

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-082 OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING VALERIA SAN JUAN AND NATALIE AGUIRRE  
OF JOHN A. FERGUSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR  
EARNING GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIPS**

**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, John A. Ferguson Senior High School is proud that two members of the Class of 2012 are the recipients of the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship, which is awarded to only 1,000 students in the entire country!

**Valeria San Juan** ranks in the top 1% of her class and will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a 7.254 GPA. Valeria is part of the Spanish Honor Society, English Honor Society, National Honor Society and the Ferguson Environmental Club. Her major community service project was done at the Cerebral Palsy Center as a volunteer in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. She helped teachers and physical therapists use art to assist the teenage group in the center. She has been accepted to Cornell University, Northwestern University, Notre Dame College, Boston College, and New York University. She plans on attending Cornell University where she may pursue studies in Biology and Environmental Sciences.

**Natalie Aguirre** is in the top 4% of her class with a GPA of 6.093. She has participated in many clubs and honor societies including The National Junior Honor Society and Phi-Beta Chi. Natalie interned at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and PLO. She completed her major community service project at BLUE (Building Love Uniting Everyone), a non-profit organization that strives to provide water and education to poor communities world-wide. Natalie organized fundraisers and annual trips to the Dominican Republic to construct an aqueduct for a town that has never had running water. Natalie was accepted to Pepperdine University, St. John's University, and Florida International University. She plans on attending Pepperdine University where she may pursue studies in Neuroscience.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-082 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Valeria San Juan and Natalie Aguirre of John A. Ferguson Senior High School for earning Gates Millennium Scholarships.