

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-102 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE TROPICAL FLOWERING TREE SOCIETY FOR AWARDING COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS DURING THE ROYAL POINCIANA FESTIVAL**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL           EXCELLENCE           AND           COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

The Tropical Flowering Tree Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1988 to promote, propagate and preserve tropical flowering trees and plants. The society meets monthly at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden.

Seventy-five years ago, the first "Royal Poinciana Day" was declared by then City of Miami mayor, Robert Williams. This ushered in the first official Poinciana Festival in 1938, Miami's oldest festival, as a celebration of the blooming of the magnificent Royal Poinciana trees. These trees were introduced to Miami by Dr. David Fairchild, founder of the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

In 1940, the first "Royal Poinciana Queen" was chosen and Royal Poinciana seedlings were distributed to the public. Festival organizers began awarding scholarships to three deserving female graduates dubbed the "Royal Poinciana Queen" and two "Princesses" from Miami-Dade County high schools, who were planning to attend college.

The Tropical Flowering Tree Society now sponsors the "Fiesta" and continues to award scholarships. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or above and must submit a 300-word essay detailing their career choices and volunteer work. This year's queen received \$2,000 and each princess received \$1,000.

The School Board would like to commend the Tropical Flowering Tree Society for beautifying our city and helping to cultivate the dreams of the students of Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**       That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Approve Resolution No. 12-102 Of The School Board Of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Tropical Flowering Tree Society for Awarding College Scholarships during The Royal Poinciana Festival.

**Replacement  
H-20**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-102  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE TROPICAL FLOWERING TREE SOCIETY FOR AWARDING  
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS DURING THE ROYAL POINCIANA FESTIVAL**

**WHEREAS**, the Tropical Flowering Tree Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1988 to promote, propagate and preserve tropical flowering trees and plants. The society meets monthly at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden; and

**WHEREAS**, seventy-five years ago, the first "Royal Poinciana Day" was declared by then City of Miami mayor, Robert Williams. This ushered in the first official Poinciana Festival in 1938 as a celebration of the blooming of the magnificent Royal Poinciana trees; and

**WHEREAS**, these trees were introduced to Miami by Dr. David Fairchild, founder of the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1940, the first "Royal Poinciana Queen" was chosen and Royal Poinciana seedlings were distributed to the public. Festival organizers began awarding scholarships to three deserving female graduates dubbed the "Royal Poinciana Queen" and two "Princesses" from Miami-Dade County high schools, who were planning to attend college; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tropical Flowering Tree Society now sponsors the "Fiesta" and continues to award scholarships. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or above and must submit a 300-word essay detailing their career choices and volunteer work. This year's queen received \$2,000 and each princess received \$1,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board would like to commend the Tropical Flowering Tree Society for beautifying our city and helping to cultivate the dreams of the students of Miami-Dade County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-102 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Tropical Flowering Tree Society for Awarding College Scholarships during The Royal Poinciana Festival.

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

**Presented this thirteenth day of June, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary