

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-003 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING NICHOLAS MESA OF JOHN A. FERGUSON
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Students with disabilities that participate in arts programs develop creativity, have increased self-confidence, and become more engaged in the learning process that can lead to increased language and mathematics skills.

The University of South Florida's VSA program recognizes students with disabilities that exemplify outstanding work in various arts genres. Educators, administrators, artists, community members from throughout the state may submit nominations of worthy students. Every month the organization selects one student from the pool of nominees.

Nicholas Mesa, a senior with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at John A. Ferguson Sr. High School was selected by the organization for his achievements in film. Nicholas has loved films since he was little and has participated in film classes every year. He belongs to the school's film society and was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Juan Moreno, whom he credits for strengthening his knowledge of film and encouraging him to pursue a career as a filmmaker.

Nicholas knowledge of classic and current films is encyclopedic and he puts his knowledge to use in film shoots through summer camps sponsored by the Florida Film Institute. In these shoots Nicholas has honed his filmmaking and teamwork skills necessary to produce the films he loves.

Students with disabilities face additional obstacles in pursuit of their dreams. Nicholas is to be commended for his determination and tireless efforts to achieve those dreams.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
approve Resolution No. 15-003 of The School Board of
Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Nicholas Mesa of
John A. Ferguson Sr. High School.