

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-033 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING STUDENTS FROM ARTHUR AND POLLY MAYS CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS, BIOTECH @ RICHMOND HEIGHTS, HOMESTEAD AND SOUTH DADE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Volunteerism and community projects can provide young people an opportunity to engage meaningfully in acts of service and charity. At Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, BioTECH @ Richmond Heights, Homestead and South Dade senior high schools, students are dedicated to assisting communities in need through an array of projects and initiatives. This item seeks to highlight the drive, passion and initiative of four students and their service-based projects and volunteer work.

Sarah Boyd is graduating at the top of her class at Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts. Sarah is a gifted student and talented dancer who puts forth maximum effort in all her endeavors. She has completed over 500 community service hours and aspires to live by Saint Teresa of Calcutta's famous words: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." This quote embodies her future goals, as she wishes to be someone that others can rely on in both her occupational and personal life. As a sophomore, she integrated a women and children care bag project for families who are victims of domestic abuse and homeless. She has contributed her volunteer efforts and time to shelter soup kitchens and Farm Share Distribution events. This year, Sarah also launched the Arthur and Polly Mays mentoring program to provide academic assistance to underclassmen. She is the current president of the Student Government and the National Honor Society, along with being the recipient of several prestigious awards.

Ethan Holladay, a sophomore at BioTECH @ Richmond Heights High School, has been an active member of Boy Scouts Troupe 941 for the last 8 years. Ethan was a student at Richmond Middle School's Zoo Magnet prior to entering Biotech. Since 9th grade, he has expressed an interest in native butterfly species. Throughout his freshman year, he took part in several native butterfly inventories in the Pine Rocklands adjacent to Zoo Miami. His interest in native Florida habitats and Lepidopterans led him to develop an initiative to establish a native butterfly habitat on BioTECH's Richmond Campus. Ethan began his Eagle Scout project and recruited over a dozen community members and other scouts to work on the project.

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The restored habitat now includes over 15 different species of native flowering plants that serve as hosts to many of the native butterfly species that are endemic to South Florida. He began planning for the project in October of 2018 and put in well over 100 hours of development, planning, and execution time into this single project. Along with his team, he completed the restored habitat in late December 2018. This critical habitat now serves as part of the Richmond Pineland corridor that connects wildlife between the Rockdale Pineland adjacent to US1 to the Zoo Miami Pineland, the largest pineland outside of Everglades National Park. Ethan has proved himself as a steward for the conservation of local flora and fauna of South Florida.

Following in her father's footsteps, Homestead Senior High student Marlie Desarmes has already managed to leave her legacy on the community of Homestead. From a young age, she has devoted herself to a life of service. Growing up, she spent time volunteering throughout her father's mission in his home country of Haiti. It was this experience that showed Marlie not only the value of service, but also the importance of committing oneself to their community. For her, this was accomplished through her work with CORE Community Church Kids Ministry in Homestead, where she has logged well over 400 hours, in addition to her other volunteer work. Her commitment to this organization is evident not only through her time spent there, but also through the various roles that she has undertaken. At CORE, she has worked as a Teacher Assistant, Small Group Leader, and Camp Counselor. All of these positions have exposed her to the mission, vision, and the logistics of the organization, which has allowed her the opportunity to lead and train other volunteers to broaden her reach. In doing so, Marlie has ensured that her impact is a sustainable one that continues giving back even in her absence. This impressive commitment is just one of her many outstanding accomplishments--including, but not limited to, finishing as a semi-finalist in the Louder than a Bomb poetry competition, receiving a certificate of recognition from Homestead City Hall for her team's poetry performance, performing at the Ford Ecoboost 400 at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, and placing in the top three in her class for her grade point average. Marlie is an extremely responsible, poised, and determined student who hopes to continue giving back throughout college and beyond.

South Dade Senior High student Lauryn Lima is described by her school community as representing resilience. From her grandmother's murder to her father's absence in her life, to her mother's battle with cancer, life has been far from easy for her. Yet, the word "defeat" simply does not exist in her vocabulary. She is an IB student, serves as the co-captain of the cheerleading squad, is the president for the 2019 class, holds the position of Corresponding Secretary on the District Student Government Association Board, and is also a member of several Honor Societies in school. Because many of her family members have suffered from Alzheimer's disease, she has decided to make it her mission to end this ailment. She served as the Team Captain for her group at the Alzheimer's Disease Walk last fall, helping to raise money for research to end the illness. With over 900 hours of community service, she has worked on various projects at her school and in the community to support under-resourced students and school pride.

Engaging in volunteer efforts and service has provided these students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and will have a lasting, positive impact on the communities they served. These students are to be commended for their service, initiative, drive and passion.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing students from Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, BioTECH @ Richmond Heights, Homestead and South Dade senior high schools for outstanding community service.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-033 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING STUDENTS FROM ARTHUR AND POLLY MAY
CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS, BIOTECH @ RICHMOND HEIGHTS,
HOMESTEAD AND SOUTH DADE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS FOR OUSTANDING
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

WHEREAS, Sarah Boyd is graduating at the top of her class at Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts. Sarah is a gifted student and talented dancer who puts forth maximum effort in all her endeavors. She has completed over 500 community service hours and aspires to live by Saint Teresa of Calcutta's famous words: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." This quote embodies her future goals, as she wishes to be someone that others can rely on in both her occupational and personal life. As a sophomore, she integrated a women and children care bag project for families who are victims of domestic abuse and homeless. She has contributed her volunteer efforts and time to shelter soup kitchens and Farm Share Distribution events. This year, Sarah also launched the Arthur and Polly Mays mentoring program to provide academic assistance to underclassmen. She is the current president of the Student Government and the National Honor Society, along with being the recipient of several prestigious awards; and

WHEREAS, Ethan Holladay, a sophomore at BioTECH @ Richmond Heights High School, has been an active member of Boy Scouts Troupe 941 for the last 8 years. Ethan was a student at Richmond Middle School's Zoo Magnet prior to entering Biotech. Since 9th grade, he has expressed an interest in native butterfly species. Throughout his freshman year, he took part in several native butterfly inventories in the Pine Rocklands adjacent to Zoo Miami. His interest in native Florida habitats and Lepidopterans led him to develop an initiative to establish a native butterfly habitat on BioTECH's Richmond Campus. Ethan began his Eagle Scout project and recruited over a dozen community members and other scouts to work on the project. The restored habitat now includes over 15 different species of native flowering plants that serve as hosts to many of the native butterfly species that are endemic to South Florida. He began planning for the project in October of 2018 and put in well over 100 hours of development, planning, and execution time into this single project. Along with his team, he completed the restored habitat in late December 2018. This critical habitat now serves as part of the Richmond Pineland corridor that connects wildlife between the Rockdale Pineland adjacent to US1 to the Zoo Miami Pineland, the largest pineland outside of Everglades National Park. Ethan has proved himself as a steward for the conservation of local flora and fauna of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, following in her father's footsteps, Homestead Senior High student Marlie Desarmes has already managed to leave her legacy on the community of Homestead. From a young age, she has devoted herself to a life of service. Growing up, she spent time volunteering throughout her father's mission in his home country of Haiti. It was this experience that showed Marlie not only the value of service, but also the importance of committing oneself to their community. For her, this was accomplished through her work with CORE Community Church Kids Ministry in Homestead, where she has logged well over 400 hours, in addition to her other volunteer work. Her commitment to this organization is evident not only through her time spent there, but also through the various roles that she has undertaken. At CORE, she has worked as a Teacher Assistant, Small Group Leader, and Camp Counselor.

All of these positions have exposed her to the mission, vision, and the logistics of the organization, which has allowed her the opportunity to lead and train other volunteers to broaden her reach. In doing so, Marlie has ensured that her impact is a sustainable one that continues giving back even in her absence. This impressive commitment is just one of her many outstanding accomplishments--including, but not limited to, finishing as a semi-finalist in the Louder than a Bomb poetry competition, receiving a certificate of recognition from Homestead City Hall for her team's poetry performance, performing at the Ford EcoBoost 400 at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, and placing in the top three in her class for her grade point average. Marlie is an extremely responsible, poised, and determined student who hopes to continue giving back throughout college and beyond; and

WHEREAS, South Dade Senior High student Lauryn Lima is described by her school community as representing resilience. From her grandmother's murder to her father's absence in her life, to her mother's battle with cancer, life has been far from easy for her. Yet, the word "defeat" simply does not exist in her vocabulary. She is an IB student, serves as the co-captain of the cheerleading squad, is the president for the 2019 class, holds the position of Corresponding Secretary on the District Student Government Association Board, and is also a member of several Honor Societies in school. Because many of her family members have suffered from Alzheimer's disease, she has decided to make it her mission to end this ailment. She served as the Team Captain for her group at the Alzheimer's Disease Walk last fall, helping to raise money for research to end the illness. With over 900 hours of community service, she has worked on various projects at her school and in the community to support under-resourced students and school pride.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing students from Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, BioTech @ Richmond Heights, Homestead and South Dade senior high schools for outstanding community service.

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

Presented this eighth day of May, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary