

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-116 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE PROGRAM OF FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN FOR ENGAGING STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL       EXCELLENCE       AND       COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

The Fairchild Challenge is Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's annual, standards-based, multidisciplinary environmental education outreach program for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Miami-Dade County. Established in 2002, The Fairchild Challenge has grown from 1,400 participants to more than 100,000 South Florida students and teachers. Specifically, during the 2010-2011 academic year, more than 80,000 participants were from Miami-Dade County Public Schools. } Revised

The goals of The Fairchild Challenge are for all students to recognize their role as environmental stewards and to increase the percentage of students pursuing advanced degrees in the sciences and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers. Students and teachers take part in friendly competitions during the school year to accrue points to win The Fairchild Challenge Award. Through the program, students engage in research, debate, the visual and performing arts, fashion design, creative writing, culinary arts, engineering, and habitat restoration; explore careers in science, creative thinking, and problem solve environmental issues. By participating in The Fairchild Challenge, students learn to appreciate nature and the importance of biodiversity and conservation, develop critical-thinking skills, and become actively engaged citizens and lifelong learners.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and The Fairchild Challenge program for inspiring and encouraging students to learn about science, our environment, and environmental stewardship. } Revised

**ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-116 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Fairchild Challenge program of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for engaging students in environmental education and stewardship.

**Revised  
Replacement  
H-20**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-116  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE PROGRAM OF FAIRCHILD  
TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN FOR ENGAGING STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, The Fairchild Challenge is Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's annual, standards-based, multidisciplinary environmental education outreach program for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2010-2011 academic year, more than 80,000 participants were from Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of The Fairchild Challenge are for all students to recognize their role as environmental stewards and to increase the percentage of students pursuing advanced degrees in the sciences and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers; and

**WHEREAS**, through The Fairchild Challenge, students engage in research, debate, the visual and performing arts, fashion design, creative writing, culinary arts, engineering, and habitat restoration; explore careers in science, creative thinking, and problem solve environmental issues; and

**WHEREAS**, by participating in the program, students learn to appreciate nature and the importance of biodiversity and conservation, develop critical-thinking skills, and become actively engaged citizens and lifelong learners; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and The Fairchild Challenge program for inspiring and encouraging students to learn about the importance of the environment;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-116 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Fairchild Challenge program of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for engaging students in environmental education and stewardship.

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

**Presented this nineteenth day of October, A.D. 2011**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary