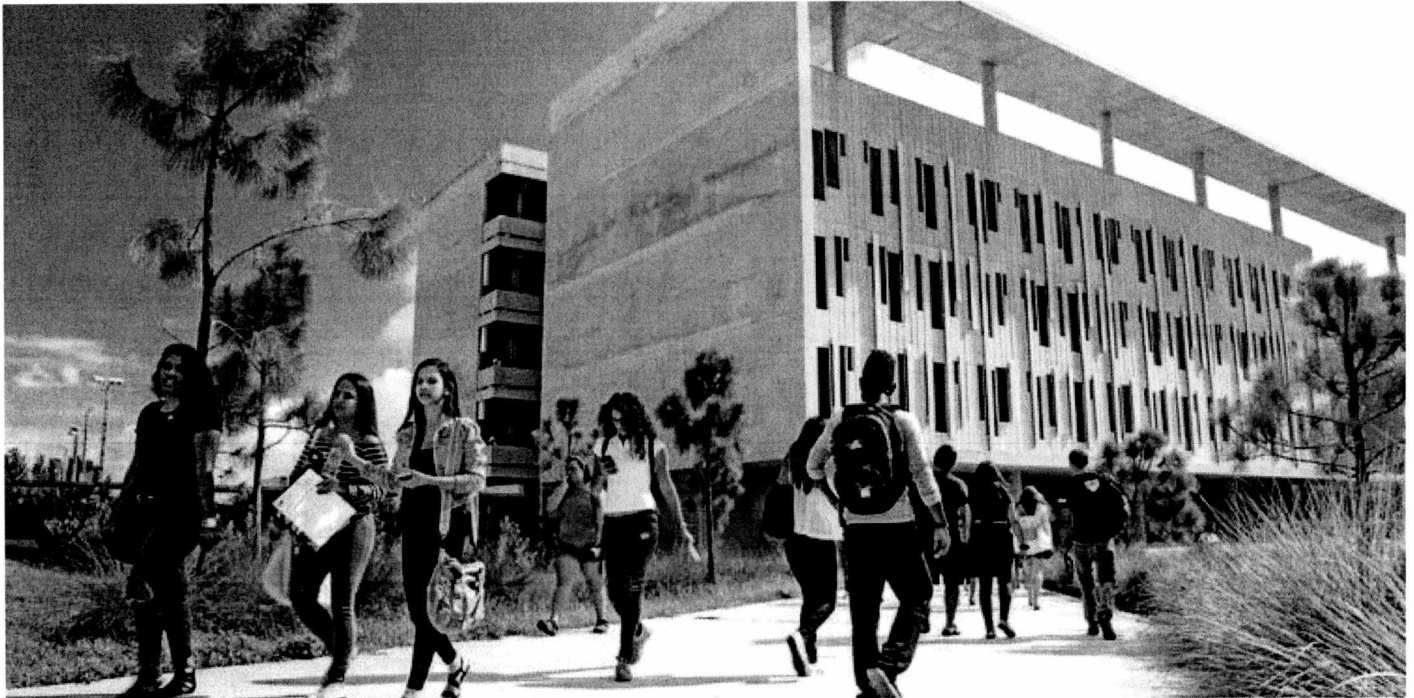
Vive Miami en Español

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Miami College tendrá centro de inteligencia artificial gracias a IBM

Rondará los 10 millones de dólares

por Luis Morales — abril 20, 2021 en [Ciencia y Tecnología](#), [Destacado](#), [Miami](#)



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Miami sigue creciendo y en la búsqueda de ser uno de los centros tecnológicos más grandes del mundo. En esta ocasión se concretó un acuerdo entre el Miami-Dade College e IBM.

El Miami Dade College (MDC), la universidad más diversa de Estados Unidos, y la multinacional IBM se asociaron para identificar nuevos campos tecnológicos de estudios, ofrecerlos a estudiantes de diversos orígenes y experiencias e impulsar en el futuro un nuevo Centro de Inteligencia Artificial.

Noticias Relacionadas

Restaurant de Florida decidió emplear robots como camareros

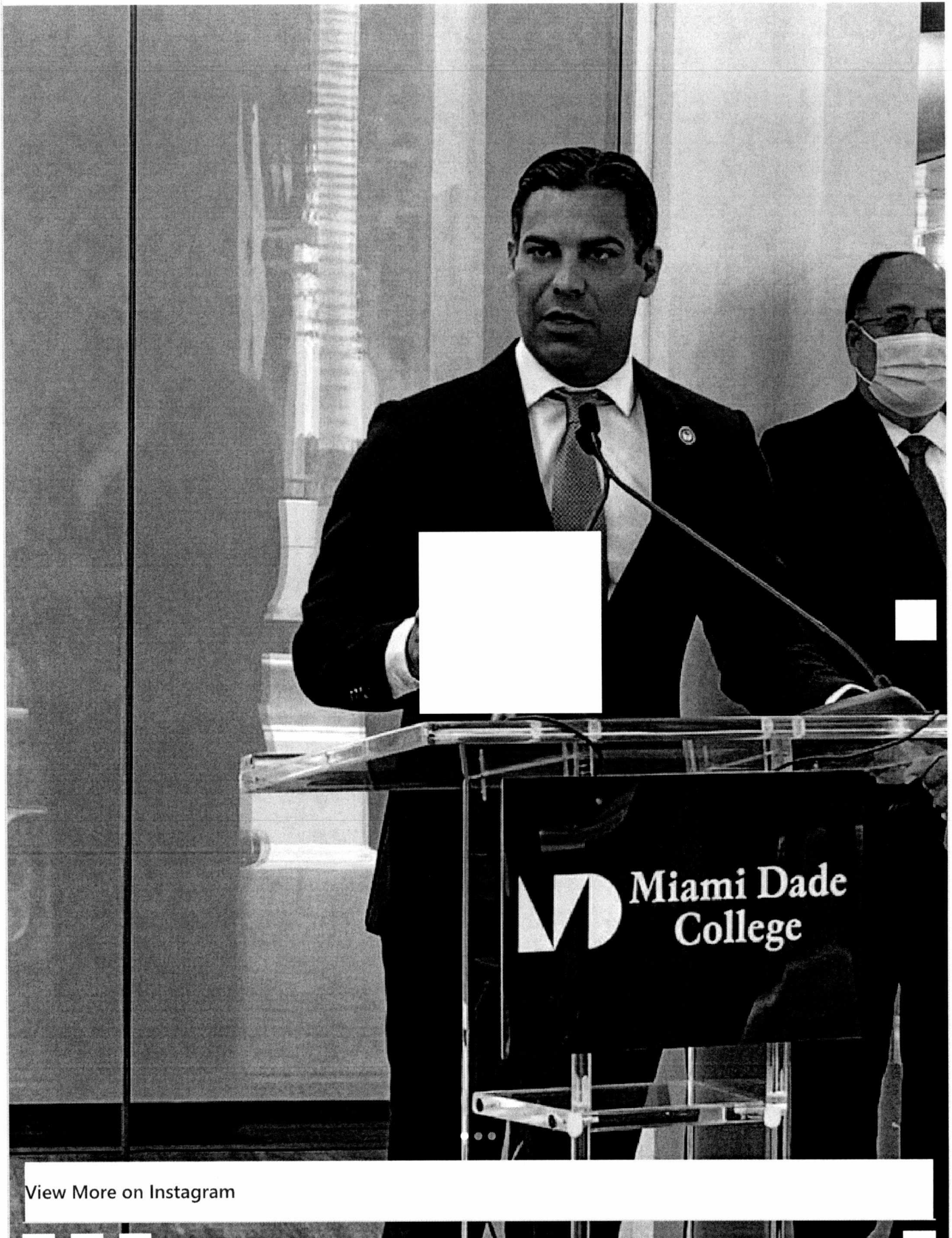
¡Ya es oficial! De esto se encargarán los robots tras su lanzamiento en Miami

La inteligencia artificial, la computación en la nube híbrida, seguridad cibernética y computación cuántica serán algunas de las nuevas ofertas de programas del MDC para la formación de profesores y estudiantes para suplir las nuevas necesidades del mercado laboral, detalló este martes la universidad en un comunicado que reseñó EFE.



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@mdcollege and @ibm announce a \$10million partnership to create an interdisciplinary artificial intelligence program for students

I want to thank @mdcollege for being a committed partner in the Miami Movement & @ibm for investing in our City

Miami's stock just keeps rising

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El alcalde de la ciudad, Francis Suárez expresó su satisfacción por este acuerdo. “Miami-Dade College e IBM anuncian una asociación de \$ 10 millones para crear un programa interdisciplinario de inteligencia artificial para estudiantes. Quiero agradecer a Miami-Dade College por ser un socio comprometido en el Movimiento de Miami y a IBM por invertir en nuestra ciudad. Las acciones de Miami siguen subiendo”, expresaba el alcalde en sus redes sociales.

“Como líder en innovación y desarrollo de la fuerza laboral, MDC está preparado para satisfacer la creciente demanda de expertos en tecnología en todo el país”, dijo Madeline Pumariega, presidenta de MDC . “Estamos orgullosos de colaborar con IBM para apoyar la recuperación de nuestra nación a través de iniciativas innovadoras de capacitación y educación de la fuerza laboral. La extraordinaria inversión de IBM en MDC subraya nuestro potencial para ejecutar asociaciones visionarias que brinden a los estudiantes, y al sur de la Florida en general, la máxima ventaja para aprovechar nuevas oportunidades “.

“A medida que continuamos anticipándonos a las necesidades de una industria de tecnología en rápido crecimiento, estamos colaborando con Miami Dade College para equipar a los estudiantes, el profesorado y la comunidad en general con los recursos para atraer, capacitar y empoderar a una fuerza laboral diversa e inclusiva”, dijo Jeff Welser, vicepresidente, ciencia exploratoria y colaboraciones universitarias, IBM Research .

Tags: Francis Suarez IBM miami Miami Dade College tecnología

20 ABRIL 2021

Reanudan vacunación de las primeras dosis de Pfizer en el recinto norte del Miami Dade College

Desde este martes están disponibles nuevamente 3,000 dosis diarias de la primera vacuna de Pfizer



Desde este martes están disponibles nuevamente 3,000 dosis diarias de la primera vacuna de Pfizer en el centro habilitado por FEMA en el **Miami Dade** College, el cual se mantiene abierto de 7 de la mañana a 7 de la noche, los siete días de la semana.

Poca fue la asistencia de personas al centro de vacunación ubicado en el Miami Dade College, recinto norte, el cual reanudó este martes la aplicación de las dos dosis de la vacuna Pfizer.

Después que se pusiera en pausa el uso de las vacunas de Johnson & Johnson, algunos residentes manifestaron preocupación por las reacciones que pudieran presentar aún al ser inmunizados con otra vacuna.

A propósito de la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson, el centro del recinto norte del Miami Dade College podría volver a utilizarlas una vez que su uso sea autorizado.

Ante la baja afluencia de personas, el proceso completo de vacunación, aún con el tiempo de espera para evaluar la reacción, no tardó ni 20 minutos.

Para recibir la vacuna, las personas deben presentar su identificación de la Florida o de lo contrario, dos pruebas de residencia que demuestren que viven en el estado.

Quienes recibieron la primera dosis de la vacuna Pfizer y aún no se han puesto la segunda pueden asistir al recinto norte del Miami Dade College y con la tarjeta de vacunación recibirán la dosis restante.

Por su parte, la Universidad Internacional de Florida puso en funcionamiento un autobús con vacunas contra el covid-19 en las cercanías del estacionamiento PG-5, de la sede de la avenida 112 y la calle 8 del suroeste del condado, el cual abrirá de 10 de la mañana hasta las 6 de la tarde y administrarán las vacunas por orden de llegada.

Aunque cualquier residente mayor de 18 años es elegible para recibir la vacuna, los jóvenes de 16 y 17 años también serán vacunados con el consentimiento de uno de los padres o un tutor.

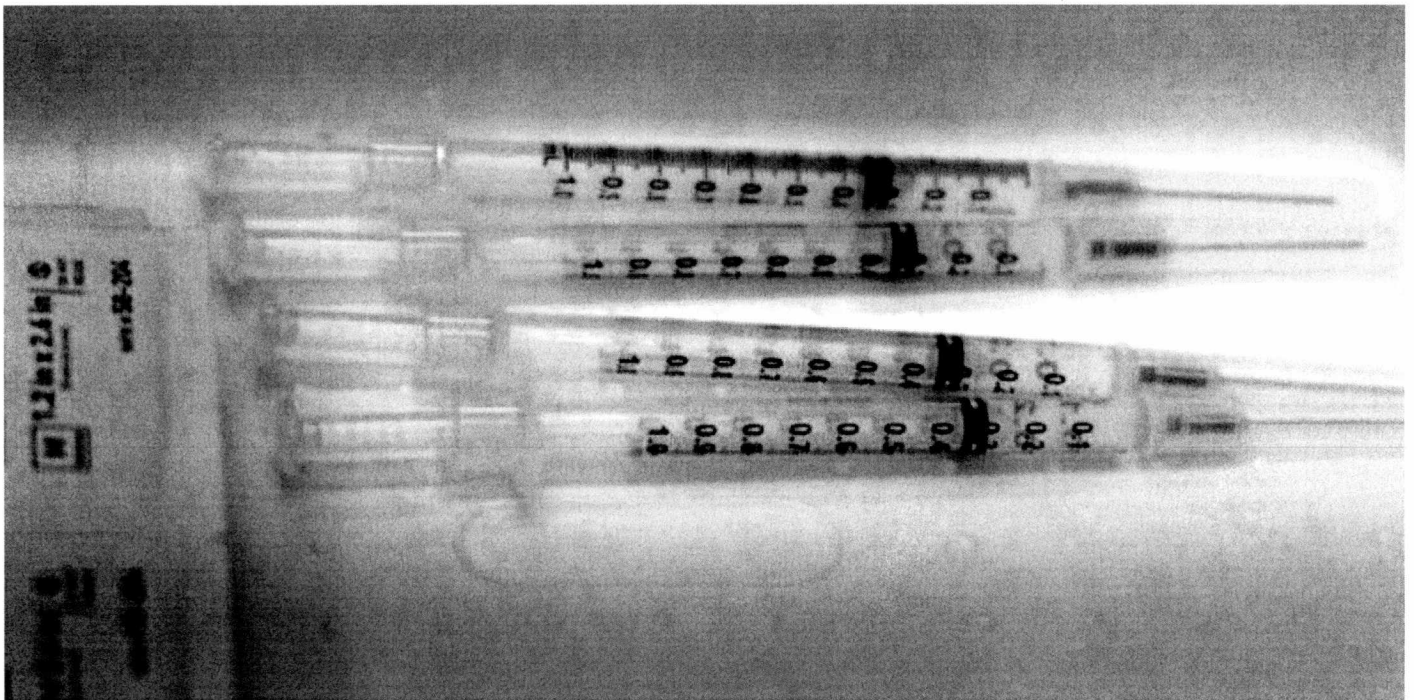
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Descubre si puedes vacunarte sin documento de identidad de Florida y sin previa cita

por MiamiDiario JM — abril 20, 2021 en Miami



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¿Necesito un permiso de conducir o un documento de identidad de la Florida para vacunarme contra el COVID-19 en los lugares donde no es necesario pedir cita?

Los floridanos no necesitan recibir la vacuna COVID-19 en el condado donde viven, pero se requiere una prueba de residencia en el estado. Esta es la norma en todos los centros de vacunación, incluidos los que no requieren citas. La norma se estableció en enero para frenar el turismo de vacunas, o los extranjeros que viajan a la Florida para vacunarse, el Nuevo Herald.

Noticias Relacionadas

Florida amaneció con fuertes precipitaciones este martes

El mensaje motivador de Ismael Cala luego de vacunarse

Los residentes necesitan mostrar una licencia de conducir de la Florida o una tarjeta de identificación con foto emitida por el estado. Los adolescentes de 16 y 17 años también tienen que mostrar una prueba de edad (licencia de conducir o certificado de nacimiento o pasaporte actual) y tener un padre o tutor legal con ellos en la vacunación para firmar un formulario de consentimiento.

Los snowbirds, o residentes estacionales, incluidos los estudiantes internacionales y de otros estados, pueden vacunarse igualmente, pero tendrán que presentar dos formas de prueba de residencia en lugar de una. Al menos un hospital del sur de la Florida está intentando facilitar la vacunación a los estudiantes universitarios que no tengan todos los documentos necesarios.

Esto es lo que hay que saber:

¿A QUIÉN SE CONSIDERA UN SNOWBIRD O RESIDENTE ESTACIONAL EN LA FLORIDA?

La Florida Division of Emergency Management, que supervisa la distribución de la vacuna, dice que un "snowbird" o "residente estacional" a efectos de la vacuna COVID-19 es:

Cualquier persona que viva temporalmente en la Florida al menos 31 días consecutivos cada año calendario y mantiene una residencia temporal en el estado. También deben regresar al estado o jurisdicción de su residencia al menos una vez cada año natural y estar registrados para votar o pagar el impuesto sobre la renta en otro estado o jurisdicción.

LA VACUNA COVID DE LA LA FLORIDA: ¿QUÉ PRUEBAS TIENEN QUE MOSTRAR LOS SNOWBIRDS?

El Florida Department of Health dice que los snowbirds tendrán que demostrar dos de los siguientes puntos para poder recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19:

- Una escritura, una hipoteca, un estado de cuenta mensual de la hipoteca, una cartilla de pagos de la hipoteca o un contrato de alquiler o arrendamiento de vivienda.
- Una orden de conexión o de trabajo de los servicios públicos fechada en los 60 días anteriores al registro.
- Una factura de servicios públicos, con una antigüedad no superior a dos meses.
- Correo de una institución financiera, incluidos los estados de cuenta de cuentas corrientes, de ahorro o de inversión, con una antigüedad no superior a dos meses.
- Correo de un organismo gubernamental federal, estatal, del condado o municipal, que no tenga más de dos meses de antigüedad.
- Los adolescentes de 16 y 17 años tendrán que presentar una copia certificada de un acta de nacimiento o un registro actual de inscripción de una escuela de educación básica de la Florida. Sus padres o tutores legales tendrán que mostrar una licencia de conducir o tarjeta de identificación de la Florida.
- Cualquier otra documentación que acredite el domicilio residencial, incluida una carta de un empleador, una carta de un arrendador o propietario, otra prueba que demuestre que está empleado en el estado, o una prueba de matrimonio si su cónyuge figura en todos los documentos residenciales.

¿PUEDEN VACUNARSE LOS SNOWBIRDS QUE VIVEN CON UN RESIDENTE PERMANENTE?

Los residentes estacionales que viven con un residente permanente de la Florida, incluyendo un padre, padrastro o tutor legal, pueden recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19. Solo tendrán que llevar una prueba de que la persona con la que viven es residente de la Florida (consulte la lista anterior para saber qué se considera prueba) y una declaración de la persona que reside con ella.

¿CÓMO PUEDEN LOS ESTUDIANTES INTERNACIONALES O DE FUERA DEL ESTADO VACUNARSE?

Los estudiantes internacionales o de fuera del estado pueden vacunarse contra el COVID-19 en la Florida si cumplen los criterios de los snowbirds.

También pueden vacunarse en sitios apoyados por el estado, como el estadio Hard Rock en Miami Gardens, o en sitios apoyados por el gobierno, como el campus norte del Miami Dade College, si muestran su identificación escolar de la Florida, con una identificación emitida por el gobierno (no es necesario que sea de FL), según la Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Los estudiantes que asisten a la Florida International University, la University of Miami, el Miami Dade College, la Florida Memorial University o la Barry University tienen otra opción.

Jackson Health System, la red de hospitales públicos del condado de Miami-Dade, se ha asociado con las cinco escuelas para facilitar la vacunación a sus estudiantes internacionales y de otros estados. Los estudiantes que obtengan una cita a través del portal en línea de Jackson Health solo tendrán que mostrar su identificación de estudiante, junto con una licencia de conducir o pasaporte, para obtener una vacuna.

¿QUÉ PASA CON LOS INMIGRANTES INDOCUMENTADOS?

Aunque el gobierno federal ha dicho que cualquier persona, independientemente de su estatus migratorio, debería poder vacunarse, los inmigrantes indocumentados en todo el país están luchando para vacunarse, incluso en la Florida.

Algunos demócratas de la Florida ahora están pidiendo al gobernador Ron DeSantis que relaje los requisitos de residencia del estado para facilitar el acceso a la vacuna a los inmigrantes indocumentados.

Sabemos que en los sitios de Miami-Dade donde solo se opera con cita, Tropical Park, Zoo Miami y Homestead Sports Complex, se aceptan identificaciones de trabajadores agrícolas, a menudo emitidas por organizaciones como WeCount! como prueba de residencia.

El Florida Department of Health en el condado de Miami-Dade dijo al Miami Herald que estaba trabajando con varias agencias que prestan servicios a las comunidades agrícolas y migrantes para obtener la información necesaria. Las agencias incluyen la Farmworker Association of Florida (Oficina del condado de Miami-Dade), la Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations (COFFO) y M.U.J.E.R.

Tags: covid-19 documento de identidad florida previa cita vacuna

el Nuevo Herald

¿Listo para avanzar? Revalida el título en Miami sin gastar dinero ni tiempo de más

Sarah Moreno, El Nuevo Herald, Miami Apr. 20, 2021

Como una ciudad de inmigrantes, a la que muchas veces llegan de otro lugar con una carrera y experiencia de trabajo, Miami ofrece a todos una segunda oportunidad de desarrollo profesional. Pero los comienzos suelen ser confusos y sobre todo costosos para quienes quieren trabajar en Estados Unidos en lo que mismo que en su país.

El consultor educativo venezolano Gustavo Méndez tiene un consejo para quienes quieren revalidar su título en Estados Unidos. "No le pregunte a un amigo ni al vecino sino a gente que sabe".

Como a él mismo le pasó al llegar a Miami, y luego vio como un patrón común entre los extranjeros a quienes le tocó evaluar las credenciales educativas, las personas suelen perder tiempo y dinero pagando por servicios que no van a necesitar.

"La primera pregunta que debes hacerte es cuáles son los pasos que quieres seguir en tu profesión", dijo a el Nuevo Herald Méndez, que hizo y supervisó más de 20,000 evaluaciones cuando trabajaba en Josef Silny & Associates, la única oficina autorizada en el sur de la Florida para hacer las equivalencias de notas de los estudios en el extranjero.

Este sábado 24 de abril Méndez ofrecerá una charla virtual que abordará tres temas fundamentales: Pasos a seguir para ejercer tu profesión en Estados Unidos; qué es una profesión regulada y no regulada, y los requisitos para ejercer legalmente una profesión.

Méndez explica que una larga lista de profesiones y oficios están regulados en Estados Unidos y el hecho de que una persona obtenga una evaluación de una de las oficinas autorizadas para emitir las equivalencias de títulos entre su país y Estados Unidos no quiere decir que la pueda ejercer.

Pone el ejemplo de un ingeniero, una profesión regulada, que va a la oficina local autorizada para obtener la equivalencia de su título, y cuando la tiene en la mano, no puede ejercer porque tiene que cumplir con los requisitos de la Florida.

Entre las profesiones reguladas se cuentan las de arquitectos, médicos, dentistas, contadores, abogados, vendedores de bienes raíces, tasadores de viviendas (appraiser), y oficios como plomero, electricista, peluquero y manicurista. Algunas de ellas pueden requerir solo sacar una licencia y otras aprobar varios exámenes y luego ejercer entrenamientos o residencia, como el caso de los médicos, que tienen un largo camino por delante.

Para saber si tu profesión está entre las reguladas, consulta con Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, entidad que regula a negocios y profesiones.

Al mismo tiempo Méndez insta a las personas a no perder el impulso por reinventarse o seguir sus estudios, pero apuntando que lo primero debe ser dedicar tiempo y esfuerzo a aprender inglés porque se va a necesitar para ejercer la mayoría de las profesiones.

De la misma manera, aconseja sacar partido de los cursos que ya tomaron en su país porque pueden servirles para ganarse la vida aquí, o como equivalencias de cursos que le ahorrarán tiempo y dinero para graduarse en una institución estadounidense.

"Hay gente que es experta en computación y tiene varios certificados. Algunos de esos certificados se pueden convertir en cursos que tienen valor de crédito académico", dijo Méndez, que trabaja en la oficina de Prior Learning Assessment del Miami Dade College, que permite a los estudiantes de college obtener créditos académicos por su experiencia profesional.

"Puede que seas piloto de aeronave en Perú", ejemplifica, "y quieres tomar un curso en Mantenimiento de Aeronave. La idea es presentar los documentos que tienes y hablar con alguien que te oriente primero. Piensa cuántos años te tomó graduarte de tu carrera en tu país. No puedes pensar que en dos años todo va a estar listo".

En Miami, que recibe constantemente adultos con experiencia, sobre todo de Latinoamérica, la opción de acortar el tiempo para llegar a un trabajo mejor pagado, vale su peso en oro.

Méndez, que también colabora con organizaciones no lucrativas, ofrece la charla a beneficio de la Asociación de Periodistas Venezolanos en el Extranjero (APEVEX). El periodismo, por cierto, es una profesión no regulada en Estados Unidos, pero hay muchos profesionales que buscan más allá de su propio campo.

Revalidación del título en Miami

Más que una revalidación es una evaluación de las credenciales académicas que una persona obtuvo en otro país. Estas son imprescindibles para quienes quieren continuar estudios en Estados Unidos, por ejemplo, obtener una maestría o doctorado. Las instituciones educativas van a pedirles a los estudiantes extranjeros los documentos de los cursos que hicieron en su país, evaluados por una oficina de Estados Unidos.

En el sur de la Florida, la única oficina autorizada para ofrecer las equivalencias académicas es la de Josef Silny & Associates, Inc., en el suroeste de Miami. Ellos están autorizados para evaluar credenciales académicas de cualquier país del mundo.

El sitio web de Josef Silny & Associates, Inc tiene una serie de preguntas y respuestas comunes sobre el proceso de evaluación y los documentos necesarios. Deben presentarse las notas y el título original, firmados y sellados por la institución universitaria que las emitió. Además de los originales, se adjunta la traducción al inglés hecha por un profesional certificado y una explicación detallada sobre los cursos.

El costo de las evaluaciones depende de la complejidad de los casos y los servicios que se soliciten. El proceso de equivalencias suele tomar alrededor de 15 días después que la oficina lo reciba.

Luego de que se emita la evaluación, la persona puede seguir los pasos requeridos para ejercer la profesión, como obtener las licencias, o seguir estudiando en una institución de Estados Unidos.

En la Florida solo hay otra oficina autorizada para hacer las evaluaciones académicas, Academic Evaluation Services (AES), en Tampa.

"La pandemia nos afectó a todos, no solo a los trabajadores de los restaurantes, aerolíneas y cruceros, y muchos están tratando de regresar al campo en el que hicieron estudios. No tomen decisiones apresuradas", aconsejó Méndez, autor del folleto Revalidación de títulos: Cómo trabajar y estudiar en U.S.A, que se puede conseguir en Amazon.

El experto también ofrece ayuda en una página de Facebook y puede contestar preguntas cortas, sin costo alguno, a quienes le escriban a gustamor@outlook.com

Para inscribirse a la conferencia virtual Revalidación de títulos, ahorra tiempo y dinero, 24 de abril, 11 a.m, puede hacerlo en: apevex@apevex.org. Costo: \$5 para los afiliados a Apevex, y \$15, precio general.

También puede consultar a Josef Silny & Associates, Inc., expertos en evaluar las credenciales educativas de extranjeros. 7101 SW 102 Ave., (305) 273-1616.

<https://www.msn.com/es-us/noticias/miami/%C2%BFlisto-para-avanzar-revalida-el-t%C3%ADtulo-en-miami-sin-gastar-dinero-ni-tiempo-de-m%C3%A1s/ar-BB1fQErP>

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Centro del Miami Dade College vuelve a colocar vacuna de Pfizer

by Antonio Torra (<https://elportal24.com/author/antonio-torra/>) abril 19, 2021 (<https://elportal24.com/2021/04/centro-del-miami-dade-college-vuelve-a-colocar-vacuna-de-pfizer/>)

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Desde este martes las personas podran dirigirse al campus norte del Miami-Dade College para recibir la primera dosis de la vacuna de Pfizer, mientras que en el Hard Rock Stadium se mantienen las operaciones desde las 8 a.m. hasta las 10 p.m., los siete días de la semana.

Enlaces24

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<http://actualidadradio.com/noticias/centro-del-miami-dade-college-vuelve-a-colocar-vacuna-de-pfizer/>
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Master Class para estudiantes de cinematografía

👤 Jim Cueva | @jcmagazine

El jueves 22 de abril a las 4:00 p.m. (a través de www.faciuni.com) se realizará una Masterclass anual, de acceso gratuito, para estudiantes de cinematografía a cargo del director Fernando Meirelles, reconocido por sus nominaciones como mejor director en los Premios Oscar, Globo de Oro, entre otros.

La transmisión se realizará a través de la página web de FACIUNI (Festival Académico de Cine Universitario Internacional), un programa de DIRECTV que difunde, apoya y promueve a la próxima generación de cineastas en el Perú y países de la región.

Para esta edición se contará con la participación del director brasileño nominado en varias oportunidades como mejor director en los premios Oscar por películas como: Ciudad de Dios, Los Dos Papas y The Constant Gardener.

Cabe destacar que FACIUNI brinda un estímulo y oportunidades concretas de desarrollo en el área de creación de contenidos audiovisuales a través de becas, Masterclass, talleres, tutoriales, entre otros.

Ganadores de la Beca Faciuni

Los ganadores de la Beca FACIUNI reciben un incentivo de 5,000 dólares americanos para sus estudios, al igual que 5.000 dólares para la universidad a la que pertenecen.

En Perú Giuseppe Vicente Castillo, obtuvo el primer lugar con su corto El cuento de Togashi. Él y su casa de estudios, la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, recibieron los premios mencionados.

Para esta octava edición de FACIUNI, durante la masterclass, se anunciarán a los ganadores regionales. Giuseppe Castillo de Perú competirá con estudiantes de Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Estados Unidos, España y Portugal.

Ellos se harán acreedores de uno de los cuatro cupos de una preciada beca con todos los gastos pagados, para asistir al programa de verano de la Escuela de Artes Cinematográficas de la Universidad del Sur de California, (USC University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts).

Los cortos finalistas y ganadores pueden llegar a exhibirse por OnDIRECTV, canal de DIRECTV y como contenido On demand para la plataforma regional de streaming DIRECTV GO.

Convertirse en ganador de FACIUNI abre múltiples puertas al crecimiento personal y desarrollo profesional de los estudiantes, desde la posibilidad de vincularse con expertos de la industria, hasta la visibilidad de su material en distintas pantallas y festivales internacionales que hasta la fecha han sido: el New York Latino Film Festival, el Sundance Festival en Londres, el Festival PLURAL+ de las Naciones Unidas, el Festival Internacional de Cine de Valdivia, el Miami Film Festival entre otros.