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# Miami Dade College wins top prize for colleges

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Miami Dade College and Indian River State College have won the \$1 million Aspen Prize, which is awarded to the top community colleges in the nation.

The Aspen Institute awards the prize every two years based on excellence in community college performance. The nonprofit recognized Miami Dade College for its "clear path to economic and social mobility." Graduates typically earn more than \$40,000, or about 23 percent higher than new hires in the region.

The Aspen Institute also cited the major improvements in mathematics performance at Miami Dade College.

"This award is an affirmation of what we've been aspiring to for so many years at Miami Dade College, mainly to ensure open access and academic excellence can go hand-in-hand," said Miami Dade College President Eduardo J. Padrón, who will step down later this year after 24 years.

Broward College was a Top 10 finalist this year.

"This well-deserved recognition is a testament of the dedication and hard work that's taking place in Florida colleges," Florida Commission of Education Richard Corcoran said.



JOCK FISTICK  
Eduardo Padrón, president of Miami Dade College.

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