Over the past 10 years, Broward College has conferred associate degrees to 29,490 minority students, ranking third among public, for-profit and nonprofit institutions nationwide, according to a special report in Diverse Issues in Higher Education. Within that total, 10,915 associate degrees were conferred upon African American students, also ranking Broward third, and 11,332 associate degrees were conferred upon Hispanic students, ranking the College sixth in the nation.

Diverse Issues in Higher Education is a biweekly magazine that informs readers from academe, industry and public policy about current education trends and issues. Unlike the magazine’s annual Top 100 analysis, which examines various levels of degrees conferred in the most recent academic year, this report focused on long-term trends for associate degrees.

Earlier this year, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, a biweekly magazine that is the sole Hispanic educational publication for the higher education community, released a report on the Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics. Broward College ranked 11th among colleges and universities for its undergraduate enrollment during the fall 2013 semester.
On The Road: Sykes’ Efforts Pay Off for Minority Businesses

In mid-June, Dicky Sykes, Broward College's director of supplier relations and diversity, spoke at the National Airport Minority Advisory Council Diverse Airport Business Conference Aviation Breakfast at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Resort and Spa. There, she saw colleagues from New York and California and all points in between who shared best diverse business practices. The next day, she attended the South Florida Minority Supplier Development Council's Board meeting and to her surprise and delight, their national vice president of field operations, Marquis Miller, was there to make a presentation. Miller also provided her with a copy of the council’s “Best Practices in Minority Supplier Development” and one best practice jumped out at her. That, she says, is because Broward College is so proactive in doing so: “All levels of management are accountable for supplier development.”

Sykes stays busy. She takes the opportunity to meet and interact with business leaders at all levels and in all parts of Broward County and shows them what Broward College can do to help their bottom line. At conferences, conventions, expos, workshops and board meetings, she's likely to be there, discussing programs and initiatives to promote and grow small businesses to scale, through alignment with the college's Small Disadvantaged Business Program. What she often hears is this: It is not about just giving a small business one job but helping that small business grow to scale. With the help of the college's management team, her job is made easier.

Here's an example of what one business accomplished with the help of Broward College. Standing Ovations Catering, who won the college's “Chopped” catering competition, was guaranteed four catering opportunities for winning the competition. However, in fewer than six months, Standing Ovations has catered 17 events throughout the college and now has a temporary concessionnaire's contract at Bailey Hall. The teamwork, from all levels of management at Broward College, made it possible.

Sykes says the luncheons on the road and the long hours pay off handsomely for the college and the businesses who benefit. “I think Broward College remains best in class and is a leader in the field of supplier diversity because we fundamentally understand the return on investment and we are not afraid to think out of the box and be innovative and creative with our supplier diversity program.”

Broward College has recently partnered with The Village Square to provide a safe and comfortable forum for civic engagement on diverse matters of local, state and national importance. The College will host a variety of large community forums/events to discuss issues facing our community throughout the year. Membership into the Village Square not only supports the mission of the organization and helps support the programming of events, but members will receive an invitation for them and a guest to all pre-dinner speaker receptions hosted by The Village Square Advisory Board.

Village Square Membership Recruitment Reception
September 21 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Gunster
450 East Las Olas Blvd., Suite #1400, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Broward College Student Nationally Recognized by the Starfish Foundation

President Armstrong was in New York City recently to attend the Starfish Foundation’s fourth annual scholarship gala at Espace, where Broward College student Maria Argueta was one of 20 2015 scholarship recipients nationally saluted by the foundation.

Started by broadcast journalist Soledad O’Brien and her husband, Brad Raymond, The Starfish Foundation was created to help young women of color achieve success. The foundation is built on three pillars: education, advocacy and impact. The foundation provides determined, hard-working young women access to civic activities, a network of professional support and scholarships.

Francisca Solis, a student in the Bachelor of Science program in Environmental Science is featured in a picture in the Summer 2015 edition of Show-Me Conservation, the official newsletter of the Missouri division of the National Resources Conservation Service. Solis grew up in Broward County, graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School and earned two associate degrees from Broward College in 2013. She is one of two Broward College students who received a coveted Pathways internship, and one of 12 serving a Pathways internship. Solis interns at a USDA field office in Moberly, Missouri, where she spends her days working with farmers on erosion mitigation plans and creating soil maps using GIS technology.

President Armstrong Welcomes Students from China

On July 22, President Armstrong welcomed 17 students and their two professors from partner college Shanghai Second Polytechnic University who are attending an intensive English summer camp at Broward.

Quiroga, Ojeda Named Women of Distinction

Dr. Mercedes “Mercy” Quiroga (left), president of Central Campus in Davie, joins 11 other honorees at the 14th annual Hispanic Women of Distinction. Also among the honorees is Andreina Ojeda (right), president of the Lingua Language Center at the Willis Holcombe Downtown Center.

Quiroga, Ojeda and their fellow honorees will be officially honored at a gala luncheon, fashion show and business exposition on August 14 at Signature Grand in Davie.

The honorees are Hispanic women at the top of their fields in business, law, medicine, education and other professions, as well as philanthropy and public and community service in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.
Since 1983, Broward College has recognized alumni who have made noteworthy contributions in professional, civic, public and philanthropic arenas and have demonstrated how their lives have been enriched by their educational experiences at their alma mater.

Each year, nominations are reviewed by a committee composed of past recipients and college representatives. Awards are presented in the categories of Alumni Merit, Alumni Service, Community Service and Emerging Leader.

The honorees are recognized for their accomplishments, character and commitment to their community.

This year, more than 80 applications were submitted for the awards and the committee of Catalina Avalos, Lisa Scott Founds and Terri Justice served as judges.

2015 Hall of Distinction Recipients Selected

President Armstrong Named 2015 Business Leader of the Year

The Seafarers’ House has honored President Armstrong by naming him their 2015 Business Leader of the Year.

He will be formally honored at the 20th Annual South Florida Business Leaders’ Luncheon on Nov. 20 aboard the MS Zuiderdam at Port Everglades.

Seafarers’ House chose President Armstrong for the award for his more than a quarter century in higher education as well as his efforts in guiding Broward College to becoming one of the nation's top community colleges as well as offering four-year degrees.

"Under his stewardship, Broward College has recognized the need to create a well-trained workforce for business and industry," said event co-chair Molly Hottinger. "He has recognized the significant role that South Florida’s maritime industry plays in our economy and the need to prepare future generations with the knowledge and expertise to sustain the key role that our maritime community plays in global commerce."

Seafarers’ House at Port Everglades is a non-profit organization supported by the faith-based community as well as by labor, business and civic leaders with a mission "to offer refuge, resources, renewal and respect to the maritime community through multi-faith service."
Unsung Heroes

Unsung Heroes are Broward College employees who go above and beyond their job description and performance. These heroes are recognized at the College’s monthly management and academic team meetings.

Staff Team Represents College in Uptown Cup

It’s not just Broward College’s soccer players who represent the college on the pitch these days. A staff team coached by head women’s coach Mike Goodrich represented the college in the inaugural Fort Lauderdale Strikers Uptown Cup. The tournament was a 5 v. 5 co-ed tournament against other corporate teams played on short-sided fields at the Strikers’ training facility at Lockhart Stadium. Broward’s team finished third in its division, but played some memorable soccer, posting a 10-2 victory in its last game. Team members were: Brenda Bordogna, Joshua Esnard, Lizette Foley, Pedro Encarnacion Pena, Leandro DeRaurio, Karen Rodriguez, Johnny Gonzalez, Renato Cortez, Jonathan Smith-Stern, Wendy Varela, Masi James, Ray Alce, Diego Sinisterra and Anthony Hearn. Among the other teams playing in the Uptown Cup were teams from Citrix, Microsoft, Zimmerman Advertising, Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale and more.

A Grand Slam Year for Broward College Student-Athletes

The 2014-2015 school year was an impressive one for Broward College student-athletes. Six athletes representing the college’s eight sports teams were recently named to the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Academic All-America team for 2015. Two of the recipients – soccer players Iris Riveros and Tori Williams – were named recipients of awards for superior academic achievement, for achieving a grade-point average of 3.8 or higher. The remaining four – baseball players Michael Agis and Austin Langham, soccer player Amy Etchechury and volleyball player Courtney Skinner – were named recipients of awards for exemplary academic achievement, for GPAs of 3.5 or better.

All recipients were required to complete a minimum of 48 credit hours to be eligible for the honor. The news of the six all-Americans came after the college learned 31 athletes had been named to the Florida College System Activities Association All-Academic team, which requires recipients to complete a minimum of 18 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.3 or better.

Maeya Sanchez, in addition to her FCSAA all-state honors, also was named recipient of the Vicki Schnurr Scholar Athlete Award for the female tennis player with the best academic average in the state.

Seahawks Defender Signs Scholarship to Alderson Broaddus University

Former Broward Seahawk defender Pablo Gastaldi has signed a scholarship to Alderson Broaddus University. Gastaldi started 12 of 15 matches during his career as a defender for the Seahawks. He is a native of Argentina and a graduate of Naples High School. Alderson Broaddus, in Philippi, W. Va., is a NCAA Division II school and competes in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
President Armstrong presents Senator Jeremy Ring with a memento commemorating his support of Broward College during the 2015 Legislative Session. Sen. Ring, from Margate, addressed the August District Board of Trustees meeting.

Outgoing South Campus President Sean Madison introduced his interim replacement, Dr. Rolando Garcia, to the District Board of Trustees and the remainder of the college community at the August board meeting. Garcia said he hopes to keep the momentum that Madison began at the campus going until a permanent campus president is selected.

Computer Science Professor Says Goodbye

Professor Linda Kliston spent 20 of her 30 years as a professional educator at Broward College. The other 10 years were spent teaching in middle and high schools. She says she has enjoyed them all.

Kliston, who taught in continuing education, the WINGS program, worked with honors students and taught blended classes in computer science, was recognized for her efforts and dedication at the August board of trustees meeting on the occasion of her retirement.

She says she expects her retirement will be no less busy than her work life was. First up on her list is a trip to Colorado with her husband.