

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-050 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. ELIZABETH M. BEJAR, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S PROVOST, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

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

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

Dr. Elizabeth M. Béjar was appointed Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer at Florida International University (FIU) on February 16, 2023, by FIU's President Kenneth A. Jessell. Dr. Béjar provides oversight and strategic direction for the university's 56,000 students, 2000 faculty, 11 colleges, and 30 institutes.

As the university's Chief Academic Officer (CAO), Dr. Béjar leads a team of academic deans and provost senior staff toward the implementation of FIU's ambitious strategic plan and bold vision to become a top 50 public university in research excellence and student success. As CAO and Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Béjar oversees an annual budget of over \$1.45 billion.

She has served as principal investigator for several grants at FIU, including a funded grant studying minority-serving institutions' models of success and a \$2 million Department of Labor grant focused on the future of the cybersecurity workforce. Under her leadership, FIU received a \$975,000 Department of Education grant to build on the success of completion grants and financial wellness programs to re-enroll students who stopped out during the pandemic or are at risk of stopping out.

The first Hispanic and first alumna to serve as provost, Dr. Béjar joined FIU in 2003 and has held several key leadership positions serving as Assistant Dean/Director of Academic Support (2003-2006), Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs (2006-2009), Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Accountability (2009-2012), Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (2012-2014), Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs (2014-2018), and Interim Provost (2022-2023). Prior to joining FIU, Dr. Béjar served as Academic Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and as a fifth grade teacher at Key Largo Elementary School and as an elementary mathematics teacher leader for the Monroe County Public Schools (1992-1999).

Dr. Béjar has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Florida's Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes (FCCCYD) (1991-1999), an Executive Committee Member of the Board of Trustees of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (2016-2020), and currently serves as an Executive Council Member of the Florida Women's Network, and as a member of the Urban Serving Universities-Association of Public Land-Grant Universities.

Dr. Béjar's understanding of the dynamics of higher education administration, alongside her ability to lead and meet opportunities and challenges with confidence, integrity, honesty, and responsibility are unparalleled. Commitment to the success of FIU's students and faculty, Dr. Béjar has advocated for faculty-initiated improvements to academic programs to FIU's Board of Trustees and the Florida Board of Governors. Dr. Bejar believes strongly in the value proposition of anchor public research

**REPLACEMENT  
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universities and the critical role faculty have in the academy today. She is dedicated to ensuring that students are prepared for careers of today and tomorrow, are global citizens, and are able to successfully achieve their goals.

Dr. Béjar received her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Higher Education Administration from Boston College, a Master's Degree in International and Intercultural Development Education from FIU, and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Elementary Education from the University of Miami.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is honored to recognize Dr. Elizabeth M. Béhar for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to FIU, to Miami-Dade County, and to the international community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-050 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Elizabeth M. Béjar, Florida International University's Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-050 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. ELIZABETH M. BEJAR, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY'S PROVOST, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AND  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Elizabeth M. Béjar was appointed Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer at Florida International University (FIU) on February 16, 2023, by FIU's President Kenneth A. Jessell. Dr. Béjar is the first Hispanic and first alumna to serve as Provost;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Béjar provides oversight and strategic direction for the university's 56,000 students, 2000 faculty, 11 colleges, and 30 institutes, and as Chief Academic Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Béjar oversees an annual budget of over \$1.45 billion;

**WHEREAS**, , Dr. Béjar joined FIU in 2003 and has held several key leadership positions serving as Assistant Dean/Director of Academic Support (2003-2006), Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs (2006-2009), Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Accountability (2009-2012), Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (2012-2014), Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs (2014-2018), and Interim Provost (2022-2023). Prior to joining FIU, Dr. Béjar served as Academic Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and as a fifth grade teacher at Key Largo Elementary School and as an elementary mathematics teacher leader for the Monroe County Public Schools (1992-1999);

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Béjar has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Florida's Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes (FCCCYD) (1991-1999), an Executive Committee Member of the Board of Trustees of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (2016-2020), and currently serves as an Executive Council Member of the Florida Women's Network, and as a member of the Urban Serving Universities-Association of Public Land-Grant Universities; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Béjar received her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Higher Education Administration from Boston College, a Master's Degree in International and Intercultural Development Education from FIU, and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Elementary Education from the University of Miami.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 23-050 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Elizabeth M. Bejar, Florida International University's Provost, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer.

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

**Presented this eleventh day of October A. D. 2023**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary