

May 4, 2010

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-051 RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUAN HUERTAS, STEVE HIRABAYASHI, AND DENNIS PRIETO OF MIAMI CORAL PARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WHO HAVE RECEIVED FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Every year our high schools take pride in the number of their graduating seniors who are accepted to top colleges and universities and whose accomplishments reflect the efforts of so many dedicated teachers and administrators, as well as the students' families themselves, who encourage and support these high achievers.

This year, a near impossible feat has been pulled-off at Miami Coral Park Senior High School: three students from the engineering magnet program have been accepted on full scholarships to both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the California Institute of Technology (CalTech)!

Juan Huertas has a 5.950 grade point average (GPA) and ranked number two in his class of 796 students. Juan arrived to the United States from his native Colombia only eight years ago and struggled with the language barriers from the onset. Juan's efforts have propelled him to work with the renowned professor, Dr. William Tiller, on a research project involving new age physics changes in particle radiation flux. Juan was a Questbridge summer student who visited Yale in the summer of 2009.

Steve Hirabayashi has a 5.915 (GPA) and ranked number three in his class. Not only is Steve enrolled in the most rigorous academic courses, he also performs traditional Japanese dances at the Broward Center for Performing Arts and is fluent in Japanese and Spanish, being the child of Japanese and Cuban parents. Steve was chosen to participate in the MITES summer program at MIT.

Dennis Prieto has a 5.737 GPA and ranked number seven in his class. Dennis also struggled with the English language when he arrived from Cuba as a child but his amazing abilities in Mathematics and Science helped him overcome the language barriers. In addition to earning the scholarships to MIT and CalTech, Dennis has also

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received the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship which will pay for studies through the doctoral program.

Instrumental in the future academic success of these outstanding students is the school's CAP advisor, Ms. Mary A. Molina-Carballo, who works tirelessly on behalf of the students of Miami Coral Park Senior High School. She is well known in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the United States and has helped countless students from our community realize their dreams of attending college.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-051 honoring Juan Huertas, Steve Hirabayashi, and Dennis Prieto for earning full scholarships to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology.