

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

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**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, JOIN IN RECOGNIZING MIAMI ARTS STUDIO (MAS) 6-12 @ ZELDA GLAZER LAW ACADEMY ENTERTAINMENT MAGNET STRAND AS THE 2021 STATE CHAMPIONS FOR THE WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION IN CONGRESSIONAL STYLE DEBATE**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution (WPCC) National Finals, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, is a yearly competition involving high school students from throughout the United States. The national finals simulate a congressional hearing and is held at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia, and in congressional hearing rooms on Capitol Hill. Each class is divided into six units, each composed of three to six students. Each unit focuses on a particular area of Constitutional interest- from the philosophical underpinnings and Constitutional Convention to the Bill of Rights and modern-day implications. Students are judged on criteria such as their understanding, reasoning, responsiveness, and use of constitutional applications.

The Justice Teaching Center implements the (WPCC) program in Florida. The program is administered nationally by the Center for Civic Education. We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, was developed in 1987 and adopted by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, chaired by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, as the principal education program of the federal Constitution's bicentennial. The success of the program at the Bicentennial Commission led to Congress continuing the program through the U.S. Department of Education from 1993 to 2011 as an authorized program of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

**Revised  
H-5**

The high school text covers these six units:

- Unit One: What Are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System?
- Unit Two: How Did the Framers Create the Constitution?
- Unit Three: How Has the Constitution Been Changed to Further the Ideals Contained in the Declaration of Independence?
- Unit Four: How Have the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices?
- Unit Five: What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect?
- Unit Six: What Challenges Might Face Americans in the Twenty-first Century?

The (WPCC) program's culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing in which students "testify" before a panel of judges acting as members of Congress. Students demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional principles and have opportunities to defend positions on relevant issues.

Each year the We the People national academic competition for high schools is held in Washington, D.C., in the spring culminating with a top-ten final round in hearing rooms on Capitol Hill.

To qualify for the national finals, a class must win its state championship. This year, despite fierce competition from some other excellent teams, the students in the entertainment law magnet strand, for a second time won this prestigious award and will represent the state of Florida April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. via zoom due to COVID.

We thank their sponsors, Ms. Marta Salazar and Mr. Juan Del Rio and Principal Dr. Balsera. We congratulate these hard-working senior students for their amazing accomplishment and recognition. Congratulations to the 31 Law Senior Class of 2021 and their sponsors Juan Del Rio and Marta Salazar. 1. Aguirre, Lauren T., 2. Alonso, Francisco J., 3. Avila, Michael, 4. Berry, Rodney H., 5. Bolufe, Joel A., 6. Dominguez, Melanie M., 7. Dovale, Anabella, 8. Gonzalez, Alexander G., 9. Herrera, Amanda M., 10. Jacomino, Sofia B., 11. Lopez, Edward M., 12. Martinez, Jennifer A., 13. Mendez, Julianne, 14. Miranda Torres, Keilly, 15. Morales, Joseph G., 16. Munoz, Giovanny, 17. Nodal, Isabel V., 18. Paz, Eileen C. 19. Pereira, Deanna R., 20. Perez, Alejandro, 21. Perez, Helen, 22. Perez-Torres, Maria K., 23. Quintanal, Lilimarie 24. Rodriguez, Emily, 25. Rodriguez, Kaylen, 26. Salazar, Marc I., 27. Sanchez, Dylan M., 28. Torres, Victoria N., 29. Vasallo, Ariana Y., 30. Zainadine, Kayleen M., 31. Zamora, Carlos A.

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 Miami Arts Studio (MAS) 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer Law Academy Entertainment Magnet Strand's 31 Law Senior Class as the 2021 State Champions for the We the People Competition in Congressional Style Debate.