

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Board Member

SUBJECT: STUDENT LITERACY ACTIVITIES FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hispanics in the USA: Making History
A Literacy Contest

Hispanics in the USA is composed of an introduction about the contributions of Hispanics since the time Ponce de Leon arrived on our shores. This introduction is followed by fourteen biographies of Hispanics who have made contributions in areas such as: literature, music, arts, science, medicine, sports, education, fashion, television, space exploration, business, and politics. The individuals selected come from different Spanish countries or were born in the United States and are of Hispanic descent. Using the Sunshine State Standards, instructional objectives were identified and a booklet with activities for each biography to meet grade level requirements was developed.

Students will be responsible to complete activities for each biography that appears in the book, and complete the booklet culminating activity, which consists of a one-page summary of the life of one of the Hispanic leaders included in the book. The one-page summary will be collected and graded by the classroom teacher using the FCAT writing rubric. Only those students who have completed all the activities and the final summary will be able to participate in the contest. These students will receive a "*Certificate of Accomplishment*". The summaries with scores at level 6 will be submitted to a Committee composed of community educational leaders. The Florida Writes Rubrics will also be used by the Committee members to score the summaries. The student who attains the highest score on the summary will receive a computer **donated by Santillana USA Publishing Company**. All students who scored at Level 6 will receive a bilingual dictionary. The school with the highest number of participants will receive a collection of books for the library. The winner will be announced at the **Columbus Day Celebration** event that will take place on **October 12, 2006**.

The proposed contest will enhance reading proficiency, which is critical to academic learning and success in school (Lyon, 1998; 2002, 2003, 2004; Snow, Burns & Griffin, 1998). The ability to read proficiently is significantly related to quality of life (Lyon, 1997; Lyon & Chabra, 2004; Thompson, 2001). Preparing students to meet grade level standards in reading comprehension by

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the end of fifth grade is as much about providing the vocabulary and thinking skills they need as it is about helping them learn to read accurately and fluently. This point becomes increasingly important as we promote students.

Books will be purchased by the school district. *Santillana USA Publishing Company* will prepare a special edition for the school district with its logo and offer a discount price for this special edition. The book is available in English and Spanish to ensure that all students can participate in this literacy contest.

Recommended:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools and/or designee to implement the student literacy activity (as outlined above) "*Hispanics in the USA: Making History: A Literacy Contest* for use during Hispanic Heritage Month (October 2006).