

Open letter from a Cuban Mother to Miami Dade College

Dr. Eduardo J. Padron
President of Miami Dade College

Distinguished and Honorable Dr. Padron:

Receive a cordial greeting. I would like to thank you in advance for being the bearer of this message to the prestigious institution that you preside, Miami Dade College.

Dear Dr. Padron, distinguished deans, board of directors, professors, tutors, students, and staff: I am Elsa Morejon, the mother of Yan Valdes Morejon, a student who will receive an Associate of Arts degree from Miami Dade College on Saturday April 29, 2006. I would like as a mother, as well as on behalf of his relatives in Cuba, to express our eternal gratitude for your love, dedication, and support while he was receiving a magnificent education at Miami Dade College. Yan was born in Cuba, and ever since he was a child his dreams of becoming a professional were frustrated due to the lack of democracy in our country. Thank God that Miami Dade College and the United States of America opened their doors and, by so doing, gave him an opportunity for a worthy life.

Dr. Padron, ever since my son was a child he suffered repression, homelessness, marginalization, rejection for his ideology, and the sorrow of leaving his parents behind in Cuba in a difficult situation, such as the one that his step father, my husband, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, president of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights is experiencing. From the Combinado del Este prison, where he is being held prisoner unjustly, he shares with you these humble thoughts: "Thank you God, for my son, for my brothers, and friends. Thank you for Miami Dade College and the greatness of the United States of America."

Thank you Miami Dade College for giving us a little bit of happiness among all the human misery that we have endured in our lifetime.

May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,



Elsa Morejon Hernandez, RN
Human Rights activist in Cuba and mother of Yan Valdes Morejon
April 26, 2006