

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member,

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-50 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF MIAMI DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT THE NATIONAL SECME SCIENCE COMPETITION

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF ALL STUDENTS

On June 30, 2007, the 31st Annual *National SECME Conference and Competition* was held in Daytona Beach, Florida, at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Miami-Dade County Public Schools received an abundance of accolades and awards. The students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools represented the Miami-Dade community with flying colors at the SECME competition.

SECME, formerly the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering, is currently a K-12 strategic alliance for the enhancement of science, engineering, communications, and mathematics. It is sponsored nationally by SECME, Inc., and locally by the M-DCPS Division of Mathematics and Science Education, the Title V Federal Grant, and several university and business partners. SECME uses a variety of strategies to encourage all students, especially underrepresented minorities, to pursue careers in science, mathematics, and engineering. Elementary school participation has soared since integrating grades K-5 into the M-DCPS program in 1998. The SECME competition is divided into different categories that integrate math and science into the design, and engineering into the different events that include the following: poster design, bridge building, mouse trap cars, and water bottle rocket construction.

The outcomes of the National SECME science competition were the following:

2007 SECME/ExxonMobil Overall Scholar

Ankur Shah – Miami Coral Park Senior High graduate (entering Stanford University, Fall 2007, with a major in Physics and Engineering)

2007 SECME/ExxonMobil State Scholars

Wendy Pino – Miami Coral Park Senior High School graduate (entering Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fall 2007, with a major in Engineering)

Anjelica Warren – American Senior High School graduate (entering University of Florida, Fall 2007, with a major in Engineering)

The posters artistically interpreted the theme, *SECME: Launch Pad for the Next Generation of Explorers*. Each winner received a cash award and a 36-inch trophy.

Ronald Reagan Senior High School – First Place

Student's Name

Kaori Yamamoto

SECME School-site Coordinator

Mr. Andres Torres

Principal

Mr. Douglas P. Rodriguez

G. W. Carver Middle School – First Place

Student's Name

Monica Izquierdo (9th grade – currently attending La Salle High School)

SECME School-site Coordinator

Ms. Deborah Small

Principal

Ms. Libia A. Gonzalez

Mousetrap Car Champions:

Miami Coral Park Senior High School – First Place

Team Members:

Ankur Shah (graduate – entering Stanford University, Fall 2007, with a major in Physics and Engineering)

Charles Delascasas (graduate – entering Carnegie Mellon University, Fall 2007, with a major in Electrical Engineering)

Robert Regojo (graduate – entering Miami-Dade College, Fall 2007, with a major in Engineering)

SECME School-site Coordinators:

Ms. Niki Rucker-Brown, Magnet Lead Teacher

Dr. Charles Mullings, Science Teacher

Principal:

Dr. Nicholas P. Jacangelo

M. A. Milam K – 8 Center – Third Place

Team Members:

Brian Merlano (entering Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High, Fall 2007)

Vanessa Loaiza (entering Miami Lakes Educational Center, Fall 2007)

Maria Jose Toro (entering Miami Lakes Educational Center, Fall 2007)

SECME School-site Coordinators:

Mr. Andres Vega, Science Teacher

Principal:

Dr. Robert G. Valenzuela

Miami-Dade County Public Schools proudly recognizes the outstanding achievements of the students and the teachers that showcased the talents of the Miami-Dade community at the national level.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 07-50 honoring the outstanding achievement of students and teachers at the National SECME science competition