

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-091 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING DR. OMAIDA C. VELAZQUEZ**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

When Dr. Omaida C. Velazquez was 14 years old, she and her family immigrated to the United States from Cuba during the 1980 Mariel exodus. Few could have predicted that 35 years later that little girl, who spoke no English and dreamed of being a doctor, would grow up to become a respected and esteemed physician, and the first and only Hispanic woman to chair a U.S. department of surgery at a major medical institution.

Dr. Velazquez was accepted by the New Jersey Medical School at Rutgers University on a scholarship and four years later, graduated Valedictorian. This was followed by an internship, residency, research fellowship, and vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1999, Dr. Velazquez joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming the first female vascular surgeon they had ever hired. She became board certified in general and vascular surgery and served eight years becoming an associate professor with tenure. In 2007, Dr. Velazquez joined the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine as chief and associate professor of Surgery, earning the David Kimmelman Endowed Chair in the Vascular & Endovascular Surgery division.

For the past three years, she has served as the Executive Dean for Research, Research Education and Innovative Medicine, overseeing the efforts of hundreds of investigators who are working to unlock the mysteries of biochemistry and molecular biology. Additionally, Dr. Velazquez has authored 20 book chapters and monographs and more than 100 journal articles and exhibitions. She sits on the editorial boards of three academic journals and serves as an external peer reviewer for 26 more.

Dr. Omaida C. Velazquez is to be commended for always delivering at the highest level in every step of her career. She fulfilled all of her expectations of her adopted homeland. She is living proof that the American Dream is attainable in our country today.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTA PÉREZ WURTZ:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-091 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Dr. Omaida C. Velazquez.

**Replacement  
B-3**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-091  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING DR. OMAIDA C. VELAZQUEZ**

**WHEREAS**, when Dr. Omaida C. Velazquez was 14 years old, she and her family immigrated to the United States from Cuba during the 1980 Mariel exodus. Few could have predicted that 35 years later that little girl, who spoke no English and dreamed of being a doctor, would grow up to become a respected and esteemed physician, and the first and only Hispanic woman to chair a U.S. department of surgery at a major medical institution; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Velazquez was accepted by the New Jersey Medical School at Rutgers University on a scholarship and four years later, graduated Valedictorian. This was followed by an internship, residency, research fellowship, and vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, Dr. Velazquez joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming the first female vascular surgeon they had ever hired. She became board certified in general and vascular surgery and served eight years becoming an associate professor with tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, Dr. Velazquez joined the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine as chief and associate professor of Surgery, earning the David Kimmelman Endowed Chair in the Vascular & Endovascular Surgery division; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past three years, she has served as the Executive Dean for Research, Research Education and Innovative Medicine, overseeing the efforts of hundreds of investigators who are working to unlock the mysteries of biochemistry and molecular biology; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Omaida C. Velazquez is to be commended for always delivering at the highest level in every step of her career. She fulfilled all of her expectations of her adopted homeland. She is living proof that the American Dream is attainable in our country today;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-091 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Dr. Omaida C. Velazquez.

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

**Presented this eighteenth day of November, A.D. 2015**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary