

Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE MR. SANTIAGO TOBAR POTES AS THE FIRST DACA STUDENT TO RECEIVE A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP AND MS. MARINA ESTEVA FOR HER 37 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Santiago Tobar Potes traces his success to Marina Esteva, the teacher he saw twice a week from second to fifth grade at Sweetwater Elementary School.

Ms. Esteva was instrumental in the development and academic growth of Santiago Tobar Potes, an undocumented student who recently graduated from Columbia University and honored as the first Latino DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) student ever to receive a 2021 Rhodes Scholar Award.

On November 21, 2020, the Rhodes Trust wrote, "Santiago has been a teaching or research assistant for leading professors in physics, philosophy, social psychology, and neuroscience, and won numerous college prizes for leadership as well as academic performance. He is widely published on legal issues relating to DACA status, was one of the DACA recipients featured in a brief filed with the Supreme Court to preserve DACA."

In addition to his academic success, Santiago is also an accomplished violinist and is fluent, or near fluent, in nine languages, one of which is Chinese.

Santiago will study contemporary East Asia and international politics at Oxford University with an eye toward working in national security in the United States. His program begins October 2021.

Santiago says his love for learning really took off when he was selected for Marina Esteva's 2nd grade gifted classroom at Sweetwater Elementary.

Ms. Esteva retired from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2009 after 37 years of service to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Ms. Esteva remembers Santiago as an attentive learner who took a special interest in her lessons about what it means to be a Renaissance man. Like they use to say in her class "Esteva's Explorers Forever"!

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This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize Mr. Santiago Tobar Potes as the first DACA student to receive a Rhodes Scholarship and Ms. Marina Esteva for her 37 years of service to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.