

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT MR. ALBERTO CARVALHO FOR HIS PRESENCE HERE TODAY AND HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION,

I ALSO WANT TO THANK MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE NORTH CAMPUS PRESIDENT, MS. MALOU HARRISON, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING!

IT IS A TRUE PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU ALL TO SHARE IDEAS AND DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS AS THE FUTURE LEADERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT DURING THIS LEADERSHIP CONVENTION YOU WILL RECEIVE THE TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL PLACE YOU A STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS.

MY DOORS IN COUNTY HALL ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO PROVIDE THE MEMBERS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION AND ALL MOTIVATED

STUDENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT. THAT IS THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION – TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR YOUTH AND THE COUNTY.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND I ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING YOU WITH A VEHICLE TO ARTICULATE YOUR NEEDS SO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT!

WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED – WE WANT TO KNOW HOW WE CAN ADDRESS SOME OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING OUR YOUTH POPULATION.

YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

AS MAYOR, I WORK FOR ALL OF YOU AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT OUR RESIDENTS HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES.

AS A LIFELONG PUBLIC SERVANT, I'M WELL AWARE AND PROUD OF THE POSITIVE IMPACT GOVERNMENT CAN HAVE ON THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY BY GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR AREA. THAT MEANS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLIC LIFE OF YOUR COMMUNITY IN A COMMITTED AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER, WITH A FOCUS ON THE COMMON GOOD.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR ONCE SAID: “EVERY RIGHT IMPLIES A RESPONSIBILITY; EVERY OPPORTUNITY, AN OBLIGATION; EVERY POSSESSION, A DUTY.”

WHETHER IT IS BECOMING A STUDENT EMBASSADOR, ENGAGING IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS OR VOTING DURING ELECTIONS, YOU ALL NEED TO BE ACTIVE CITIZENS AND BE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

IN 2013, I IMPLEMENTED AN INITIATIVE CALLED ACTIVELY INVESTING IN MIAMI-DADE THAT FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING, RECRUITING, AND RETAINING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDED TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE A TOP GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

AS PART OF THIS INITIATIVE EACH MONTH WE PROUDLY PRESENT THE MAYOR’S SHINING SCHOLARS WHERE WE SHOWCASE THE TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE

KNOCKING DOWN BARRIERS TO SUCCESS AND PURSUING THEIR DREAMS.

WE RECOGNIZE THEM FOR THEIR SCHOLARSHIP LEADERSHIP, AND OVERALL EXCELLENCE. IF YOU ARE EXCELLING IN ONE OF THESE AREAS, YOU TOO CAN BE THE NEXT MAYOR SHINING SCHOLAR!

IT IS MY PRIORITY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP LOCAL STUDENTS AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SUCCEED AS PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR LOCAL WORKFORCE. I BELIEVE IT'S UP TO US TO GIVE YOU THE TOOLS – AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT – TO CONTINUE MAKING MIAMI-DADE YOUR HOME AFTER GRADUATION.

I WANT FOR ALL OF YOU TO LIVE IN OUR WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY AND TO BE PROUD THAT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE HELP ONE ANOTHER. IN OUR COMMUNITY, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU COME FROM. YOU CAN SUCCEED AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING TO TRY!

I URGE YOU TO JOIN THE AIM INITIATIVE - WE WANT TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS WHILE HELPING TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

AS YOUR MAYOR – AND AS A FATHER AND GRANDFATHER – I AM WHOLEHEARTEDLY COMMITTED TO FULLY ENGAGING THE FUTURE LEADERS OF OUR COUNTY'S MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AND GIVE THEM THE ENCOURAGEMENT THEY NEED TO TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES AND BUILD SUCCESSFUL CAREERS HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU MR. SUPERINTENDENT, MS. HARRISON AND THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION *OF* MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS OUR COUNTY!

