

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-044 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

The Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) was established in 1959 and is the living legacy of Robert and Nell Montgomery, widely known as the founders of Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. Housed on their 120-acre Coral Gables estate, it included the largest private collections of palms and cycads in the world. Today, the MBC is an independent, nonprofit institution devoted to advancing the science, education and conservation of tropical botany.

The MBC carries out its mission by collecting seeds from wild populations of palms and cycads from around the world. The seeds are germinated in the MBC's nursery and grown in population-based, documented, scientific collections in its extensive garden. MBC fosters and participates in scientific research by collecting and maintaining scientific data on its collections and sharing data to scientists for research purposes.

The MBC's unique scientific and conservation collections are dynamic, continually being developed, and also have great educational value. A wide range of educational opportunities is found at MBC for students from elementary school through the postgraduate level. A 24-hour-a-day, living laboratory and classroom, MBC has hosted Miami-Dade County Public Schools students, teachers, and classes interested in scientific plant collections. Several Miami-Dade public schools have participated in Environmental Immersion Day hosted by the MBC as part of The Fairchild Challenge environmental education program.

The Montgomery Botanical Center is to be commended for its dedication to preserving the environment as well as for advancing research, conservation and education through scientific plant collections.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Montgomery Botanical Center.

**Replacement
H-7**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-044
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) was established in 1959 and is the living legacy of Robert and Nell Montgomery, widely known as the founders of Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden; and

WHEREAS, housed on their 120-acre Coral Gables estate, it included the largest private collections of palms and cycads in the world. Today, the MBC is an independent, nonprofit institution devoted to advancing the science, education and conservation of tropical botany; and

WHEREAS, the MBC fosters and participates in scientific research by collecting and maintaining scientific data on its collections and sharing data to scientists for research purposes; and

WHEREAS, the MBC's unique scientific and conservation collections are dynamic, continually being developed, and also have great educational value. A wide range of educational opportunities is found at MBC for students from elementary school through the postgraduate level; and

WHEREAS, MBC has hosted Miami-Dade County Public Schools students, teachers, and classes interested in scientific plant collections. Several Miami-Dade public schools have participated in Environmental Immersion Day hosted by the MBC as part of The Fairchild Challenge environmental education program; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery Botanical Center is to be commended for its dedication to preserving the environment as well as for advancing research, conservation and education through scientific plant collections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Montgomery Botanical Center.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of March, A.D. 2013

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary