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TECHNOLOGY

IBM will spend \$10M to train Miami Dade College students for jobs of the future

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IBM has partnered with Miami Dade College to prepare students to meet the hiring needs of South Florida's growing technology companies.

On Tuesday, the multinational tech firm announced the IBM Global University Program will donate \$10 million in assets over three years to upskill MDC students and faculty. That includes curriculum on content, software, mentorship, guest lectures and faculty training in fast-growing fields such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity and quantum computing.

“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, VP of IBM Global University Programs. "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."

The partnership will bolster the college's future Artificial Intelligence Center, which will focus on applied AI with real-world applications. The center - open to students of any major - will be powered by a platform provided by IBM's Academic Initiative program and the IBM Skills Academy.

MDC students who complete IBM Skills Academy courses will have access to job opportunities at IBM, the college added.

Local stakeholders say building a workforce of skilled technology talent is essential for recruiting new companies to the region. Fostering South Florida's technology sector is a way to create high-paying jobs in an area traditionally dominated by the hospitality and tourism industries.

MDC President Madeline Pumariega said MDC, the country's largest community college system, is a key player in helping the region meet the rising demand for technology workers.

"IBM's extraordinary investment in MDC underscores our potential to execute visionary partnerships that provide students, and South Florida at large, the ultimate edge to seize new opportunities," she said.

The IBM initiative is MDC's second major partnership announcement this month. The college recently teamed up with SoftBank to train students for careers in data science and connect them with job opportunities in technology, financial services and health care.
