

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION...**

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO AREN'T FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IS A FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE AREA AND THE FORMER COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER.**

**WE ARE PLEASED TO HOST THE U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION ONCE AGAIN HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**LAST YEAR, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF WELCOMING YOU FOR YOUR TRAINING INSTITUTE PROGRAM AND I AM THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU AND ALL THE LOCAL CHAMBER LEADERS BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**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 TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BUSINESS FUTURE...**

**WELCOME TO MIAMI!**

***BIENVENIDOS A MIAMI!***

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

**WHETHER IT IS LEADING THE WAY ON THE ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST TO ALL OF US, ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR ENTREPRENEURS, EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, HEALTHCARE, ENERGY, AND SO MANY OTHERS...**

**YOUR WORK FORMS THE BASIS FOR STRENGTHENING OUR COUNTRY'S GROWING HISPANIC 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-DADE COUNTY.**

**OUR COMMUNITY IS 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.**

**OUR COMMUNITY HAS GREATLY BENEFITTED FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMERGE FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND OUR OPENNESS TO OTHERS.**

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

**AND AS WE ALL KNOW, 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 52% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN, AND ABOUT 60% SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME.**

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

**ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE ATTENTION OUR COUNTY RECEIVES IS FOCUSED ON BIG TICKET EVENTS, THERE IS A THRIVING SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR THAT KEEPS OUR LOCAL ECONOMY MOVING.**

**MANY OF THE BUSINESSES HELP SUPPORT OUR HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM INDUSTRY, WHICH WELCOMED A RECORD 14.6 MILLION OVERNIGHT VISITORS IN 2014, AS WELL AS OUR ECONOMIC ENGINES OF MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORTMIAMI. APPROXIMATELY 600,000 JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE SUPPORTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY MIA AND PORTMIAMI.**

**WE ARE FOCUSED ON AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY SUCH AS OUR TECHNOLOGY SECTOR, WHERE WE HAVE SEEN TREMENDOUS GROWTH, ESPECIALLY DUE TO OUR CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA.**

**WE ARE PARTNERING WITH OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO SUPPORT THIS FAST-GROWING SECTOR.**

**AND WE ARE ALSO SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY VENTURES SUCH AS THE START-UP INCUBATOR “VENTURE HIVE” AS WELL AS THE “EMERGE AMERICAS” CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE RIGHT NOW IN MIAMI BEACH.**

**ALSO, JUST THIS MAY WE HOSTED THE SECOND E-MERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE WITH OVER 10,000 OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY FROM THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE.**

**IN ADDITION, WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE AND GOLDMAN SACHS TO BRING THE 10,000 SMALL BUSINESSES INITIATIVE TO MIAMI...**

**A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT EDUCATION, AS WELL AS IMPROVED ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.**

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

**THESE ARE THE SORTS OF OPPORTUNITIES MR. PALOMAREZ WORKS TO CREATE AS THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMERICA'S LARGEST HISPANIC BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.**

**UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, THE USHCC ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF 250 MAJOR AMERICAN CORPORATIONS, AND SERVES AS THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR OVER 200 LOCAL CHAMBERS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS NATIONWIDE.**

**IN ADDITION, THE USHCC REPRESENTS MORE THAN 3.2 MILLION HISPANIC BUSINESSES THAT COMBINED, CONTRIBUTE OVER \$486 BILLION TO THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ANNUALLY.**

**LET ME CLOSE BY THANKING JAVIER FOR HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS 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 AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SO MUCH THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR YOU LATER IN THE PROGRAM.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR CHOOSING OUR MULTI-CULTURAL AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S BUSINESS FUTURE.**

**GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!**

