

# KENDALL GAZETTE

FEB. 23 - MAR. 8, 2021

Connecting Communities

## MDC's *The Reporter* top college student newspaper in state for 10th year in row

BY SUE ARROWSMITH

Miami Dade College's (MDC) award-winning newspaper *The Reporter* has been named the top college student newspaper in Florida for the 10th year in a row by the Florida College System Publications Association (FCSPA) at its annual virtual conference and awards ceremony.

*The Reporter* placed in 16 out of 19 individual categories, including 11 first-place awards. The competition recognized newspapers printed during the 2019-20 academic school year.

"This a tremendous honor that I'm grateful to share with the rest of last year's staff," said Heidi Perez-Moreno, who served as editor-in-chief last year. "I'm proud of the work we were able to accomplish."

In addition to taking first place overall in general excellence, the newspaper's staff earned several individual top honors for In-Depth Reporting, Sports Writing, Editorial, Humor Column, Newspaper Design, Feature Photo, Sports Photo, Picture Story, Editorial Cartoon, Website, and Headlines. Corbin Bolies won an inner circle award for placing top three in three different categories.

"It's exciting to see our work recognized with these awards," said Adriana Dos Santos, *The Reporter's* current editor-in-chief. "This is a great way to celebrate the dedication our staff puts in year in and year out."

*The Reporter* prints on a biweekly schedule (pre-COVID-19), has a circulation of 10,250 per print cycle and is supplemented by a website with video and audio content. It is distributed at all eight MDC campuses and has newsrooms at the North, Wolfson and Kendall campuses. In the past 10 years, the paper has won 149 awards from the FCSPA including 88 first place honors. Learn more at [www.mdcreporter.com](http://www.mdcreporter.com).

Following is a list of this year's individual award winners:

### FIRST PLACE:

- Heidi Perez-Moreno and Corbin Bolies, In-Depth Reporting
- Heidi Perez-Moreno, Sports Writing
- Alexa Hernandez, Editorial
- Alexa Hernandez, Humor Column
- Reporter Staff, Newspaper Design
- Vanessa Gimenez, Feature Photo
- Sean Mow, Sports Photo
- Vanessa Gimenez and Vladimir Mompremier, Picture Story
- Alexander Ontiveros, Editorial Cartoon
- Reporter Staff, Website
- Reporter Staff, Headlines

### SECOND PLACE:

- Corbin Bolies, Arts Review
- Alina Halley, General Column

**Making MAGIC**  
A short film—A talented student director and co-produced The Asylum, a documentary about Miami Senior High School's legendary boy's basketball program.  
▶ PAGE 6

**The Asylum**  
MDC alum Jaime Gutierrez directed and co-produced The Asylum, a documentary about Miami Senior High School's legendary boy's basketball program.  
▶ PAGE 10

**Finding Family**  
Carolina Soto writes about finding family in a new country. Her debut, it highlights the experience of chosen families in the queer community.  
▶ PAGE 13

**Girl Power**  
Alina Halley celebrates the three women who are the new U.S. vice president, Miami-Dade County mayor and Miami Dade College president.  
▶ PAGE 14

**Happy Holiday**

**The Reporter**  
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE  
VOL. 11, ISSUE 4 — DECEMBER 16, 2020

**THIS IS HOW MIAMI DADE COLLEGE STUDENTS GRADUATED DURING A PANDEMIC**

Miami Dade College held its graduation ceremonies for 2019-20 graduates on Saturday. Safety measures against the coronavirus—the limited capacity and social distancing—were used.

By Adriana Dos Santos and Alexa Hernandez  
[adasantos@mdcreporter.com](mailto:adasantos@mdcreporter.com)

More than 2,000 Miami Dade College graduates received their diplomas on Saturday at five outdoor ceremonies at North and Kendall Campuses.

But unlike previous ceremonies that were held inside packed auditoriums, this year's ceremonies had a much different feel. Graduates sat 10 feet away from each other and were required to wear face masks. They went through temperature screenings before entering campus. Hand sanitizer stations were available throughout the venue and cones were used to distance between ceremonies.

Despite the added safety measures, graduates did not allow the pandemic to stop to dampen their spirits.

"It's great to see that we didn't need to be defined by the pandemic," said Manolo Barco.

**20 Days After Being Passed Over As MDC President, Lenore Rodicio Resigns**

Lenore Rodicio, who served as Miami Dade College for more than 12 years, will start as a senior fellow for the Agnes Institute and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in January.

By Adriana Dos Santos  
[adasantos@mdcreporter.com](mailto:adasantos@mdcreporter.com)

Lenore Rodicio, who served as a 12-year administrator at Miami Dade College, will start as a senior fellow for the Agnes Institute and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in January. It is effective Dec. 31, but she will be on leave until Dec. 18.

"At this time, I have offered all that I can to MDC in my current capacity and I have looked forward to the future of MDC's legacy of excellence," Rodicio said. "This next step in my career allows me to continue to do the work that I am most passionate about, while at the same time affecting the opportunity for personal and professional growth."

Rodicio's next step will be at the Agnes Institute and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Beginning in January, she will work on several initiatives to improve higher education on a large scale as a senior fellow on an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as a senior fellow with the Agnes Institute's College Excellence Program and as a Complete College America Fellow.

"The time that I will be able to utilize my expertise to lead by example in the transformation of higher education and student success on the national stage," Rodicio said.

During her tenure at MDC, Rodicio has worked with both institutions.

She served as an advisor and member of the steering committee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Scaling Partners group.

Rodicio also led a student achievement initiative that resulted in graduation rates at the College being above the national average, earning MDC the 2019 Agnes Prize for College Excellence.

Miami Dade College's President Enriquez Eduardo J. Padua said it's no secret that Rodicio's skill set has been highly sought after in academia for some time. He spent the last two years of his presidency convincing her to stay.

**INDEX:** INDEXING 2-3 NEWS 4-9 SPORTS 10-11 ARTS 12-13 ECONOMY 14-15

**Got News? Let Us Know.**  
THE REPORTER IS THE FREE, BIWEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE. ALL CONTENT IS PRODUCED BY MDC STUDENTS. THE REPORTER IS A PUBLIC FORUM FOR EXPRESSION.

Contact Us: [www.mdcreporter.com](http://www.mdcreporter.com) | 305-237-1254

Alexander Ontiveros, Comic Strip

### THIRD PLACE:

- Corbin Bolies, News Story
- Daniel Tamariz, Sports Column

For more information about *The Reporter*, contact Manolo Barco at 305-237-1255.