

Fellow residents...

Madam Chairwoman...

It's my pleasure to begin this morning by recognizing the Mayor's Shining Scholars for the month of March.

Since we began this initiative back in September of last year, we have honored the brightest young minds in the fields of leadership, scholarship, and overall excellence.

You can learn more about them and all past winners in the Hall of Stars feature on my web site

And now, without further ado...the Mayor's Shining Scholars for March:

Our Emerging Leader is Patrisha Hedgemond – a senior at Coral Reef Senior High School who lives in Commissioner Moss' District.

Patrisha is quite the entrepreneur, having launched her own cosmetics company, Cultural Cosmetics.

The company promotes positive self-image, confidence, and self-sufficiency among teens.

Patrisha manages her own photo shoots where she interviews teens, and provides make-up application classes to those who want to learn.

Patrisha is also working on a community program called "Every Girl is Beautiful."

The goal is to teach girls from elementary school through high school that inner strength and character are at the core of true beauty.

In October, Patrisha will be launching her book, [How to Begin a Company Before 18; Make-up Mindset](#).

She hopes to communicate that young people do not have to wait for success to happen - they can go after it now if they put their minds to it.

Let's give Patrisha a big round of applause.

Our Unstoppable Scholar is Enid Ines Sosa, a junior at the Maritime & Science Technology Academy who lives in Chairwoman Sosa's District.

Enid was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes when she was fourteen years old.

Since then, she has demonstrated her ability to overcome any obstacle to reach her personal, professional, and civic goals.

Enid is a pianist, an avid reader, the Historian of her Student Council Team, and a certified Junior Life Guard.

She is also the organizer of Sugar Rush, a group that meets at Miami Children's Hospital to inspire others with Juvenile Diabetes and to motivate them to work toward healthy life habits.

Her commitment to finding a cure for diabetes has guided Enid to pursue a career in pediatric medicine.

She strives to be a role model to other young people like herself and to continue to express the need to find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes.

Let's give Enid a big round of applause.

And, our Pursuer of Excellence is Tatyana Bidopia, a senior at Terra Environmental Research Institute, who lives in Vice-Chairwoman Bell's District.

Tatyana has a 5.68 GPA and has been on the Principal's Honor Roll throughout her high school career.

She is also Vice President of the National Honor Society, President of the Health Occupation Students of America, Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, and Class of 2014 Treasurer.

Through these organizations she has initiated community CPR lessons, coordinated monthly projects such as writing letters to veterans, and helped put food baskets together for underprivileged families.

Tatyana is also the Founding Member and President of Knots of Hope, which makes custom-made bracelets with patients and their families at Miami Children's Hospital.

The volunteer group also focuses on spreading awareness about organ and tissue donation.

So far Tatyana has helped raise over \$30,000 for the transplant foundation at the hospital.

Let's give Tatyana a big round of applause.

Besides their commitment to being the best at what they do, Patrisha, Enid, and Tatyana also share a passion for helping others, and that's what makes each of them, and all our Shining Scholars, so remarkable.

Madam Chairwoman, please join me in congratulating the Mayor's Shining Scholars for March.

