

ELRM 2016 Summer Graduate Joaquin Martinez: A Man of “Firsts”



Joaquin Martinez (right) with dissertation chair Deborah Floyd, Ed.D., dean of the Graduate College and ELRM professor.



COE Dean Valerie J. Bristol, ELRM faculty and 2016 Summer Graduate students.

Joaquin Martinez, 44, is a man of “firsts.” He is the first one in his family to graduate from high school and earn a college degree. He is also the first to be president of a college, working his way up while in school to recently be named the leader of the Hialeah campus of Miami-Dade College (MDC). On Tuesday, Aug. 9, Martinez added another “first” to his list as he became the first in his family to graduate with a doctorate in higher education leadership from Florida Atlantic University.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Martinez arrived in the United States with his mom when he was just 8 years old. They settled in Miami where Martinez lived until a high school teacher convinced him to attend Middlebury College in Vermont.

Martinez had researched higher education leadership programs back in 2010, right around the time he accepted his first job at MDC. After meeting Deborah Floyd, Ed.D., dean of FAU’s Graduate College and a professor within the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology in FAU’s College of Education, Martinez finalized his decision to attend FAU.

“I was very interested in the research that Dr. Floyd was doing, and she was interested in what I wanted to do as well,” he said. “I think she knew before me that she would be my dissertation chair.”

Floyd recalls the sacrifices that Martinez made to be a part of the program. While working at MDC, he drove to Boca Raton from Miami for six years to attend evening and Saturday classes, and spent his weekends and vacations doing class projects and research.

Martinez’s commitment to his work paid off quickly at MDC. During the six years he was part of FAU’s doctorate program, Martinez was promoted four times. This summer, he was named president of the Hialeah campus of MDC, overseeing more than 18,000 students.

“I truly love helping and inspiring students,” he said. “It helps that I get paid to do this, but I would do this for free.”

From FAU Graduate Named President of Local Community College
by Kelsie Weekes, read full article at www.fau.edu/newsdesk



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