

ELIZA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION...

WE ARE PLEASED TO HOST THE U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION HERE IN MIAMI.

LET ME START BY GIVING A BIG "THANK YOU" TO DOCTOR EDUARDO PADRON WHOSE LEADERSHIP AT MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE HAS BEEN AN EXAMPLE FOR US ALL.

MR. JAVIER PALOMAREZ, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CHAMBER, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

AND TO ALL OF YOU THAT HAVE JOINED US THIS EVENING...

WELCOME TO MIAMI!

BIENVENIDOS A MIAMI!

WHEN IT COMES TO LEADING THE WAY ON THE ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST TO ALL OF US...

WHETHER IT'S ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR ENTREPRENEURS...

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, HEALTHCARE, ENERGY, AND SO MANY OTHERS...

THE U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE FOUNDATION REPRESENT THE BUSINESS VOICE OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY...

THE LARGEST GROWING SEGMENT OF OUR POPULATION.

THE UNITED STATES NOW HAS THE SECOND LARGEST SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION IN THE WORLD.

AND THE NUMBER OF HISPANICS WILL DOUBLE BY 2060, REACHING OVER 128 MILLION, COMPRISING 31% OF THE NATION'S POPULATION.

YOUR WORK FORMS THE BASIS FOR STRENGTHENING THIS GROWING POPULATION BY OPENING A GREATER COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISPANICS ACROSS OUR NATION.

AMONG THE MANY CORE MISSIONS OF THE CHAMBER IS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE BETWEEN HISPANIC BUSINESSES IN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA.

AND, THROUGH THE FOUNDATION, YOUR INITIATIVES AWAKEN AND NURTURE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH, AND FOSTER BUSINESS LEADERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER PLACE TO HIGHLIGHT THESE MISSIONS THAN MIAMI.

OURS IS A COMMUNITY BUILT ON THE DREAMS AND ASPIRATION OF PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO COME HERE TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE, TO LIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM.

WE'RE A CITY THAT HAS GREATLY BENEFITTED FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMERGE FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND OUR OPENNESS TO OTHERS.

TRADITIONALLY, MIAMI HAS BEEN THE GATEWAY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. AND NOW, WE ARE INCREASINGLY THE GATEWAY TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND BEYOND.

MIAMI IS A CROSSROADS OF COMMERCE AND CULTURE, AND WE HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE PLACES IN THE WORLD.

IN FACT, CLOSE TO 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

WE ARE THE MEETING POINT FOR GOODS, SERVICES, AND PEOPLE FLOWING THROUGH TO AND FROM THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES.

AS A COMMUNITY, WE ARE ACTIVELY INVESTING IN ALL THE FACTORS THAT CREATE A POSITIVE AND ROBUST CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

AND OUR INVESTMENTS ARE PAYING OFF.

FOR 2013, THE VALUE OF TOTAL TRADE THROUGH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TOPPED \$93 BILLION. AND WE'RE ON PACE FOR ANOTHER RECORD SETTING YEAR.

A RECENT STUDY BY THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION SHOWS OUR UNIQUE POSITION AS A CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

THE REPORT STATES THAT "MIAMI HOSTS NEARLY 300 DIRECT INVESTMENTS FROM 28 DIFFERENT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND 50 DIFFERENT LATIN AMERICAN CITY-REGIONS TOGETHER EMPLOYING OVER 10,500 WORKERS —

PLUS ANOTHER 75 INVESTMENTS FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL EMPLOYING ALMOST 5,000 MORE."

IN FACT, WE NOW RANK THIRD BEHIND LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK IN THE NUMBER OF INVESTMENT PARTNERS.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ATTRACTING LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

WE'RE ALSO A COMMUNITY WHOSE ECONOMIC BACKBONE IS MADE UP OF SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES.

WE SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS...

ONE EXAMPLE IS OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH DOCTOR PADRON AND THE GOLDMAN SACHS 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES PROGRAM THAT GIVES BUSINESS OWNERS VALUABLE SKILLS FOR GROWING THEIR BUSINESSES...

IT ALSO PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS FINANCIAL CAPITAL, POWERFUL NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE, AT ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO PARTICIPANTS.

I WAS ALSO AT THE CAMACOL HEMISPHERIC CONGRESS JUST LAST MONTH AND THEY DO A GREAT JOB OF BRIDGING OUR SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH OTHER BUSINESSES OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND BUSINESS THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY.

ONE AREA WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT IS THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY SECTOR HERE IN MIAMI.

WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO BECOMING A TECHNOLOGY HUB, ESPECIALLY FOR START UPS AND LATIN AMERICA.

JUST THIS MAY WE HOSTED THE FIRST E-MERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE WITH 6,000 OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY FROM THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE.

I ALSO HOSTED A MAYORAL INNOVATION SUMMIT TO SHARE WAYS IN WHICH TECHNOLOGY IS SHAPING OUR CITIES.

BUT LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF HOW AN INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY YIELDS GREAT RETURNS.

WE MADE AN EARLY INVESTMENT IN A TECH INCUBATOR CALLED VENTURE HIVE.

VENTURE HIVE WORKS WITH ENTREPRENEURS TO DEVELOP NEW TECHNOLOGY BASED BUSINESSES.

WELL, MICROSOFT JUST ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST EVER MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LAUNCHED HERE, AT VENTURE HIVE.

THIS INNOVATION CENTER WILL BRING TECH INNOVATORS ALONG WITH STUDENTS AND OTHERS...

ALL WORKING TO ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, CREATING THE TECH OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS OF TOMORROW.

THESE ARE THE SORTS OF OPPORTUNITIES WE ARE WORKING TO CREATE AND EXPAND HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

BUT IN THE END, OUR MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE IS OUR PEOPLE.

MIAMI IS OPEN TO PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER, AND WE HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE THE VIBRANT CITY YOU SEE TODAY.

LET ME CLOSE BY SAYING THAT YOU ALL HAVE A PARTNER IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

USTEDES TIENEN UN SOCIO EN LA ALCALDIA.

AND WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO JOIN IN YOUR MISSION OF WORKING TO FOSTER HISPANIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CREATE SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

WE ARE TRULY HONORED THAT YOU ARE HERE.

YOU ALL HAVE A HOME HERE IN MIAMI AND WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU BACK!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH - MUCHAS GRACIAS A TODOS...

