

August 2, 2019

To the MDC Board of Trustees:

We, the MDC Foundation Board, are entrusted with the mission of raising much needed private funds for student scholarships, programs, and services that support students. Our Board members include senior executives, business owners, and proud MDC alumni representing major industries across Miami: banking and finance, health care, law, real estate development, and hospitality, just to name a few.

Over the past decade, MDC's annual state funding has been reduced by almost \$15 Million despite continued growth in student population and need in our community. With over 40% of MDC students under the poverty line and 65% from low income, closing the opportunity gap does not come easily. MDC students must overcome enormous obstacles in their pursuit of a college degree with most working while attending college and many caring for children and family. Thanks to generous community donors we have been able to grant over \$4 Million a year in scholarships and a further \$4.5 Million in academic programming, cultural activities and services to support these students in achieving their dreams.

The recent decision of the Board of Trustees not to: (1) select a new President from the four extremely well-qualified finalists that were vetted under the Sunshine Law in a transparent and rigorous process by the MDC Presidential Search Committee; and (2) entirely dismiss this process and persons involved, has caused deep concern among MDC stakeholders and the Miami community at large. There is a growing sense that the very underpinnings of our revered Dream Factory are being destabilized. Discarding the selection process has placed the College in a dangerous limbo creating uncertainty and anxiety; and this has been noted by donors who have invested millions in supporting the hopes and dreams of our students. This decision has created yet another obstacle for MDC students as they worry if donors will reconsider their support.

The critical role and stellar reputation of MDC cannot be compromised, nor can the need for transparency and adherence to due process. The interests of the hundreds of thousands of students, faculty, alumni and stakeholders who make up the fabric of this treasured institution must be respected.

We urge the Board of Trustees to reconsider your decision and move to complete the selection process which was set forth in March and to nominate one of the four candidates who were presented to you by the MDC Presidential Search Committee – a cross section of our community's most esteemed civic-minded leaders, donors, MDC faculty, alumni and students.

We welcome the opportunity to further explain our thoughts and concerns at a special session before your next meeting.

Miami Dade College Foundation Board Members,

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