

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 22-052 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. DELIA C. GARCIA, FORMER DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Dr. Delia C. Garcia was formerly Dean of the College of Education at Florida International University (FIU) and Associate Professor in the Department of Leadership and Professional Studies. She served FIU in faculty and administrative capacities for 41 years before retiring in 2020. Prior to her appointment as Dean in 2010, she served as Interim Dean and held positions of Chairperson of the Departments of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Leadership and Professional Studies at FIU.

Dr. Garcia has been a leader in the area of community engagement for the past 40 years always committed to forging university-school partnerships that address challenges facing our communities and that focus on problem-solving. She secured federal, state and foundation grants totaling more than \$16 million, addressing the preparation of teachers in urban schools and family literacy efforts. Throughout the years, her teacher education projects generated tuition scholarships for more than 400 teachers in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), providing a means for the completion of graduate degrees by many educators. Additionally, she led efforts in providing professional development training to over 1,000 teachers in the district in the area of TESOL following the State mandate established through the LULAC Consent decree requiring teachers to be ESOL endorsed. In this effort she collaborated with M-DCPS in the provision of in-service initiatives.

Through Dr. Garcia's work in the area of family literacy, a model of family education for linguistically and culturally diverse populations was created. The Families Learning at School and Home (FLASH) program increased the participation of linguistically and culturally diverse families in the educational process of their children by improving their English/literacy skills thus enhancing their abilities to work with their children in instructional activities and assisting them to navigate the educational system in the United States. The program was recognized by the United States (U.S.) Department of Education as an Academic Excellence project and its model was replicated nationwide. The program served over 35 local schools in M-DCPS and reached over 3,000 families in the South Florida community. The project held additional school sites in the Broward and Monroe County school districts.

During her tenure at FIU, Dr. Garcia secured a five-year \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support FIU, as a Hispanic-serving institution (HSI), to expand its capacity to serve Hispanic-Americans in obtaining greater access to graduate educational opportunities. Through the program, the College of Education offered tuition scholarships to teachers and administrators from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in the completion of master's and doctoral degrees. The program enhanced and provided specific support services and mentoring opportunities to the graduate students, including the establishment of an Office of Academic Writing and Publication Support, to assist in the process of completing their respective degrees.

Dr. Garcia's scholarly publications address the areas of family involvement, teacher and parent efficacy, and urban teacher preparation. She developed curriculum guides for teacher education in the areas of home- school relations, adult literacy, and English as a Second Language (ESL). She exercised leadership roles in professional organizations in her field, including receiving gubernatorial appointments to Florida's State Advisory Committees in the areas of family literacy and adult education. She was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the leading national professional organization that guides and advocates for issues in teacher education. She served as President of the Bilingual Association of Florida (BAF) for five years, the state affiliate of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE). She chaired state and district advisory committees focusing on issues of narrowing the achievement gap in our schools as well as the preparation of adult educators in the state.

Dr. Garcia started her career as a high school Social Studies teacher in M-DCPS. She completed a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Florida International University and a Bachelor and Master of Education degrees in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Miami.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 22-052 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Delia C. Garcia, former Dean of the College of Education at Florida International Education (FIU).

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-052 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. DELIA C. GARCIA, FORMER DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU)**

WHEREAS, Dr. Delia C. Garcia was formerly Dean of the College of Education at Florida International University (FIU) and Associate Professor in the Department of Leadership and Professional Studies;

WHEREAS, she served FIU in faculty and administrative capacities for 41 years before retiring in 2020. Prior to her appointment as Dean in 2010, she served as Interim Dean and held positions of Chairperson of the Departments of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Leadership and Professional Studies at FIU;

WHEREAS, throughout the years, her teacher education projects generated tuition scholarships for more than 400 teachers in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS);

WHEREAS, she led efforts in providing professional development training to over 1,000 teachers in the district in the area of TESOL following the State mandate established through the LULAC Consent decree requiring teachers to be ESOL endorsed;

WHEREAS, during her tenure at FIU, Dr. Garcia secured a five-year \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support FIU, as a Hispanic-serving institution (HSI), to expand its capacity to serve Hispanic-Americans in obtaining greater access to graduate opportunities;

WHEREAS, Dr. Garcia's scholarly publications address the areas of family involvement, teacher and parent efficacy, and urban teacher preparation;

WHEREAS, she received gubernatorial appointments to Florida's State Advisory Committees in the areas of family literacy and adult education. She was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garcia started her career as a high school Social Studies teacher in M-DCPS. She completed a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Florida International University and a Bachelor and Master of Education degrees in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Miami.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 22-052 of the
School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Delia C. Garcia, former
Dean of the College of Education at Florida International University (FIU)

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

Presented this fourteenth day of December, A. D. 2022

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary