

Students learn from survivors



Holocaust survivors share stories with students at Student Awareness Day. Courtesy (xxxx / Courtesy)



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Miami-Dade College students were inspired by courageous stories that Holocaust survivors shared with them in round table discussions.

This took place at **MDC's** North Campus during a recent Student Awareness Day presented by the Holocaust Documentation & Education Center (HDEC). There were 130 students who heard discussions from approximately 13 Holocaust survivors and a couple of second generation survivors who told their parents' stories.

Rositta Kenigsberg, president of the HDEC, said these events are so important and meaningful to the survivors for them to share their stories with the students.

"It gives them the opportunity to tell their story, share their story and make sure that their story doesn't become the story of the students that they impact during the day. That's their major focus and will and purpose – to

make sure that what happened to them does not happen to these students. And that's why they tell their stories over and over again no matter how painful and difficult it is."

Cara Gluskoter, associate professor of sociology at MDC, said: "We have the Student Awareness Day every year and it's definitely one of the most dynamic and powerful events that we put on for our students."

"It's not just teaching them about the Holocaust, but it's really teaching them how they view others and how they treat other people in general."

Emmanuella Emmanuel, a sophomore at MDC from North Miami who participated in the Student Awareness Day, said: "For me while growing up and going to school, we always watched videos about the Holocaust and we always went to the museums, but the fact that I had a real life survivor in my space who told me his horror stories was incredible to me."

"He was telling us about the story of what he's been through, but he was such a happy old man. For a person who's been through so much, he still has love in his heart."

Holocaust survivor Julius Eisenstein of Hallandale Beach shared his story with the students that day. Eisenstein, 97, plans to continue telling his story at these events for the rest of his life.

"I do not want the future generations to ever go through what we went through. I lost my whole family and I'm trying to do my best to make sure this doesn't happen again. And if people are going to be silent, or they're not going to speak up, then don't kid yourself. It might happen again if they don't stand up."

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