



Town Of Miami Lakes

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release-

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The Town of Miami Lakes and Miami Dade College Sign MOU

April 22, 2009

Miami Lakes, FL- The Town of Miami Lakes and Miami Dade College (MDC) North Campus signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, to pave the way for fully accredited degree programs to be taught right here in Miami Lakes.

At the event were Miami Lakes Mayor Michael Pizzi, Councilman George Lopez, the Honorable Perla Tabares Hantman, a resident Miami Laker and the Town's School Board representative, MDC North Campus President Dr. Jose Vicente, Town Manager Frank Bocanegra, Deans Harry Hoffman, Maria Cristina Mateo, and Malou Harrison among other Town and MDC officials.

"The reality is that today the investment needs to be made for the workforce of tomorrow," said Mayor Michael Pizzi. "The Miami Dade College Miami Lakes Satellite facility will become to the Town a factory for producing the American dream," said Mayor Pizzi.

Dr. Vicente, North Campus President, focused his remarks on fostering economic development: "Throughout history, and the research is there, economic development is inextricably connected to investment in education, in educating the future workforce."

The Town has asked that Miami Dade College officials also consider adding an Environmental Studies degree program to develop the workforce talent needed for the "green" jobs of tomorrow. Vice-Mayor Richard Pulido is supportive of adding environmental science classes saying, "The Town has been an example community to the County and the State on sustainable living for years. I'm very excited about bringing college courses to the Town to create learning opportunities not only in criminal justice but also in environmental studies programs that in the long run segue way into essential careers."

The MOU Establishes an Understanding Between the College and the Town to Continue Working Together to Bring Courses to Miami Lakes

Under the MOU the College will establish the Miami Lakes Higher Education Institute, offer a full School of Justice Associate in Science program, put forward a wide array of credit courses leading up to an Associate in Science, Associate in Arts, Vocational Certificate program, and offer Community Education

non-credit classes. In addition, the College pledges to work in partnership with the Town to seek adequate classroom facilities and parking at no charge to MDC, North Campus, including seeking federal and state grant dollars. The MOU additionally lays out that all courses will be in full compliance with its accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The MOU details that the Town's task is to then provide classroom facilities and parking at no charge to MDC, North Campus, which the Town has already been doing by offering up its conference room space for three language classes two nights a week and allowing instructors and students to park at Town Hall. Also, the Town will continue working in partnership with the College to promote the course offerings at no charge to MDC, North Campus, and lastly recognize MDC, North Campus has an exclusive partnership with the Town for offering undergraduate degree programs to the residents of the Town.

"Education is the foundation for success. Having Miami Dade College, the country's largest higher learning institution, partner with our Town falls in line with my vision for Miami Lakes to become the perfect environment not only to live, work and play but also to learn," said Mayor Pizzi.

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About the Town of Miami Lakes:

The Town of Miami Lakes incorporated on December 5, 2000 and is one of thirty-five municipalities in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Miami Lakes is home to approximately 27,300 residents and encompasses about 6.8 square miles. Our boundaries are NW 170th Street and the Palmetto Expressway (826) to the north, NW 138th Street to the south, NW 57th Avenue (Red Road) to the east, and Interstate 75 to the west. More information on the Town and its government can be found at www.miamilakes-fl.gov or by calling 305-364-6100.



Pictured are (L to R) Councilman George Lopez, Miami Dade College North Campus President Dr. Jose Vicente, School Board Representative Perla Tabares Hantman, Mayor Michael Pizzi, and Town Manager Frank Bocanegra.