

December 22, 2002

Dear Editor:

An article in the December 15, 2002 edition of the *New York Times* sheds new light on what folks familiar with community colleges have known all along: taking your first two years of college at a community college is a great way to carve a path to a top university. In fact, more and more of the nation's top high school students are choosing to attend community colleges before transferring to a university. "We just saved so much money," explained one 4.0 grade average student who had just spent two years at a New York community college and will be a junior at Barnard College next fall. Miami-Dade Community College president, Dr. Eduardo Padron, is even more blunt: "You'd have to be crazy not to take advantage of us," he said. "You get all this for practically nothing, you save \$30,000 at a minimum and then get to go to the university almost of your choice, very often on a scholarship."

With Parkland's excellent Honors Program, its Phi Theta Kappa chapter for outstanding students, and many other benefits, parents are realizing that the cost-savings offered by community colleges is too good of a thing to pass up.

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