

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-024 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: OLIVIA ALFONSO, BETANIA ARCE, LAUREN GREGORIO, NICOLE RUÍZ

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Junior League of Miami, Inc., is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Miami, Inc., sponsors the Junior League of Miami (JLM) Scholarships, scholarships that are awarded to female high school seniors in the Miami-Dade County Public School System since 1985. The students must exhibit superior community service involvement during their high school years, while maintaining high academic achievement. This year, there are four scholarship recipients: Ms. Lauren Gregorio is the recipient of the 2022 Uppaluri Family Foundation scholarship funded by the Uppaluri family foundation, Ms. Nichole Ruiz and Ms. Betania Arce are the recipients of the JLM scholarship in honor of Kathryn Menke Miller, and Ms. Olivia Alfonso will be the recipient of the Mary Shafey Nursing Scholarship funded by Mary Shafey, the former JLM Foundation President.

Ms. Lauren Gregorio is a senior at Coral Gables Senior High School and is an International Diploma Candidate. Outside of the classroom, Lauren has grown a deep affinity for activism. First coming in as a Partnerships Intern of a non-partisan organization called New Voters that works with high school students around the country to amplify the youth's voice through voter registration drives, she developed multi-faceted connections with organizations including Feeding America, Not My Generation, and Harvard Democracy Matters. She has had various internships, including with Anna V. Eskamani of Orlando, where she formulated weekly volunteer newsletters through NGP-Van Network and helped bump thousands of Florida unemployment cases to the DEO.

Ms. Nichole Ruíz is an environmental activist and founding director of The Five Dollar Project, an international youth climate organization. She plans on studying biological engineering in university with a focus on sustainability in microbial ecosystems. Nichole also advocates for child rights through her co-development of the international Child

Rights In Action forum, gun sense through Students Demand Action Miami, and intersectional environmental education. She independently directed research in teen climate anxiety and cancer cell replication. Apart from climate research and activism, Nichole codes, cooks vegetarian dishes, surfs, and is a competitive karateka. Nichole is a Hispanic Heritage Foundation Gold Recipient for Sustainability, and a Silver Knight nominee for Digital and Interactive Media. She aspires to bring more representation into the STEM field while creating ambitious and attainable climate solutions.

Ms. Olivia Alfonso is a senior at School for Advanced Studies (SAS) Wolfson and will graduate with a high school diploma, as well as an Associate in Arts (AA) Degree from Miami Dade College, this spring. She will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Florida International University this fall in the hopes of contributing to creating a more compassionate, equitable, and safe healthcare environment for all.

Ms. Betania Arce is a senior at MAST@Homestead devoted to spreading awareness about STEM education in places of lower socioeconomic status. Ms. Arce volunteered with the Chapman Partnership to create a Robotic Hand STEM program that engaged children there and taught them about anatomy and science. She also hosted multiple drives for Chapman in association with her school, such as a back-to-school supply drive, and a letter writing campaign for Chapman residents. While maintaining a 5.373 GPA, she is active in the Science Honor Society, and the Mayor's Youth Council, among other organizations. Her postsecondary plans include majoring in biomedical engineering to then enter medical school as a prospective neurosurgeon.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-024, of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing the 2022 Junior League of Miami Scholarship Recipients: Ms. Olivia Alfonso, Ms. Betania Arce, Ms. Lauren Gregorio and Ms. Nicole Ruiz.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-024
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: OLIVIA ALFONSO,
BETANIA ARCE, LAUREN GREGORIO, AND NICOLE RUÍZ

WHEREAS, The Junior League of Miami, Inc., is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The Junior League of Miami, Inc., sponsors the Junior League of Miami (JLM) Scholarships, scholarships that are awarded to female high school seniors in the Miami-Dade County Public School System since 1985. The students must exhibit superior community service involvement during their high school years, while maintaining high academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, This year, there are four scholarship recipients: Ms. Lauren Gregorio is the recipient of the 2022 Uppaluri Family Foundation scholarship funded by the Uppaluri family foundation, Ms. Nichole Ruiz and Ms. Betania Arce are the recipients of the JLM scholarship in honor of Kathryn Menke Miller, and Ms. Olivia Alfonso will be the recipient of the Mary Shafey Nursing Scholarship funded by Mary Shafey, the former JLM Foundation President; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lauren Gregorio is a senior at Coral Gables Senior High School and is an International Diploma Candidate. Outside of the classroom, Lauren has grown a deep affinity for activism. First coming in as a Partnerships Intern of a non-partisan organization called New Voters that works with high school students around the country to amplify the youth's voice through voter registration drives, she developed multi-faceted connections with organizations including Feeding America, Not My Generation, and Harvard Democracy Matters. She has had various internships, including with Anna V. Eskamani of Orlando, where she formulated weekly volunteer newsletters through NGP-Van Network and helped bump thousands of Florida unemployment cases to the DEO. Lauren is very excited to begin her higher educational endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Nichole Ruiz is an environmental activist and founding director of The Five Dollar Project, an international youth climate organization. She is graduating from TERRA Environmental Research Institute. She plans on studying biological engineering in university with a focus on sustainability in microbial ecosystems. She aspires to bring more representation into the STEM field while creating ambitious and attainable climate solutions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Olivia Alfonso is a senior at School for Advanced Studies (SAS) Wolfson and will graduate with a high school diploma, as well as an Associate in Arts (AA) Degree from Miami Dade College, this spring. She will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Florida International University this fall in the hopes of contributing to creating a more compassionate, equitable, and safe healthcare environment for all; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Betania Arce is a senior at MAST@Homestead devoted to spreading awareness about STEM education in places of lower socioeconomic status. Ms. Arce volunteered with the Chapman Partnership to create a Robotic Hand STEM program that engaged children there and taught them about anatomy and science. She also hosted multiple drives for Chapman in association with her school, such as a back-to-school supply drive, and a letter writing campaign for Chapman residents. While maintaining a 5.373 GPA, she is active in the Science Honor Society, and the Mayor's Youth Council, among other organizations. Her postsecondary plans include majoring in biomedical engineering to then enter medical school as a prospective neurosurgeon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-024 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the 2022 Junior League of Miami Scholarship Recipients: Ms. Olivia Alfonso, Ms. Betania Arce, Ms. Lauren Gregorio and Ms. Nicole Ruíz.

Presented this eighteenth day of May, A.D. 2022

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary