

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-030  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, HONORING MARIANA BARBARA**

**COMMITTEE:           INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Seventeen-year old Mariana Barbara is not only an outstanding Bio-Medical Academy student at TERRA Environmental Research Institute, she is an advocate for students with disabilities, specifically those on the Autism Spectrum. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of three, Mariana has grown into an exemplary student with a 3.94 Grade Point Average. With tremendous support and encouragement from her loving family, she recently earned superior ratings in the Individual Drama and Individual Voice Regional competitions. In addition, she won first place in the Health Education in HOSA Regional competition, which qualified her for the state competition in Orlando.

Mariana most recently developed an informative pamphlet for students with disabilities that outlined their options for receiving accommodations for college entrance exams. As the student representative for the Superintendent's Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities, she has served as a guest speaker at the GIFT conference as well as the Florida Board of Education where she discussed the challenges in special education.

Mariana is active at TERRA as a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Medical Technical, International Thespian, and TRI-M Music honor societies. In addition, she was a Silver Knight nominee for TERRA. She plans to attend college this fall where she wants to pursue a career in the medical field and music. Mariana's future profession will incorporate her desire to be the voice for the concerns of students with disabilities such as their inclusion in the general curriculum, improving their opportunities to attend college and become independent.

Mariana Barbara is a shining example of perseverance, courage and compassion. Through her tireless advocacy, she has enriched the lives of all she has touched.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. CARLOS L. CURBELO:**       That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-030 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mariana Barbara.

**Replacement  
H-11**

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-030  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING MARIANA BARBARA**

**WHEREAS**, seventeen-year old Mariana Barbara is not only an outstanding Bio-Medical Academy student at TERRA Environmental Research Institute, she is an advocate for students with disabilities, specifically those on the Autism Spectrum; and

**WHEREAS**, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of three, Mariana has grown into an exemplary student with a 3.94 Grade Point Average through tremendous support and encouragement from her loving family; and

**WHEREAS**, Mariana most recently developed an informative pamphlet for students with disabilities that outlined their options for receiving accommodations for college entrance exams; and

**WHEREAS**, as the student representative for the Superintendent's Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities, she has served as a guest speaker at the GIFT conference as well as the Florida Board of Education where she discussed the challenges in special education. She was also a Silver Knight nominee for TERRA; and

**WHEREAS**, Mariana's future profession will incorporate her desire to be the voice for the concerns of students with disabilities such as their inclusion in the general curriculum, improving their opportunities to attend college and become independent; and

**WHEREAS**, Mariana Barbara is a shining example of perseverance, courage and compassion. Through her tireless advocacy, she has enriched the lives of all she has touched;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-030 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mariana Barbara.

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

**Presented this twelfth day of March, A.D. 2014**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary