

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

Co-Sponsor: Ms. Raquel Regalado, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-075 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING CENTRO MATER AND CODELLA

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Centro Mater Child Care Services, Inc. (“Centro Mater”) was founded in 1968 by Mother Margarita Miranda Otero, a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Cuba, who recognized a desperate need for child care services among the newly exiled Cuban families in Miami. She established the organization in an effort to provide the necessary care and protection for South Florida’s growing immigrant youth population.

Over time, the center expanded its reach. While founded upon a Cuban and Catholic base, Centro Mater serves children and families of every nationality, faith and race – nearly 1,200 annually, 66% which belong to single mother households.

Among their many programs, they offer care for infants and toddlers; pre-school program; after-school care; home-based program; health and nutrition services; job preparation and life skills; domestic violence awareness; effective parenting, and child development.

This past summer, a group of 22 students completed the CODELLA Summer Immersion Camp at Centro Mater. This groundbreaking eight-week intensive program focused on technology, entrepreneurship and coding. Targeting economically disadvantaged Latina girls ages 9 through 12, the comprehensive program, which is proposed to continue as a fully developed after-school program, is the first of its kind in the United States.

CODELLA’s summer immersion program will provide 300+ hours of intensive instruction in code, robotics, web design, and computer application development to help raise interest, confidence and competence in the crucial area of technology while helping critical thinking, problem solving skills and technological fluency to young girls in our community.

CODeLLA began at Centro Mater in the summer of 2014 as a pilot program serving a small group of female students for a six-week program. Since September of 2014, the program has offered education services to Centro Mater after-school students on a weekly basis. Heading into the 2015-2016 school year, CODeLLA and Centro Mater representatives intend to be able to offer additional comprehensive curriculums to a larger group of after-school students and provide enhanced immersion summer programs for boys as well.

This resolution seeks to recognize Centro Mater's over 45 years of community service in support of children and families and its partnership with CODeLLA in starting a program that focuses on science, technology, engineering, math literacy, coding, entrepreneurship, and design thinking.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

LUBBY NAVARRO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-075 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Centro Mater and CODeLLA.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-075
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING CENTRO MATER AND CODELLA**

WHEREAS, Centro Mater was established in 1968 in an effort to provide the necessary care and protection for South Florida's growing immigrant youth population.

WHEREAS, Centro Mater serves children and families of every nationality, faith and race.

WHEREAS, Centro Mater's mission is "provide quality services to disadvantaged children by offering developmentally appropriate experiences conducive to enhancing the child's potential while empowering and strengthening the families."

WHEREAS, the CODELLA Summer Immersion Camp at Centro Mater was a groundbreaking eight-week intensive program focused on technology, entrepreneurship and coding.

WHEREAS, CODELLA's fully developed after-school program is the first of its kind in the United States which offers students an environment for exploration and learning that actively promotes STEAM and entrepreneurship.

WHEREAS, the students and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools have benefited greatly from the many services provide by Centro Mater throughout its more than 45 years.

WHEREAS, Miami Dade County Public Schools honors CODELLA in starting a program that focuses on science, technology, engineering, math literacy, coding, entrepreneurship, and design thinking.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-075 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Centro Mater and CODELLA.

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

Presented this ninth day of September, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary