

GOOD EVENING EVERYONE!

I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING US TONIGHT AS LAUNCHCODE OPENS NEW APPLICATIONS FOR THEIR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, AND TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE.

I WANT TO THANK THE DIRECTOR OF THIS WONDERFUL CENTER WHERE GREAT IDEAS ARE BORN, MR. LEANDRO FINOL AS WELL AS THE DEAN OF MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MR. RAFAEL SALDANA.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GREAT WORK THAT YOU DO!

I WANT TO ALSO THANK LAUNCHCODE FOUNDER MR. JIM MCKELVEY FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO OUR YOUNG TALENT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MR. JORGE PLASENCIA AND MR. LUIS CASAMAYOR FROM REPÚBLICA WHO ARE HERE WITH US TONIGHT,

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST MR. MATT HAGGMAN FROM THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION, THANK YOU FOR

YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND FOR KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED AND ENGAGED.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING TO CELEBRATE THIS GREAT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND THE NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT THIS EVENT IS A CONFIRMATION OF ALL OUR EFFORTS AT POSITIONING OUR COMMUNITY AS A TECH HUB AND CENTER FOR INNOVATION.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF MY ADMINISTRATION, GROWING THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS BEEN ONE OF MY PRIORITIES.

I HAVE WORKED WITH MY TEAM TO FIND WAYS TO SLOWLY REVERSE THE BRAIN DRAIN THAT HAS PLAGUED OUR REGION AND KEEP MANY OF OUR YOUNGER RESIDENTS HERE RATHER THAN LOSING THEM TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

AND LAUNCHCODE HELPS US DO JUST THAT! IT IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT CREATES PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND UPWARD MOBILITY THROUGH APPRENTICESHIPS AND JOB PLACEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY.

LAUNCHCODE AND THE IDEA CENTER ARE THE TYPE OF PROGRAMS WE NEED MORE OF, HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

YOUR PROGRAM WILL FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO WHAT MY ADMINISTRATION IS ALREADY DOING. LET ME SHARE SOME OF OUR INITIATIVES TO MAKE COUNTY HALL AS TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS.

FIRST, WE ARE WORKING TO CREATE APPS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE.

LAST MONTH WE WELCOMED 3 CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWS TO HELP US ORGANIZE A NETWORK OF PEOPLE DEDICATED TO MAKING GOVERNMENT SERVICES SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE, AND EASY TO USE.

WE ARE THE FIRST GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA TO RECEIVE A CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWSHIP, AND I AM PROUD OF THE FACT THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WAS AMONG A SELECT FEW IN THE NATION, TO HOST CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWS THIS COMING YEAR.

SECOND AND IN ADDITION TO WELCOMING THE CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWS, LAST WEEK WE LAUNCHED A NEW AUDIO TRAFFIC APP THAT PROVIDES USERS WITH UP-TO-THE-MINUTE TRAFFIC UPDATES, LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETINS AND COMMUNITY NEWS THROUGH THEIR SMARTPHONES.

FURTHERMORE, DURING THE INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATA WEEKEND WE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED OUR OPEN DATA PORTAL - OPENDATA.MIAMIDADE.GOV TO CONTINUE ON OUR PATH TOWARDS OPEN DATA.

AND THIRD, THIS MAY WE WILL ONCE AGAIN CELEBRATE THE “EMERGE AMERICAS” CONFERENCE THAT IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT 10,000 ATTENDEES FROM HUNDREDS OF COMPANIES; AND THE EGOV INNOVATION SUMMIT WHERE I WILL HOST MAYORS FROM DIVERSE CITIES SUCH AS MADRID, BARCELONA, BUENOS AIRES, AND MEXICO CITY TO DISCUSS HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP US ALL BECOME SMARTER CITIES.

ALL OF YOU PRESENT IN THIS ROOM KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT TECHNOLOGY IS CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND INNOVATION

THAT DID NOT EXIST IN OUR COMMUNITY BEFORE...

AND THAT IS WHY YOUR PROGRAM IS SO IMPORTANT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I ENCOURAGE ALL OF OUR SOUTH FLORIDA COMPANIES TO JOIN YOU, JUST AS THE 95 COMPANIES THAT HAVE ALREADY DONE SO - TO KEEP THIS MOMENTUM GOING, AND TO KEEP EXPANDING OUR TECH CAPACITY.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY I SUPPORT ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS, OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND ALL THE PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO OURS THAT SERVE AS CREATION CENTERS FOR INNOVATION THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO POSITIONING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS AN EMERGING LEADER IN TECHNOLOGY, NOT ONLY TO INCREASE THE INTERACTION AND PARTICIPATION OF OUR CITIZENRY, BUT TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE PROVIDING OUR STUDENTS THE TOOLS AND SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!

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

