

MDC earns Sen. Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization

By Sue Arrowsmith - March 29, 2021

Miami Dade College (MDC) is one of only three exemplary institutions selected nationwide to receive a 2021 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization.

Named after the late Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, the NAFSA Simon Awards recognize outstanding innovation and accomplishment in campus internationalization in two categories.

MDC is set to receive the award, which recognizes a specific program or initiative that contributes to internationalization on campus. The program being recognized is MDC's Educate Tomorrow Abroad, launched in 2017. Through a partnership with the nonprofit Educate Tomorrow, the program is the first of its kind in the country to facilitate study abroad opportunities for students who are homeless or in the foster care system. Since the program's inception, MDC has expanded its partnership with many public and private institutions and organizations that have contributed to the expansion of the program.

Over the years, MDC has demonstrated its commitment to international education and creating unique opportunities for students. It has consistently ranked No. 1 among community colleges in Florida and No. 7 in the country in the number of students sent abroad each year.

A strong advocate for international education and cross-cultural learning, the late Sen.

Simon is also the namesake of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act.

Introduced in nearly every Congress since 2006 with bipartisan support, the Simon bill aims to incentivize U.S. higher education institutions through competitive grants to increase the number and diversity of students who complete a study abroad experience prior to graduation and make study abroad an integral part of higher education.

Institutions selected for the Simon Awards will be featured in NAFSA's report, Internationalizing the Campus: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities, to be published this fall, and honored during International Education Week in November.

To learn more about NAFSA's Senator Paul Simon Awards for Campus Internationalization, visit www.nafsa.org/SimonAward.

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