

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, School Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-A1 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DANTE B. FASCELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT RODOLFO RODRIGUEZ, THIRD PLACE WINNER OF THE CERVANTES OUTSTANDING STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST AND HIS TEACHER JAIME GASTELI

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, Nova Southeastern University's Fischler School of Education and Human Services sponsors The Cervantes Awards to recognize public and private school educators who make significant contributions in educating Hispanic students in Miami-Dade County. Students are recognized through The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest.

The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest challenges students to write an essay pertaining to Hispanic culture. Essays are submitted from across Miami-Dade County and judged by a panel. First, second and third place prizes are awarded in three categories of elementary, middle and high school. The third place recipient of the Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest at the elementary level was Rodolfo Rodriguez, a fifth-grade student at Dante B. Fascell Elementary School. Rodolfo takes studying English and Spanish seriously and he learned strong values from his Venezuelan family. Rodolfo excels in all academic areas and is a two-time gold medalist at the National Tae Kwon Do competition. He plans to be an engineer.

Jaime Gasteli has been Rodolfo's teacher since the second grade. Several of Mr. Gasteli's students have won The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest over the past seven years. A National Board Certified Teacher, Mr. Gasteli was selected as the facilitator of the Top Spanish Academy in 2002 and 2003 providing workshops to over 250 bilingual educators during the week-long summer academy.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. ANA RIVAS LOGAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-A1 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dante B. Fascell Elementary School student Rodolfo Rodriguez, third place winner of The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest and his teacher Jaime Gasteli.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-A1
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DANTE B. FASCELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT
RODOLFO RODRIGUEZ, THIRD PLACE WINNER OF
THE CERVANTES OUTSTANDING STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST
AND HIS TEACHER JAIME GASTELI**

WHEREAS, The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest challenges students to write an essay pertaining to Hispanic culture; and

WHEREAS, the third place winner of The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest at the elementary school level was Rodolfo Rodriguez, fifth-grade student at Dante B. Fascell Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Rodolfo takes studying English and Spanish seriously and learned strong values from his Venezuelan family; and

WHEREAS, a National Board Certified educator, Jaime Gasteli has been Rodolfo's teacher since the second grade; and

WHEREAS, several of Mr. Gasteli's students have won The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest over the past seven years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-A1 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dante B. Fascell Elementary School student Rodolfo Rodriguez, third place winner of The Cervantes Outstanding Student Essay Contest and his teacher Jaime Gasteli.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this eighteenth day of November, A.D. 2008

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary