

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-014 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE 2011 FRANCISCO R.
WALKER TEACHER OF THE YEAR, THE 2010 ROOKIE
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, AND THE 2010 FEA TEACHING
EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER**

} Revised

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

The Teacher of the Year program is a joint venture between The United Teachers of Dade (UTD), the Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools that recognizes excellence in teaching. The Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year Award recipient is selected from more than 25,000 Miami-Dade County teachers who meet criteria established by the Florida Department of Education. The award is named in memory of Francisco R. Walker, a teacher at Miami Edison Middle School who lost his life in the line of duty on school property. The Rookie Teacher of the Year award honors a rookie teacher who is new to teaching and is a first, second, or third year educator. This year's awards ceremony was held on February 3, 2010 at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa. Ms. Cristine O'Hara of Palmetto Middle School was selected as the 2011 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and Ms. Carmen Valdez of Spanish Lake Elementary School was selected as the 2010 Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Ms. O'Hara, a language arts chair, uses her computer-graphic skills to help her students bring their studies to virtual life. Whether interpreting Greek myths through videos they produce or classic novels using T-shirts they design, Ms. O'Hara's students come to understand the age-old truths of language and literature. Ms. O'Hara's classroom environment is well-organized and engaging. She also has created a website to communicate with both students and parents.

To teach her students more about reptiles, Ms. Valdez, a third grade math and science teacher, used her wilderness certification to secure an in-house field trip with a wildlife presenter. She also volunteers her time to help students by securing school supplies for those in need. This past summer, Ms. Valdez attended the Associazione Culturale Linguistica Educational (ACLE) program in Italy where she taught English to students. She has been asked to return next year.

Dr. Joseph W. Underwood, a teacher at Miami Senior High School, is the 2010 State Winner of the Florida Education Association's Teaching Excellence Award. He is also vying for the National Award which will be determined at the National Education Association Delegate Assembly in New Orleans. Dr. Underwood is also a 2007 inductee of the National Teachers Hall of Fame. The mission of the FEA is to advocate the right to a free, quality public education for all; empower and support local affiliates; advance professional growth, development and the status of all who serve the students in Florida's public schools, and engage its members and communities to ensure that all students learn and succeed in a diverse world.

} Added

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Ms. Cristine O'Hara, Ms. Carmen Valdez, and Dr. Joseph W. Underwood for their commitment to excellence, dedication to education, and efforts on behalf of students.

} Revised

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-014 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the 2011 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year, the 2010 Rookie Teacher of the Year, and the 2010 FEA Teaching Excellence Award winner.

} Revised

RESOLUTION NO. 10-014
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE
2011 FRANCISCO R. WALKER TEACHER OF THE YEAR, THE 2010 ROOKIE TEACHER
OF THE YEAR, AND THE 2010 FEA TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

} Revised

WHEREAS, the Teacher of the Year program is a joint venture between The United Teachers of Dade (UTD), the Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools that recognizes excellence in teaching; and

WHEREAS, the Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year Award recipient is selected from more than 25,000 Miami-Dade County teachers who meet criteria established by the Florida Department of Education. The Rookie Teacher of the Year award honors a rookie teacher who is new to teaching and is a first, second, or third year educator; and

WHEREAS, this year's TOY awards ceremony was held on February 3, 2010 at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa. Ms. Cristine O'Hara of Palmetto Middle School was selected as the 2011 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year and Ms. Carmen Valdez of Spanish Lake Elementary School was selected as the 2010 Rookie Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph W. Underwood, a teacher at Miami Senior High School, is the 2010 State Winner of the Florida Education Association's Teaching Excellence Award; and

} Added

WHEREAS, the mission of the FEA is to advocate the right to a free, quality public education for all; empower and support local affiliates; advance professional growth, development and the status of all who serve the students in Florida's public schools, and engage its members and communities to ensure that all students learn and succeed in a diverse world; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Ms. Cristine O'Hara, Ms. Carmen Valdez, and Dr. Joseph W. Underwood for their commitment to excellence, dedication to education, and efforts on behalf of students;

} Revised

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-014 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the 2011 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year, the 2010 Rookie Teacher of the Year, and the 2010 FEA Teaching Excellence Award winner.

} Revised

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

Presented this seventeenth day of March, A.D. 2010

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary

