

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-129 OF THE
 SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
 HONORING FARMWORKER CELEBRATION WEEK AND THE
 EFFORTS OF MS. MARIA GARZA**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
 ENGAGEMENT**

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF
 GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY**

Farmworker Week has been celebrated in various forms and by several groups throughout the State each year since its inception in 1979. Through the united efforts of advocacy groups, dedicated individuals, and the farmworkers themselves, Farmworkers' Week was recognized by the honorable Governor Bob Graham who gave audience to the concerns of this most special worker in the American landscape. Farmworker Week was first officially recognized from November 18-24, 1979, paying special homage to both the fruit and the labor of the farmworker, which is all the more poignant during the Thanksgiving holiday. Today, thirty years later, we continue to recognize the work and toil of our farmworkers and are proud of local community agencies and individuals' efforts to celebrate their plight and successes.

Many individuals have championed the cause of migrant and farmworker families here in Miami-Dade County. Since 1987, Maria Garza has worked to recognize the efforts and strides made by this special group of workers in Miami-Dade County through a week of activities culminating in the Farmworker Celebration Week. The Farmworker Celebration Week event was held on November 19, 2009 at the South Dade Skills Center in Leisure City and counted amongst its participants, Miami-Dade County Commissioners, Mayors, State Representatives and lawmakers, as well as the farmworker community and a representative from our School Board. An awards presentation, fashion show, and authentic Mexican lunch organized by the community and the students of the South Dade Skills Center was enjoyed by all. An original calendar featuring farmworkers and stories or highlights of farmworker family successes was produced especially for the event and relayed the personal story, struggle and achievement of each of its participants.

Committed to enriching the lives of farmworkers and that of their children, the South Dade Skills Center and the Department of Human Services, along with the Mexican American Council under Ms. Maria Garza's direction, are to be commended for their leadership and dedication to improving the lives of the Florida farmworker family.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-129, recognizing Farmworker Celebration Week and the efforts of Ms. Maria Garza.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-129
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, Farmworker Week has been celebrated in various forms and by several groups throughout the State each year since Governor Bob Graham recognized November 18-24, 1979 as the first Farmworkers' Week in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Maria Garza has championed the cause of migrant and farmworker families in Miami-Dade County and since 1987 has worked to highlight the plight and recognize the successful strides made by these groups in Miami-Dade County through a yearly planned week of activities culminating in the Farmworker Celebration Week; and

WHEREAS, this year, The Farmworker Celebration Week event was held on November 19, 2009 at the South Dade Skills Center in Leisure City and counted amongst its participants, Miami-Dade County Commissioners, a Miami Dade County Public Schools School Board Member, Mayors and city officials, State Representatives and lawmakers, as well as the farmworker community; and

WHEREAS, Farmworker Celebration week culminated with an awards presentation, fashion show, and authentic Mexican lunch organized by the community and the students of the South Dade Skills Center and unveiled an original, site-produced calendar featuring local farmworker and farmworker family success stories relaying the personal story and struggle of each of its participants; and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Ms. Maria Garza, the South Dade Skills Center and the Mexican American Council continues its commitment to enriching the lives of farmworkers and that of their children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-129 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Farmworker Celebration Week and the efforts on behalf of migrant and farmworker families by Ms. Maria Garza.

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

Presented this ninth day of December, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary