

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-070
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DANIELA PELAEZ FOR
CREATING THE "WE ARE HERE" FOUNDATION TO HELP
UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN LEGALIZE THEIR
IMMIGRATION STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

The plight of Daniela Pelaez serves as an important lesson in civics and humanity. Daniela arrived in the United States with her family from Colombia at the age of four. Her brother is a member of the U.S. military and is a U.S. citizen and Daniela's father is a U.S. resident. Her mother travelled to Colombia in 2006 for medical reasons and has been unable to return to the United States. As an undocumented immigrant, Daniela recently faced deportation. However, after intervention from school and government officials and other students, Daniela was granted a stay in the United States when she received a two-year deferred deportation action.

Daniela recently formed the "We Are Here" Foundation to help other students in her same situation legalize their immigration status. The "We Are Here" Foundation seeks to educate the immigrant student community about their legal rights and to raise funds for scholarships, grants and legal and psychological support in dealing with their immigration status.

Daniela is a student at North Miami Senior High School and is the class valedictorian. She is enrolled in the school's baccalaureate program and has a 6.7 grade point average. After graduation, Daniela plans on applying to Ivy League universities and hopes to become a heart surgeon. Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Daniela Pelaez for her positive attitude, perseverance and bravery in the face of immense obstacles and for her commitment to helping others.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-070 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Daniela Pelaez for creating the "We Are Here" Foundation to help undocumented children legalize their immigration status in the United States.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-070
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DANIELA PELAEZ FOR CREATING THE "WE ARE HERE"
FOUNDATION TO HELP UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN LEGALIZE THEIR
IMMIGRATION STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the plight of Daniela Pelaez serves as an important lesson in civics and humanity; and

WHEREAS, as an undocumented immigrant, Daniela recently faced deportation. However, after intervention from school and government officials and other students, Daniela was granted a stay in the United States when she received a two-year deferred deportation action; and

WHEREAS, Daniela recently formed the "We Are Here" Foundation to help other students in her same situation legalize their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the "We Are Here" Foundation seeks to educate the immigrant student community about their legal rights and to raise funds for scholarships, grants and legal and psychological support in dealing with their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Daniela Pelaez for her positive attitude, perseverance and bravery in the face of immense obstacles and for her commitment to helping others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-070 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Daniela Pelaez for creating the "We Are Here" Foundation to help undocumented children legalize their immigration status in the United States.

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

Presented this eighteenth day of April, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary