

MR. AKERKAR...

MAYOR REGALADO...

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FRIENDS.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU HERE THIS AFTERNOON FOR THIS EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

WE ARE INDEED HONORED THAT MICROSOFT HAS CHOSEN TO OPEN THE FIRST MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES HERE IN MIAMI!

IT IS QUITE FITTING, IN FACT, THAT WE MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY GIVEN THAT THIS EVENING, I'LL BE HOSTING THE FIRST MAYORAL INNOVATION SUMMIT...

THIS IS A GATHERING WITH SOME OF MY FELLOW MAYORS REPRESENTING CITIES RANGING FROM MADRID, BARCELONA, BUENOS AIRES AND MEXICO CITY, TO SANTO DOMINGO AND KINGSTON.

WE WILL EXPLORE HOW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CAN HELP MOVE OUR CITIES FORWARD.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL HELP MIAMI DO JUST THAT...

HARNESSING THE POWER OF MICROSOFT, AND TAKING US ALL TO A NEXT LEVEL OF INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION THAT WILL ALLOW FURTHER INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN OUR TECHNOLOGY SECTOR.

WITH THE INNOVATION CENTER, WE ARE BRINGING TOGETHER MANY OF MIAMI-DADE'S MOST PROMINENT INSTITUTIONS...

THESE INCLUDE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FIU, UM AND OTHER UNIVERSITIES LIKE NOVA AND FAU...

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT A VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM.

THIS CENTER WILL SERVE AS A POINT OF CONVERGENCE...

BRINGING STUDENTS, DEVELOPERS, ENTREPRENEURS AND ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS TOGETHER...

WORKING TO ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, AND FURTHER STIMULATE OUR TECH ECONOMY THROUGH TRAINING, PARTNERSHIPS, AND INNOVATION.

I AM ALSO PLEASED THAT THEY CHOSE VENTURE HIVE AS THE LOCATION FOR THIS HONOR...

EARLY ON IN MY ADMINISTRATION, WE MADE AN INVESTMENT IN VENTURE HIVE, IN SUPPORT OF THEIR INITIATIVE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TECH ENTREPRENEURS.

TO DATE, VENTURE HIVE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RELOCATION OF MORE THAN 20 STARTUPS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE...

AND IS CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD VIEWS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS THE NEXT GREAT TECH HUB.

THANK YOU MICROSOFT, THANK YOU VENTURE HIVE...

AND THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING BRING THE POWER OF INNOVATION TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!