

STEVE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION...

MAYOR LEVINE, MAYOR REGALADO, MAYOR CASON,
REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON, DEAR FRIENDS...

IT'S TRULY A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU
THIS AFTERNOON TO BRIEFLY SHARE WITH YOU
SOME THOUGHTS ON OUR ECONOMIC CLIMATE...

AND HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE
OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH.

ALL OF US KNOW THAT WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF
MOBILE CAPITAL AND RESOURCES...

QUITE FRANKLY, PEOPLE CAN LIVE, INVEST, AND
WORK ANYWHERE NOWADAYS.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMPETES NOT ONLY WITH
CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, BUT WITH
PLACES FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON OUR WILLINGNESS TO
CREATE A WORLD-CLASS ECONOMIC CLIMATE OF
ATTRACTION...

WHERE PEOPLE WILL WANT TO LIVE, WORK, AND
PLAY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN THE THINGS THAT ADD VALUE TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE.

OUR URBAN CORE IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST REAL ESTATE MARKETS IN THE WORLD.

OUR AIR AND SEA PORTS RANK AMONG THE BEST AND BUSIEST IN THE NATION.

OUR CONCENTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL BANKS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES IS SECOND ONLY TO MANHATTAN.

WE'RE A HUB FOR TECH START-UPS AND HEALTH CARE TOURISM.

WE HOST ART BASEL, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ART FAIRS IN THE AMERICAS.

AND JUST ACROSS THE WATER FROM HERE, WE'VE OPENED AN AWESOME AND BEAUTIFUL NEW ART MUSEUM, THE PEREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI, AND SOON A NEW SCIENCE MUSEUM.

ALL IN ALL, WE'RE EMERGING AS A PREMIERE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

BUT IN TODAY'S WORLD, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH!

WE CANNOT CONTINUE RELYING ON OUTDATED MODELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT FOCUS ON ONE OR TWO INDUSTRIES IN ISOLATION...

AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ENVIABLE WEATHER, WE NEED TO BE KNOWN FOR MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

THIS IS WHY WE'RE WORKING TO UNLEASH THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING START-UP INCUBATORS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY BASED BUSINESSES.

THIS COMING MAY, WE WILL HOST MAYORS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR THE EMERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE.

THIS IS A SUMMIT THAT WILL GATHER THE BRIGHTEST INNOVATORS IN TECHNOLOGY TO CONTINUE POSITIONING MIAMI AS A LEADER IN TECHNOLOGY.

THROUGH THESE EFFORTS, WE ARE ALL WORKING TODAY TO BE THE PLACE THAT CREATES THE JOBS OF TOMORROW.

AND WE NEED TO TRAIN THE WORKERS THAT WILL FILL THESE JOBS...

ESPECIALLY IN KEY SKILLED AREAS.

THIS IS WHY WE'RE SUPPORTING EDUCATING AND RETAINING THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN THAT WILL MAKE UP THE WELL TRAINED WORKFORCE THAT WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUR COUNTY FORWARD.

MY ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS WELL AS ALL OF OUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

ONE AREA WHERE WE'VE WORKED WITH THESE INSTITUTIONS IS IN CREATING INTERNSHIPS TO BETTER PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO ENTER THE WORK-FORCE AFTER HAVING LEARNED REAL LIFE SKILLS.

THIS INCLUDES A SPECIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM CREATED BY MY ADMINISTRATION - THE MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM...

WE TAKE 30 TOP SENIOR AND GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM FIU AND POSITION THEM TO

WORK SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH OUR DEPUTY MAYORS AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS.

DURING THIS INTERNSHIP, STUDENTS LEARN A VARIETY OF SKILLS, PUTTING TO USE THEIR CLASSROOM KNOWLEDGE, AND DEVELOP THE EXPERIENCE THEY CAN THEN USE FOR LATER JOBS.

WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING THIS SPECIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO OTHER LOCAL UNIVERSITIES BEYOND FIU.

THIS PROGRAM HAS BECOME SO SUCCESSFUL IT'S NOW BEING REVIEWED BY UNIVERSITIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO REPLICATE AS A MODEL FOR THEM TO FOLLOW.

IT'S ONE STEP TOWARD ENDING THE BRAIN DRAIN WHERE OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TAKE THEIR SKILLS TO OTHER CITIES.

WE NEED TO KEEP THIS HOME GROWN TALENT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

IN EVERYTHING WE DO, OUR COMMON GOAL IS TO CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS.

I THINK I CAN SPEAK FOR ALL THE MAYORS UP HERE, WE'RE GOING BEYOND CITY LIMITS, WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THE ENTIRE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE...

BUT WE ONLY CAN DO SO MUCH, AND WE CANNOT DO ANY OF THIS ALONE.

I'VE SAID BEFORE THAT GOVERNMENT DOESN'T CREATE JOBS...

WE CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE JOBS CAN GROW AND PROSPER.

AND THAT'S WHERE ALL OF YOU COME IN.

THE INCREDIBLE GROWTH THAT WE SEE ALL AROUND US IS MADE POSSIBLE BY ORGANIZATIONS LIKE YOURS...

AND FROM THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THIS ROOM.

WE NEED YOU TO REMAIN ACTIVE IN HELPING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GROW AND PROSPER.

MY OFFICE IS ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW IDEAS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE OUT THERE EVERY DAY CREATING AND SUPPORTING JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IF THERE IS ANY WAY WE CAN MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER -- LET US KNOW.

IN MY OFFICE, ALL OF YOU HAVE A PARTNER IN COUNTY HALL.

LET ME THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN...

AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK WITH US TO CONTINUE MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A PREMIERE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

