

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-003 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING NICHOLAS MESA OF JOHN A. FERGUSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Students with disabilities that participate in arts programs develop creativity, have increased self-confidence, and become more engaged in the learning process that can lead to increased language and mathematics skills.

The University of South Florida's VSA program recognizes students with disabilities that exemplify outstanding work in various arts genres. Educators, administrators, artists, community members from throughout the state may submit nominations of worthy students. Every month the organization selects one student from the pool of nominees.

Nicholas Mesa, a senior with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at John A. Ferguson Sr. High School was selected by the organization for his achievements in film. Nicholas has loved films since he was little and has participated in film classes every year. He belongs to the school's film society and was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Juan Moreno, whom he credits for strengthening his knowledge of film and encouraging him to pursue a career as a filmmaker.

Nicholas knowledge of classic and current films is encyclopedic and he puts his knowledge to use in film shoots through summer camps sponsored by the Florida Film Institute. In these shoots Nicholas has honed his filmmaking and teamwork skills necessary to produce the films he loves.

Students with disabilities face additional obstacles in pursuit of their dreams. Nicholas is to be commended for his determination and tireless efforts to achieve those dreams.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-003 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Nicholas Mesa of John A. Ferguson Sr. High School.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-003
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING NICHOLAS MESA OF JOHN A. FERGUSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, students with disabilities that participate in arts programs develop creativity, have increased self-confidence, and become more engaged in the learning process that can lead to increased language and mathematics skills; and

WHEREAS, the University of South Florida's VSA program recognizes students with disabilities that exemplify outstanding work in various arts genres; and

WHEREAS, nominations of worthy students are submitted from throughout the state, and every month the organization selects one student from the pool of nominees; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Mesa, a senior with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from John A. Ferguson Senior High School, was selected by the organization for his achievements in film; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas has loved films since he was little and has participated in film classes every year. He belongs to the school's film society and was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Juan Moreno, whom he credits for strengthening his knowledge of film and encouraging him to pursue a career as a filmmaker; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas's knowledge of classic and current films is encyclopedic and he puts his knowledge to use in film shoots through summer camps sponsored by the Florida Film Institute. In these shoots, Nicholas has honed the filmmaking and teamwork skills necessary to produce the films he loves; and

Added

WHEREAS, Students with disabilities face additional obstacles in pursuit of their dreams. Nicholas is to be commended for his determination and tireless efforts to achieve those dreams;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-003 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Nicholas Mesa of John A. Ferguson Sr. High School.

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

Presented this fourteenth day of January, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary