

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-045 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. STEVEN MICHAEL MARIN

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

For most Florida International University (FIU) students, daily challenges include finding a parking space, getting to class on time, passing their exams, balancing work and school. Some FIU students, however, face a challenge which makes receiving an FIU degree seem nearly impossible. They are homeless. With no support system, no financial foundation, and no home to return to after class, these students lack the stability needed to succeed in college.

FIU's Fostering Panther Pride (FPP) program offers tailored academic and support services to students identified as formerly in foster care or homeless. Launched in 2013, the primary goal of FPP is to assist former foster care youth and homeless students in their transition to FIU, their retention and graduation, and their pursuit of securing employment or graduate studies upon receiving their bachelor's degree.

Support for FIU's program, from private, nonprofit, and public sectors has been considerable. One major supporter of the program is Mr. Steven Michael Marin, a junior at Florida International University majoring in business management. Mr. Marin has involved himself in the Fostering Panther Pride program hoping to find solutions and support for homeless students. He spearheaded an initiative and conducted his own grassroots funding campaign starting by securing \$50,000 in donations from a wide variety of community leaders. Two years later, Mr. Marin's fund raising efforts have grown to over \$110,000. During the time of his involvement in the FPP program, a number of students have benefitted from the program due mainly to his unbelievable passion to help those who need a helping hand.

Mr. Marin has received wonderful recognition for his efforts but as he has stated, referring to the homeless students he has helped: "They are the ones, not I, who deserve recognition. They are the ones who are making the grades and thriving. They are the ones doing the work." Mr. Marin is an incredible example of our committed youth and our future certainly looks very bright because of individuals like Mr. Marin.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-045 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Steven Michael Marin.

**Replacement
B-5**

RECOGNIZING MR. STEVEN MICHAEL MARIN

WHEREAS, FIU's Fostering Panther Pride (FPP) program offers tailored academic and support services to students identified as formerly in foster care or homeless; and

WHEREAS, launched in 2013, the primary goal of FPP is to assist former foster care youth and homeless students in their transition to FIU, their retention and graduation, and their pursuit of securing employment or graduate studies upon receiving their bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steven Michael Marin, a junior at Florida International University majoring in business management, has involved himself in the Fostering Panther Pride program hoping to find solutions and support for homeless students; and

WHEREAS, he spearheaded an initiative and conducted his own grassroots funding campaign starting by securing \$50,000 in donations from a wide variety of community leaders; and

WHEREAS, two years later, Mr. Marin's fund raising efforts have grown to over \$110,000; and

WHEREAS, during the time of his involvement in the FPP program, a number of students have benefitted from the program due mainly to his unbelievable passion to help those who need a helping hand; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marin is an incredible example of our committed youth and our future certainly looks very bright because of individuals like Mr. Marin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 19-045 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. Steven Michael Marin.

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

Presented this twenty-fourth day of July,, A. D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary