

THANK YOU, DR. VICENTE, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO BE PART OF AWSoME DAY AT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, WHICH IS ONE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S MOST IMPORTANT PARTNERS IN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

ANY DAY WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY IN OUR COMMUNITY IS CERTAINLY AN "AWESOME DAY" – ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE JOINED BY THE LIKES OF AMAZON -- THE WORLD'S LEADER IN E-COMMERCE AND CLOUD SOLUTIONS.

THANK YOU, AMAZON, FOR MAKING A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY'S TECHNOLOGICAL GROWTH, AND THANK YOU, MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, FOR OPENING THE IDEA CENTER, WHICH WILL SERVE AS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL HUB FOR OUR STARTUP COMMUNITY AND OTHERS.

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING, AND THIS INVITATION IS ESPECIALLY TIMELY FOR ME. EARLIER THIS WEEK, I WAS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR AN OPEN DATA SUMMIT. WHILE I WAS THERE, I MET WITH THE WHITE HOUSE'S U.S. DIGITAL SERVICE AND 18F TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY.

I LEARNED THAT FORWARD-THINKING TECHNOLOGISTS ARE TRANSFORMING HOW SERVICES ARE BEING DELIVERED. THE TEAMS AT THE U.S. DIGITAL SERVICE AND 18F CONSIST OF AMERICA'S MOST CAPABLE PROBLEM SOLVERS -- MANY OF THEM FROM THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TECH STARTUPS.

TOGETHER, THEY ARE STRIVING TO MAKE CRITICAL SERVICES — LIKE HEALTHCARE, STUDENT LOANS AND VETERANS' BENEFITS — AS SIMPLE AS BUYING A BOOK ONLINE. THEIR DEDICATION IS INSPIRING.

THIS IS THE COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION AND SERVICE THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO FOSTER AND PROMOTE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THE TIME TO MAKE FURTHER INROADS IN OUR COMMUNITY'S TECHNOLOGICAL DOMINANCE IS NOW. INSTITUTIONS ARE BETTING ON MIAMI'S FUTURE AS A MAJOR TECH STARTUP HUB. ACCORDING TO A RECENT KAUFMAN REPORT, MIAMI IS ONE OF THE MOST ENTREPRENEURIAL PLACES IN THE COUNTRY. IN FACT, WE ARE SECOND IN THE NATION IN TERMS OF START-UP ACTIVITY.

OUR LEADERSHIP STATUS IS EVIDENCED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF CO-WORKING SPACES, ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS THAT ARE UP AND RUNNING IN OUR COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION TO MIAMI DADE COLLEGE'S IDEA CENTER, SOME EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- LAB MIAMI - A CO-WORKING SPACE IN THE HEART OF WYNWOOD THAT HAS BECOME A GATHERING PLACE FOR LOCAL STARTUPS.**
- VENTURE HIVE - A LOCAL TECH ACCELERATOR THAT HELPS ENTREPRENEURS GROW THEIR TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES.**
- THE MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER - A STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FACILITY**

OPEN TO STUDENTS, SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, ACADEMIC FACULTY, ENTREPRENEURS AND STARTUPS FOR COLLABORATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.

- **THE CAMBRIDGE INNOVATION CENTER - ANOTHER ACCELERATOR FROM BOSTON/CAMBRIDGE THAT IS OPENING OFFICES IN MIAMI**

IN ADDITION TO THESE CO-WORKING SPACES, ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED STRONG PARTNERSHIPS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO HELP US DRIVE MIAMI-DADE'S TECH FUTURE.

THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION, AND IN PARTICULAR, MATT HAGGMAN, HAVE BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR START-UP COMMUNITY. KNIGHT, ALONG WITH THE MIAMI FOUNDATION, THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, THE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION OF THE AMERICAS AND MANY OTHERS, HELPED FUND THE COUNTY'S CODE FOR

AMERICA FELLOWSHIP LAST YEAR. IT WAS THE FIRST FELLOWSHIP TEAM IN FLORIDA.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS CODE FOR MIAMI -- OUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER CIVIC TECH BRIGADE -- WHICH MEETS WEEKLY TO HELP US DRIVE INNOVATION IN OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS ALSO ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED THE E-MERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE AND HOSTS THE E-GOV SUMMIT, WHERE RESIDENTS ENGAGE WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND ABROAD TO SHARE IDEAS ABOUT HOW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WILL TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL, AND IMPROVE THE SERVICES GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE.

BEFORE CLOSING, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON STEPS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY TAKING TO DRIVE INNOVATION. FIRST, WE'RE LOOKING TO MAKE THE MOST OF "THE CLOUD." SIMPLY PUT, CLOUD TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS OUR TECH COMMUNITY TO INNOVATE FASTER; IT GIVES OUR START-UP COMMUNITY AND OUR WORKFORCE THE

TOOLS THEY NEED TO BE MORE AGILE AS THEY BUILD NEW TECHNOLOGY.

IN ADDITION, WE'RE OPENING UP MORE OF OUR DATA. IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE COUNTY LAUNCHED OPENDATA.MIAMIDADE.GOV.

OPEN DATA MAKES IT EASIER FOR RESIDENTS TO UNDERSTAND OUR GOVERNMENT AND BUILD TECHNOLOGY. AFTER ALL, IT'S THE PEOPLE'S DATA, AND WE WANT TO ENGAGE OUR RESIDENTS TO HELP US EXPLORE AND SOLVE OUR MOST PRESSING COMMUNITY ISSUES. AS I LIKE TO SAY, MIAMI-DADE SHOULD HAVE 2.6 MILLION MAYORS.

WE, LIKE MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, ARE DEDICATED TO INVESTING IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

ONCE AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, AMAZON AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PAVING THE WAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT BY IMPROVING AGILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN OUR COMMUNITY IS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AS "TECH BEACH."

**LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SECURE
THE NATION'S NUMBER-ONE SPOT FOR START-UPS,
TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!**

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

