

Fellow residents...

Madam Chair, members of the commission...

Good morning!

It's always great to start our meetings with some good news, and what better news to start with than to celebrate the accomplishments of the fine young men and women who are this month's Mayor's Shining Scholars.

They each remind us of the great potential that exists in Miami-Dade County, and they have been nominated by members of the community for their exemplary accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and overall excellence.

As with all past winners – and we've been recognizing these scholars now for over a year – you can find their stories in the Hall of Stars feature on my website.

Madam Chair, commissioners, it's my pleasure to introduce to you this month's Mayor's Shining Scholars:

Our unstoppable scholar is Rosseta Tourgeman, a senior at Miami Springs Senior High School, 12th grade who lives in Commissioner Heyman's District.

Rosseta's motto is "put God first, stay focused on what you want in life, and try your hardest to accomplish your goals." Following this motto keeps her focused on succeeding.

As an example, Rosseta has always struggled with Math, so she was advised not to attempt any Honors Math courses. She deliberately took on that challenge and has since consistently earned good grades in those courses, proving to others, and herself, that if she tries hard enough, nothing is out of her reach.

Rosseta is involved in hip-hop, ballet, jazz, and is a marching band auxiliary dancer, and has spent countless hours reading to the elderly.

She believes that our elders have worked very hard throughout their lives and have given so much to our community that it is only right to spend quality time with them to show a little gratitude for everything they have contributed.

Rosseta also collects clothing from her family members and peers to donate to Goodwill, and has been a volunteer at "The Shul's Camp Galan," where she takes care of smaller children and strives to be a positive role model.

Rosseta hopes to pursue a career in law. She plans to work for a prestigious law firm upon graduation and later become a judge.

Let's give Rosseta a big round of applause!

Our emerging leader is Landy Rojas, a senior at Miami Senior High School who lives in Commissioner Barreiro's District.

Landy has a 4.1 GPA and perfect attendance. Not only is he a scholar, but he is also a member of Rotary Club, and plays tennis and soccer for his school. He has also completed two years of JROTC.

Landy helps those younger than he and has held a part-time job at the Miami Children's Museum, through which he interacted with children with special needs. Before and after work hours, he

volunteered his time at the museum, accumulating 330 hours of community service.

Landy's love for community service has even brought him to County Hall and this summer, he was chosen for an internship with Commissioner Barreiro in District 5. The internship helped him get a better understand of what goes on in the community he lives in and how it runs.

Landy hopes to become a lawyer in order to better serve his community.

Let's give Landy a big round of applause!

Our pursuer of excellence is Eleanor Harley, a junior at Coral Gables Senior High School who lives in Commissioner Suarez' District.

Eleanor has a 4.0 un-weighted GPA and is in the International Baccalaureate program at her school. She is also a member of the National Honor Society.

She is involved in a variety of service activities including: helping to maintain her school's butterfly garden, participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for

the Cure, and co-founding a food drive at her church to benefit Feed Miami.

Eleanor is the Recording Secretary of Twenty Little Working Girls, a community service organization made up of high-school girls from around Miami who participate in service events each month.

She is also a member of Student Government, through which is she responsible for tracking students in jeopardy of violating their interscholastic contracts. She also helps organize school-wide events and activities to help promote school spirit and student involvement.

Eleanor auditioned for her school's dance team, the Gablettes, without having any dance training, and she is now a 2nd year veteran as result for her discipline and dedication. Her team selected her as the most improved member of the 2012-13 squad, and she was recognized as the freshmen member with the highest GPA.

This year, Eleanor hopes to be a Senior of Distinction and Silver Knight nominee. She aims to expand her food drive through her church, and would also like to travel to other countries on mission trips to help kids

in need and to spread her faith. In addition, she is working hard to help her dance team defend their National Championship titles.

Let's give Eleanor a big round of applause!

Madam Chair, these young men and women are a shining example of the bright future we all have here in Miami-Dade County, and they're the inspiration behind everything we do here.

Rosseta, Landy, Eleanor, we're all proud of you and of all you've done! Congratulations and we wish you much luck in everything you do.

Let's give them one more round of applause!

