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# Eduardo Padrón named SFBJ's Lifetime Achievement recipient

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The *South Florida Business Journal* is pleased to announce that **Eduardo Padrón** has been chosen as the recipient of its 2017 Lifetime Achievement award.

Padrón, as president of **Miami Dade College**, helms one of the largest higher education institutions in the country. Miami Dade College offers six degree options and more than 300 programs and opportunities for the 165,000-plus students enrolled online and at eight campuses countywide.



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And in looking back at his numerous achievements – including receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor – Padrón's most valued accomplishment is his work at the college.

“ I am most proud of the fact that, together with so many of my colleagues at Miami Dade College, I have helped open the door of opportunity through education to so many people in our community,” Padrón said. “Our combined efforts, and a true commitment to providing quality teaching and learning experiences that are both accessible and affordable, have changed lives and helped make dreams come true for hundreds of thousands of students from all walks of life.”

Padrón's origin story is one that resonates with many in South Florida. After arriving in the U.S. from Cuba as a teenage refugee in 1961, he went on to earn his Ph.D. from the **University of Florida**. Padrón has served as president of Miami Dade College since 1985, and over the last three-plus decades, he has been included on *TIME*'s list of "10 Best College Presidents" and the *Washington Post* named him as one of the eight most influential college presidents in the U.S. Last year, Padrón was named by SFBJ as a **South Florida Ultimate CEO**.

*SFBJ*'s Lifetime Achievement recognition celebrates Padrón's work to better and serve the South Florida community. But Padrón also views it as a celebration of the hard work of his colleagues at the college.

"It is an honor, and a truly humbling experience. For more than 40 years, I have had the privilege of going to work every day to do what I love, and that is to change lives through education," Padrón said. "It's a calling that has brought so much happiness to my life, and one that has allowed me to work alongside so many wonderful professionals who truly believe in the power of higher education."

As president of Miami Dade College, Padrón is a witness to the aspirations and drive of the next generation. And he has good advice for the leaders of the future.

"Effective leadership and humility go hand-in-hand. Good leaders always remember where they came from, and who guided them along their path to success. Not a day goes by that I do not remember and appreciate those professors and mentors who guided me during my years as a student," Padrón said. "Leaders should always remember that they have a responsibility to lead by example and inspire those around them."

The Lifetime Achievement Award is part of the SFBJ's Business of the Year Awards program, which recognizes businesses that set the standard for growth, service, quality and innovation. The awards program marks its 20th anniversary this year with a ceremony April 27 at Jungle Island in Miami sponsored by BankUnited, Comcast Business and Florida International University. Check back with us on March 17 to learn which companies are being honored at the event. [Click here to learn more about the event.](#)

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