

MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS, FELLOW RESIDENTS...

GOOD MORNING!

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO RECOGNIZE THIS MONTH'S SHINING SCHOLARS...

THESE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN DUE TO THEIR WORK IN THE AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND OVERALL EXCELLENCE.

THEY ALSO SHARE A PASSION FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS, AND THEIR EFFORTS ARE MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

AS WITH PAST WINNERS, THE FULL PROFILES OF EACH OF THIS MONTH'S SCHOLARS WILL BE FEATURED IN THE HALL OF STARS ON MY WEBSITE.

OUR UNSTOPPABLE SCHOLAR IS JESSICA ROSNER, A JUNIOR AT THE SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES WOLFSON CAMPUS, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER SALLY A. HEYMAN'S DISTRICT.

AT A YOUNG AGE, JESSICA WAS TOLD THAT SHE NEEDED EXTRA HELP IN MATH AND ENGLISH, BUT THAT ONLY MADE HER MORE DETERMINED TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL.

TODAY, SHE IS AMONG THE TOP 1 PERCENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

SHE IS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT HANDS OF MIAMI, AND IS THE TREASURER OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND THE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY AT HER SCHOOL.

JESSICA REGULARLY PARTICIPATES IN PROJECTS SUCH AS THE ENHANCEMENT OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN IN LITTLE HAVANA TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO INCLUDE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN THEIR DAILY MEALS AND AVOID UNHEALTHY FOOD CHOICES. SHE HAS ALSO VOLUNTEERED AT JOE DIMAGGIO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

JESSICA ASPIRES TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL TO BECOME A PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST SO THAT SHE CAN ALLEVIATE THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH CANCER.

SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO START HER OWN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO HONOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, LIKE HER

GRANDPARENTS, AND CELEBRATE HER JEWISH HERITAGE.

LET'S ALL GIVE JESSICA A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

OUR EMERGING LEADER IS PATRICIA MARRERO, A JUNIOR AT JOSE MARTI MAST ACADEMY, WHO LIVES IN CHAIRMAN JEAN MONESTIME'S DISTRICT.

PATRICIA HAS A 4.4 WEIGHTED GPA. SHE IS CURRENTLY TAKING AP STATISTICS AND AP SPANISH LITERATURE, AND SHE SCORED A 5 ON HER AP SPANISH LANGUAGE EXAM IN 10TH GRADE.

PATRICIA SERVES AS THE MIAMI-DADE YOUTH COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 6 AND IS THE VICE CHAIR OF ITS YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

SHE SERVES AS HER SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2016 PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUB, AND IS A MEMBER OF WOMEN OF TOMORROW.

SHE ALSO TUTORS AFTER SCHOOL THROUGH THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND HAS BEEN

WORKING WITH THE MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S VENTILATION ASSISTED CHILDREN'S CAMP SINCE HER FRESHMAN YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.

SHE WAS THE WALTER B. ARNOLD, JR. HALL OF FAME COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT IN 2014 AND RECEIVED AN EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION AWARD FROM DR. LARRY FELDMAN FOR HER INVOLVEMENT IN THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT.

LET'S ALL GIVE PATRICIA A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

AND, OUR PURSUER OF EXCELLENCE IS CHRISTINA CRUZ, A JUNIOR AT CARROLLTON SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER XAVIER SUAREZ'S DISTRICT.

CHRISTINA IS AN AP HONOR SCHOLAR; SHE IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ENGLISH AND FRENCH HONOR SOCIETIES.

SHE WILL BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL MATH HONOR SOCIETY, NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY, AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY LATER THIS MONTH.

SHE HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S DEBATE INSTITUTE SUMMER PROGRAM, WHERE SHE SPENT 5 WEEKS IMPROVING HER DEBATE SKILLS. SHE WAS ALSO THE CHAMPION OF THE 40TH ANNUAL HARVARD DEBATE TOURNAMENT.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, SHE HAS BEEN A GIRL SCOUT SINCE SHE WAS 9 YEARS OLD AND HAS EARNED A BRONZE AWARD FOR ESTABLISHING A TERRACYCLE RECYCLING PROGRAM AND A SILVER AWARD FOR REFURBISHING A BATHHOUSE AT CAMP MAHACHEE.

EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST 7 YEARS, CHRISTINA HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN A PUMPKIN PIE BAKING TEAM THAT PREPARES, BAKES, AND DELIVERS 200 PIES TO THE MIAMI RESCUE MISSION FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER. THAT SAME TEAM ALSO RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN A TOY DRIVE FOR THE CHILDREN AT ST. JOHN BOSCO, COLLECTING OVER 1,000 TOYS FOR ABOUT 500 NEEDY CHILDREN.

CHRISTINA IS CURRENTLY WORKING TO EARN A GOLD AWARD THROUGH A PROJECT AIMED AT

INCREASING AWARENESS, AND ULTIMATELY REGISTRATION, FOR ORGAN DONATION.

SHE SCORED IN THE TOP 2.5 PERCENT ON THE PSAT AMONG ALL HISPANIC/LATINO TEST TAKERS IN THE REGION AND WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM.

SHE ALSO HOPES TO BE NAMED A NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR AND EARN HER BID TO THE NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS.

LET'S GIVE CHRISTINA A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

JESSICA, PATRICIA AND CHRISTINA - YOU AND YOUR FELLOW SHINING SCHOLARS SHOW THAT OUR FUTURE IS INDEED BRIGHT ...

WE WISH YOU MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS!

MR. CHAIR, PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THIS MONTH'S MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS!

AND LET'S GIVE OUR MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS ONE LAST ROUND OF APPLAUSE!