

# Heads of Miami Dade College, University of Miami named to list of best college presidents

Maureen Kenyon, Treasure Coast Newspapers

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The FHSAA is instituting a new playoff system for football teams this year. HANNAH SCHWAB/TCPALM

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Presidents at [two Florida colleges](#) have been named as some of the country's best.

Eduardo J. Padrón, of [Miami Dade College](#), and Julio Frenk, of the [University of Miami](#), rank ninth and 25th, respectively, according to [Great Value Colleges](#), a website whose goal, through high-quality, research-based articles and rankings, is to "help you get the most bang for your buck when it comes to getting a college degree."

About Miami Dade College's Padrón, it writes: "Since that time, (Padrón) has established the InterAmerican Campus, the Tamiami Aviation Center; increased the college's offering to include four year degrees; established an honors college; opened the West Campus, the Confucius Institute, a new science complex, a culinary institute, an entrepreneurship and innovation hub, a state-of-the-art animation and gaming hub; and enrolled more than 1 million students."

On Feb. 1, after almost 50 years at Miami Dade, [Padrón announced](#) he would step down from the post in August. He has been president since 1995.



President of Miami Dade College and a childhood refugee from Cuba, Eduardo J. Padron, (center) stands on stage June 5, 2012, at Princeton University as he is bestowed an honorary Doctor of Laws degree during Princeton University's Class of 2012 commencement. (Photo: MEL EVANS/AP)

About the University of Miami's Frenk, it writes: "Although Julio Frenk's tenure as president of the University of Miami only started relatively recently, in 2015, he has already done incredible things for the college. For instance, in 2017, Forbes ranked the University of Miami as the 15th best employer in America. It never had previously ranked on the list. It also ranked as the 44th best college worldwide in Times Higher Education's 2018 ranking."

**More:** [Former Vero Beach QB headed to Miami](#)



(From left) University of Miami radio voice Don Bailey; university president Julio Frenk; Mark Richt; and athletic director Blake James gesture Dec. 4, 2015, after a press conference where Richt was introduced as the new NCAA college football head coach at the University of Miami in Coral Gables. (Photo: LUIS M. ALVAREZ/AP)

Topping Great Value College's list is [West Virginia University's](#) E. Gordon Gee.

About Gee: "What puts E. Gordon Gee ahead of all the competition is there has never been an American with more college president experience. He has been the president of more universities than any person, living or dead. The other colleges he has run are all prestigious, including Vanderbilt, Brown and the University of Colorado. Initially, Gee was president of the college from 1981 to 1985. He resumed the presidency in

2014. Gee still takes time to consider every student's needs and makes 'it a point to visit students where they live, learn and socialize.' "

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Here are the top 25 presidents on the list from Great Value Colleges. For the full list, click [here](#).

1. West Virginia University (Gee)
2. Trinity Washington University (Patricia McGuire)
3. University of Pennsylvania (Amy Gutmann)
4. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Shirley Ann Jackson)
5. Johns Hopkins University (Ronald J. Daniels)
6. Arizona State University (Michael M. Crow)
7. University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Freeman A. Hrabowski)
8. Georgia State University (Mark Becker)
9. **Miami Dade College (Padrón)**
10. Prairie View A&M University (Ruth Simmons)
11. Spelman College (Beverly Daniel Tatum)
12. The University of Texas at El Paso (Diana Natalicio)
13. Harvey Mudd College (Maria Klawe)
14. Columbia University (Lee C. Bollinger)
15. Paul Quinn College (Michael J. Sorrell)
16. Brandeis University (Ronald D. Liebowitz)
17. Southern New Hampshire University (Paul J. LeBlanc)
18. Wake Forest University (Nathan O. Hatch)
19. University of Chicago (Robert Zimmer)
20. Boston Universitv (Robert A Brown)

21. New York Institute of Technology (Edward Guiliano)
  22. Savannah College of Art and Design (Paula Wallace)
  23. Texas Christian University (Victor J. Boschini Jr.)
  24. High Point University (Nido Qubein)
  25. **University of Miami (Frenk)**
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## Methodology

To begin its research, Great Value Colleges consulted online sources, including The Washington Post, Time, Forbes, the Chronicle of Higher Education and U.S. News, that highlight which college presidents are notable. Then, it expanded from the sources and applied the sources' criteria to a range of respectable colleges and their presidents.

*Maureen Kenyon, a 1995 graduate of [West Virginia University](#), is TCPalm's trends reporter, keeping Treasure Coast residents updated on hot topics and happenings. Do you have a story to tell? Want to start a conversation? Send an email to [maureen.kenyon@tcpalm.com](mailto:maureen.kenyon@tcpalm.com), call 772-221-4249 or follow her on Twitter [@\\_MaureenKenyon\\_](#).*