OCEAN BANK PRESENTS

For the LOVE of ART

Charity Auction & Honoree Celebration

THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

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ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT

THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For the LOVE of ART
Charity Auction & Honoree Celebration

BENEFITTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ART TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WHO CONTINUE TO INSPIRE
AND CREATE BEAUTY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Support Public EDUCATION

Join The Education Fund as we help our public schools nurture every child's potential. See what we've accomplished:

- $80 million+ raised for public schools
- 203,000+ students and teachers recognized for their artwork
- 265,000+ harvest food bags provided to low-income students' families
- 20,000+ educators encouraged to use and share best practices
- $24 million+ in classroom supplies donated, benefiting 3.7 million+ children
- $3 million+ provided for projects in more than 5,400 classrooms
- 34% increase in students' college enrollment
- 78% of students improved math knowledge
- 3,000+ business professionals recruited to teach for a day and become teacher advocates

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The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center For Educational Materials

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

Many of the pieces being auctioned today are made from materials found in The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, a warehouse and distribution program operated by Ocean Bank and run by The Education Fund. The Ocean Bank Center collects surplus inventory and supplies from the business community and makes them available for free to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' teachers for their students.

The creative process begins with recycled materials – everything from tools to milk jugs, scrap metal, cardboard tubes, tin foil, acetate, Styrofoam, music CDs, and even thread from water hoses. Equipped with these recycled materials, or "found objects," students and teachers use their creativity to convert them into works of art such as paintings, drawings, traditional sculptures, mixed-media, and 3-D pieces, many of which are available for purchase today!

Ocean Bank, Peacock Foundation, The Kirk Foundation, Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation, and Amazon are proud to host The Education Fund's *For the Love of Art* Annual Charity Auction & Honoree Celebration, featuring one-of-a-kind pieces of artwork donated by talented students, teachers, and professional artists.

100% OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF STUDENT AND TEACHER ART, DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMS IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Education Fund Thanks...

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THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2024 Public School Alumni Achievement Awards

The Education Fund is proud to honor the following highly accomplished alumni who graduated from public schools. Our Public School Alumni Achievement Awardees demonstrate clearly that a K-12 quality public education can be a path to greatness.

We also celebrate the 15th Anniversary of our Achievement Awards, showcasing the remarkable professional and community achievements of all present and past honorees.

Please join us in thanking all of the individuals for their continuing belief in public education and for their commitment to our public schools.

Brittnie Bassant | President and CEO | Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce

As president and CEO of Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, Brittnie Bassant is committed to fostering economic development in Miami Beach. She held the same role at ChamberSOUTH, serving Greater South Miami Dade. With experience in various sectors, including not-for-profit and politics, and a passion for animal conservation, welfare, and environmental issues, Brittnie has contributed to organizations like The Everglades Foundation and the Deering Estate Foundation. Brittnie is active on numerous boards and committees, including the Zoo Miami Foundation and the Miami-Dade Beacon Council. She holds a Bachelor of Political Science degree from the University of Central Florida and is a proud alumna of Miami Killian Senior High School.

Rick Beasley | Executive Director | CareerSource South Florida

Rick Beasley has been at the helm of CareerSource South Florida (CSSF) since August 2005, serving as the Executive Director for the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB). He oversees workforce programs in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, managing a budget of $75 million. He has spearheaded various initiatives, including Mobile Workforce Assistance Centers and the Miami-Dade County First Source Ordinance. CSSF is one of the few local workforce development boards that sponsor career development offices on college campuses including St. Thomas and Florida Memorial Universities. Rick has a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Missouri and a BS in Economics from Lincoln University. He graduated from Southeast Senior High School.

2024 Public School Alumni Achievement Awards

THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

George Bermudez | Senior Vice President | Miami Business Banking Market Executive Bank Of America

With a double major in Finance and Management from FIU, George Bermudez is a proud product of the public school system and a Miami Beach Senior High School alum. For 38+ years, he has honed his skills in commercial banking, credit, and leadership, now serving as Market Executive for Business Banking at Bank of America in South Florida. George leads a team of 15 Relationship Managers, providing comprehensive financial solutions to businesses. He is also Executive Sponsor for various Bank of America initiatives and holds leadership positions with Prospera and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami. A longtime Miami-Dade resident, he cherishes his 25-year marriage to Michelle and their three adult children, Amanda, Miah, and Ben, and their grandson, Luca, who is 8 months old.

Edward Borrego | Senior Vice President & Chief Experience Officer & CEO | Jackson Health System

As the Chief Experience Officer for Jackson Health System, and SVP/CEO for Jackson South and West Medical Centers, Edward "Eddie" Borrego oversees system-wide consumer experience, operations, and strategy. He has spent the last decade spearheading world-class care in South Florida, including opening the southernmost trauma center in the U.S. and a new hospital in Doral. Eddie also led the largest COVID testing and vaccination site in Miami-Dade County, a model replicated statewide. His passion for public service began long ago, having served on the leadership team for a U.S. Senator, two Florida governors, and a county commissioner. Eddie is a graduate of Coral Gables Senior High School.

Ashley Boxer | Founder and President | The Boxer Strategy

A graduate of Coral Reef Senior High School, Ashley Boxer advises companies on increasing their public presence as founder and president of The Boxer Strategy. Prior, she held leadership roles at Broward Health, City of Fort Lauderdale, Memorial Healthcare System, and Baptist Health. Ashley serves on multiple boards including the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Pace Center for Girls – Broward. Her leadership awards include the South Florida Business Journal's 40 Under 40 and the March of Dimes' Women of Distinction. Ashley earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and her MBA from Nova Southeastern University. Originally from Kendall, she now resides in Fort Lauderdale with her husband, Michael Lessne, and their daughter, Mae.

Karyn Cunningham | Mayor | Village of Palmetto Bay

Elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2022, Karyn Cunningham serves as Palmetto Bay's Mayor. A Miami native and graduate of Miami Palmetto Senior High School, she holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida and an Urban Education Certification from FIU. After 36 years in education, Karyn retired from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, where she initiated various programs benefiting students. As a Village Councilwoman, she led sustainability and economic development efforts. Passionate about community service, Karyn engages with numerous nonprofit organizations and serves on multiple boards. Karyn's dedication to service and leadership continues as she prepares to assume the presidency of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities on June 8th.

2024 Public School Alumni Achievement Awards

THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pedro M. De Armas | Partner | Garcia Santa María De Armas Trujillo PLLC

Pedro M. De Armas, CPA, is a partner of Garcia Santa Maria De Armas Trujillo PLLC. For 30 years, Pedro has focused his accounting and auditing efforts on serving not-for-profit organizations in our community. A former board member of United Way of Miami-Dade, he recently joined the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Florida Nonprofit Alliance. Pedro has been the lead partner on numerous projects for religious, cultural, educational, foundation, elderly housing, and other not-for-profit organizations. He attended Florida International University where he received a Bachelor of Accounting degree and a master's degree in accounting. Pedro is a proud graduate of Coral Gables Senior High School.

Lourdes Diaz | Chief Academic Officer | Miami-Dade County Public Schools

A proud alumna of Miami Senior High School, Lourdes Diaz began her teaching career at Miami High before joining Barbara Goleman Senior High's founding faculty. Transitioning into administrative roles, she served as an assistant principal at Miami Coral Park Senior High and Orchard Villa Elementary, then principal of Miami Lakes Educational Center and as administrative director in the North Region Office. In 2022, Lourdes was appointed Chief Academic Officer for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, leading initiatives resulting in increased graduation rates and a statewide "A" rating for three consecutive years. She completed her undergraduate studies at Brown University and earned a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Laura Gagliardo | Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer | Backstone

Born and raised in Ecuador, Laura Gagliardo is a first-generation graduate of Miami Coral Park Senior High School and Florida International University. Laura attributes her professional opportunities across different industries to the education gained through the public school system. With an impressive tenure of 11 years at TelevisaUnivision, the world's leading Spanish language content and media company, she ascended to senior roles in Finance and Strategy & Operations. Currently, Laura serves as the Miami Office COO at Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager. In this capacity, she oversees operations in an organization that manages more than $1 trillion in assets and boasts a global workforce of 4,700 employees.

Vanessa Johannes | Co-Managing Shareholder | Carlton Fields

Born in Guyana, Vanessa Singh Johannes is a criminal defense lawyer in Miami. She grew up in Cutler Ridge and graduated from Southridge Senior High School (class of 1999). Vanessa always wanted to be a lawyer. After attending the University of Florida on a full academic scholarship and Duke University School of Law, she worked as a corporate litigator in NYC at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, the world's largest and most profitable law firm. Vanessa then gained trial experience as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida. In 2021, she transitioned back to private practice and is currently a Partner and Managing Shareholder at Carlton Fields' Miami office. There, she works on complex criminal defense cases and corporate and government investigations.

2024 Public School Alumni Achievement Awards

THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Renee Lopez-Cantera | Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing | EKN Solutions

Renee Lopez-Cantera is a native Floridian, residing in Miami. For 25 years, she has held leadership roles in consumer marketing, focusing on digital marketing strategy. As Senior VP of Sales & Marketing at EKN Solutions, she leads development and strategy initiatives to drive client growth through online sales. She currently serves on the boards of start-up tech and business companies, receiving several awards for her community service and business acumen, including a distinguished Knight Foundation scholarship for Women in Tech to attend the Commonwealth Forum. Her philanthropic work includes executive board roles with Mindful Kids Miami, New World School of the Arts, and Code Art. Renee is a graduate of Miami Killian Senior High School.

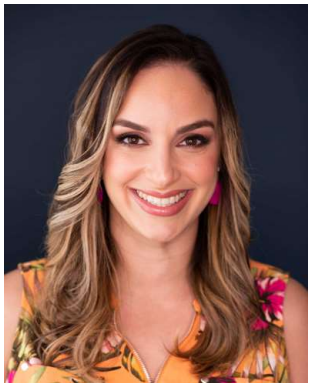
Lisa Martinez | Founder and CEO | LM Genuine Solutions

Dedicated to uplifting the South Florida community, Lisa Martinez is a civic leader, public servant, and lifelong educator. She founded LM Genuine Solutions, LLC, a strategic management firm serving government entities, education, and businesses. Lisa previously served as Chief Strategy Officer at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, leading several high-priority initiatives. She also held senior positions at Miami-Dade County, including Chief of Staff. Lisa began her career as an elementary education teacher, later founding the Positive Partnerships Program for at-risk youth. She then led policy work for the City of Miami before joining M-DCPS. Lisa holds bachelor and master's degrees in Elementary Education and is a proud alumna of Miami Sunset Senior High School.

Cecilia Rivas-Gonzalez | Program Officer | The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation

Cecilia "Ceci" Rivas-Gonzalez, a Miami native, graduate of Miami Palmetto Senior High School, and daughter of two Miami-Dade County Public School educators, currently serves as a Program Officer with The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, a private family foundation based in South Florida. Ceci is passionate about creating and supporting solutions that unlock the empowerment of people, organizations, and systems for the greater good. With a heart toward community, she has led the awarding of hundreds of grants to charitable organizations, of which tens of millions have been awarded to organizations in Miami-Dade County. Most recently, the foundation was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Miami with the 2023 Outstanding Grantmaker Award.

Yanyn San Luis | Chief Executive Officer | The Win Woman



Yanyn "Yany" San Luis, founder and CEO of The Win Woman, leads a certified Woman-Owned and Minority-Owned business enterprise focused on helping billion-dollar companies excel in corporate social responsibility. The Win Woman has facilitated substantial growth by training thousands in sustainability and raising millions for non-profits. She is also a professor at FIU, teaching negotiation strategies. Before establishing her company, Yany excelled in sales, aiding Fortune 500 companies in profit expansion. She holds leadership roles at the National Association of Women Business Owners and other community initiatives. Yany holds an MBA and bachelor's degree in political science and women's studies from FIU and graduated from G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School.

To the Classes of 2010 – 2024:

CONGRATULATIONS! You have earned your Achievement Award, and we are thrilled to recognize each of you.

For our first class of Achievers, we applaud the many leaders of The Education Fund during the first 25 years of our work supporting and improving our local public schools.
For the many subsequent classes of Achievers, we acclaim you -- public school alumni who demonstrated and continue to demonstrate all you can achieve with a public school education.

Your accomplishments send a powerful message that resonates across our community.
We celebrate those that lead the charge to support public education and those that use their public school education to attain success.

YOU ARE OUR HEROES!

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' story is also one of success. Our public schools, directed by the district, have **a graduation rate of more than 94% -- one of the highest in the nation!**

Working together with our district, The Education Fund programs are also a story of achievement. Our outcomes show the many ways we help our public school students reach their full potential and graduate with every opportunity for success.

As The Education Fund embarks on our 40th Anniversary in 2024-2025, we invite you to join us. Work with us to help all public school students achieve their full potential, as all of you have!

And now it's time to raise a glass and toast **YOU** who believe in and demonstrate the power of a public school education!

THE EDUCATION FUND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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15 Year Tribute

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The Miami Herald

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Marcus Marcus/Moss, PLLC

Rohan Marley
Marley Coffee

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**The Education Fund's past and longtime leaders honored at the 2010 For Love of Art Auction as part of The Education Fund's 25th Anniversary Celebration*

** Posthumously recognized at our 15th year tribute

We apologize for any errors; they are truly unintentional.

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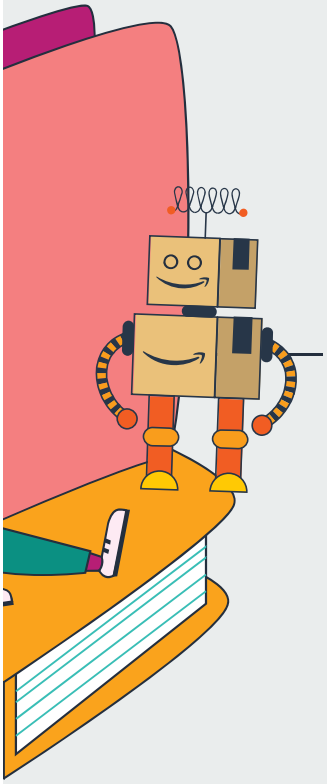

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Let’s continue to work together to make a positive impact in our community

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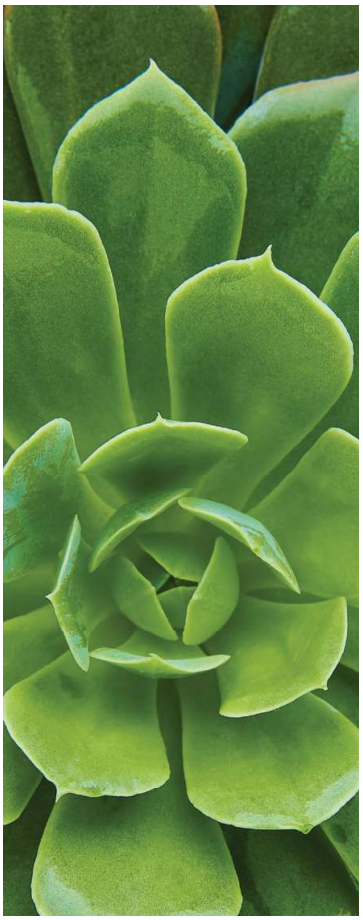

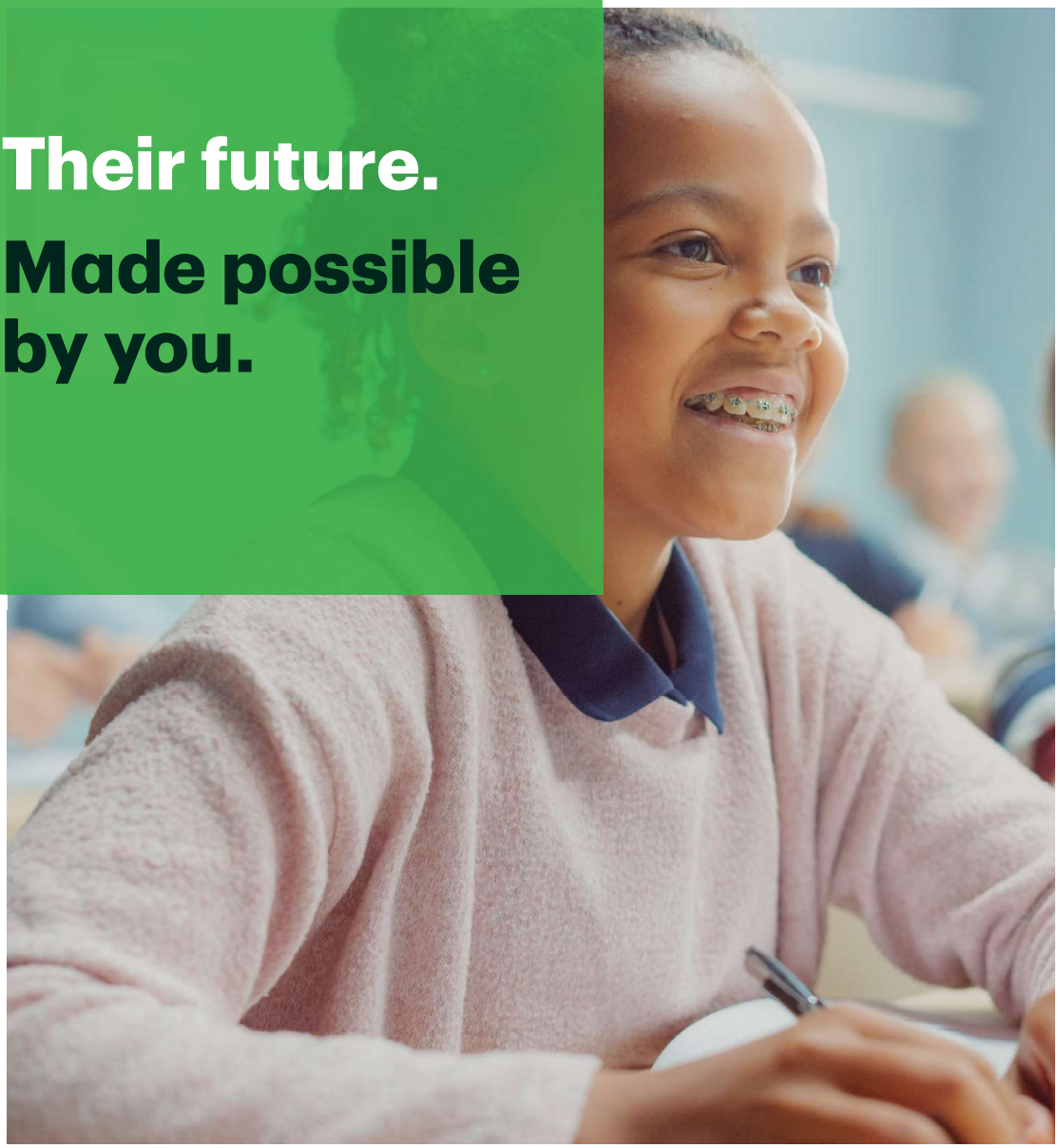

Your commitment to education today helps shape the leaders of tomorrow.

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Thank you for all you do for our children and our community.

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Ashley Boxer

The EdFund's For the Love of Art Charity Auction
Public School Alumni Achievement Award

Congratulations to The Boxer Strategy's Founder and President Ashley Boxer and all of the 2024 honorees.

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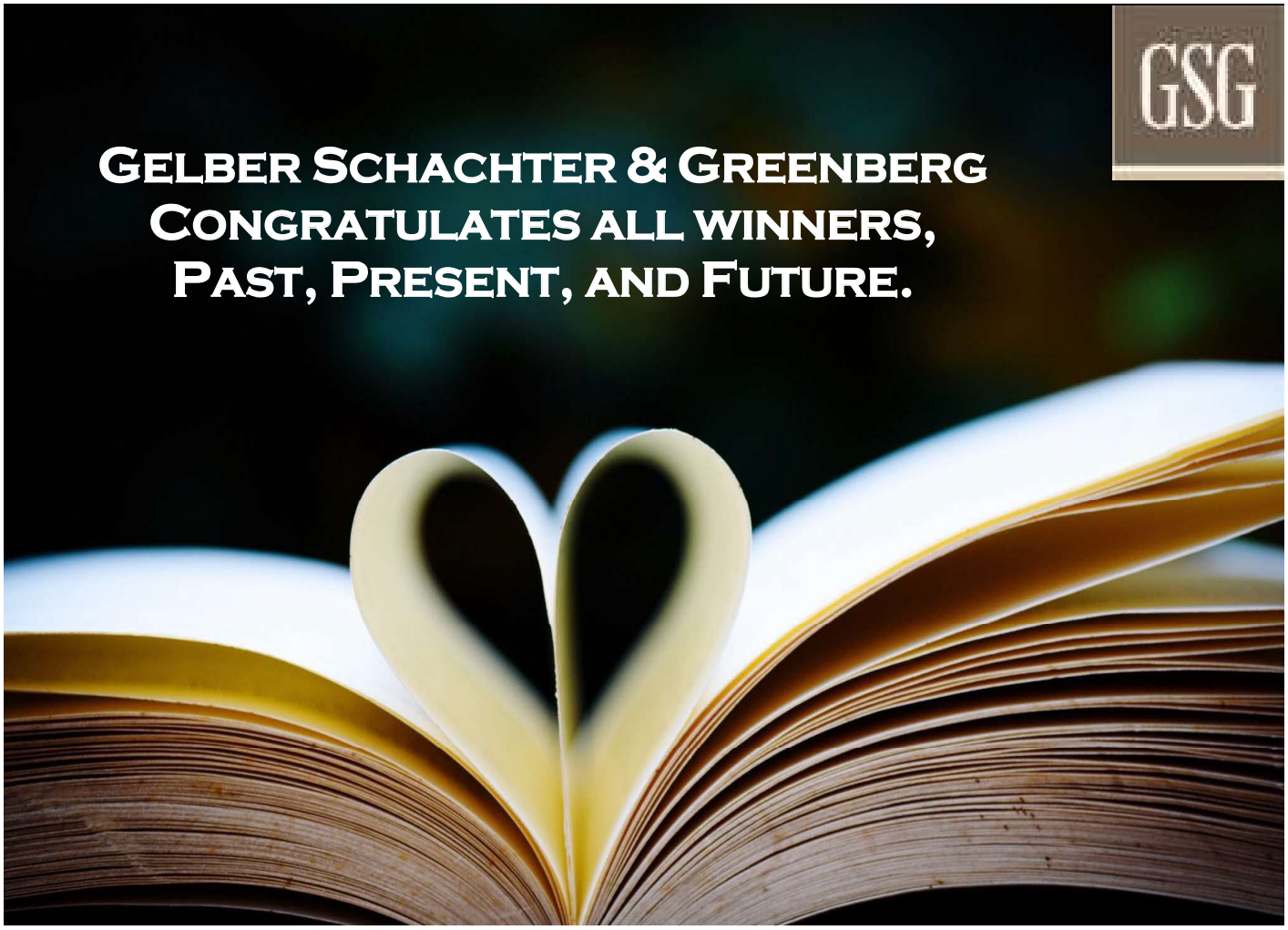

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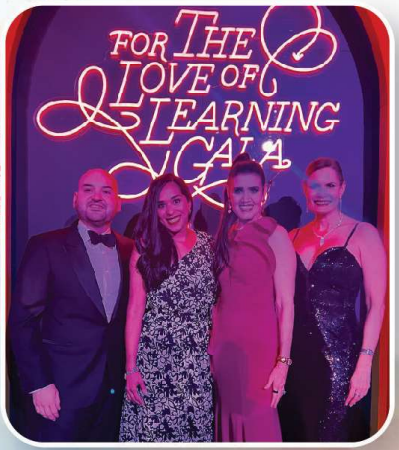
Sisters Monica Veiga & Ana VeigaMilton: Public School Honorees 2018

CONGRATULATIONS TO FELLOW **MDCPS** GRADUATES!

- ANA & MONICA, HONOREES 2018



Honoree Eddy & Maryam Borrego with past honorees Ana VeigaMilton & Monica Veiga supporting MDCPS at the Superintendent's Gala (Foundation for New Education Initiatives).

At Zoo Miami's Animal Fun Factory are past honoree Ana VeigaMilton and Honoree Brittnie Bassant, supporting Girl Scouts Tropical Florida.

2018 honoree Ana VeigaMilton (host of Bollywood) joins honorees Brittnie Bassant (BBBS supporter) & Renee Lopez-Cantera (co-chair of Bollywood Celebration) and Gale Nelson, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) and Lori Brener Scholarship Bollywood Committee members.

Congratulations

CECI RIVAS-GONZALEZ

On behalf of the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation team, we congratulate you on receiving the 2024 Public School Alumni Achievement Award! We know how awesome you are and now the Miami Dade community does as well!

Frederick A. DeLuca
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Charity Auction & Honoree Celebration

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giving our students the world

ENJOYING THE FOOD?

Savor even more flavors at the Taste of Education – in late February of 2025 – where 30+ food tasting booths showcase our public schools culinary program talents.

You will not want to miss sampling the students' amazing creations **AND** be part of the judging – helping to decide the People's Choice Awards!
Contact Marilen Marnett for early information on sponsorship opportunities at mmarnet@educationfund.org or 305-298-9099

And, sign-up at the bottom of our website's homepage – **www.education fund.org** – to ensure you are invited!

THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40th Anniversary is Nearly Here!

The Education Fund is a non-profit organization with the mission to maximize every child's potential and to ensure that each one graduates with every opportunity for success.

As we gear up for our 40th anniversary, July 2024 - June 2025, join us in celebrating four decades of:

- Bringing innovation in education to our local public schools
- Raising awareness about what's possible in our Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Inspiring private sector support

Let's honor our achievements together and pave the way for the next 40 years of impact.

For sponsorship or other info, please contact Marilen Marnett at mmarnett@education fund.org or 305-298-9099.

THE EDUCATION FUND

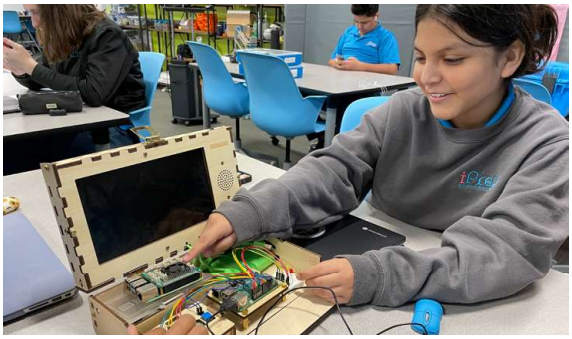
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Art of Our Programs

IDEAS WITH IMPACT

This initiative helps teachers raise student achievement! Mentor teachers train their peers at the annual Idea EXPO, attracting over 500 educators for hands-on, teacher-led workshops, featuring innovative ideas with new ways to inspire students. The Idea EXPO includes projects for all grade levels and all subject areas, with free curriculum materials that meet Florida education standards. As a result, 37,500+ students annually receive improved instruction from teachers who attend our Idea EXPO. Ideas with IMPACT also provides grants to teachers for unique, creative classroom projects and materials that enliven and enrich the standard curriculum. Most recently, Ideas with IMPACT has provided grants for student-led podcasts and music education.

Thank you to Suncoast Credit Union, Amazon, Assurant, Florida Power & Light, Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation, and all other supporters of this program.



"The grants I've received helped me purchase robotics kits and create exciting learning activities that my kids absolutely love. My kids are learning programming languages with real-world applications such as cyber defense, game development, virtual reality, problem-solving, and critical thinking - all of which will help them succeed in whatever career they choose." Michael Sakowicz, iPrep Academy North

THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Art of Our Programs

THE TEACH-A-THON

Presented by Wells Fargo

Great Teachers = Student Achievement

To raise awareness of the needs in our public school classrooms, The Education Fund implements the Teach-A-Thon. During this countywide campaign, business professionals walk in the shoes of a teacher, teaching an actual lesson or two!

It's not career day. Instead, business leaders, also known as Public School Champions, experience what is happening in our public schools -- seeing the needs, struggles, and joys. Since the campaign began, we recruited more than 3,000 business professionals to teach in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

This rewarding experience creates empathy for teachers and students, and a newfound respect for the teaching profession and our public schools.

These Public School Champions tell the story of public education to their friends and colleagues to raise funds for the participating classrooms and other programs of The Education Fund. Since the program's inception, our Champions have raised $700,000+ to support our public schools.

Thank you to Wells Fargo, Assurant, and all other supporters!

Mabel Morrison, Assurant, at True North Charter School

Hector Ponte, Wells Fargo, at Ponce de Leon Middle School

Ray Dueñas, Miami Herald, at Royal Palm Elementary

THE EDUCATION FUND

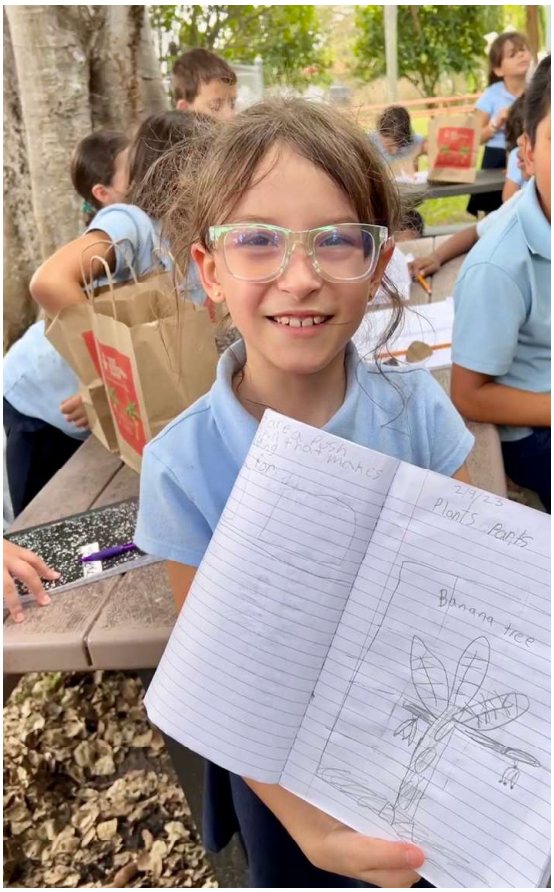
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Art of Our Programs

FOOD FORESTS FOR SCHOOLS

This pioneering initiative puts more than 28,000 students in the center of sustainable seed-to-table eco-labs, teaching them to plant and cultivate superfoods used in school meals and at home. Children learn healthy eating habits, nutrition, environmental science, and other topics and have the test scores to prove it. Seventy-one percent of students exposed to these eco-labs have increased their science knowledge, and more than half improved their eating habits. This was despite pandemic-related learning losses reflected across the country.

To help students and their families, we've also distributed 265,000+ harvest bags full of fresh produce. Food Forests for Schools is an awardee of grants from TD Bank, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Braman Family Foundation, The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation, Life Time Foundation, and other donors.



"My students have shared the various ways their families use plantain trees based on their culture. We have learned that some families use the large leaves to cook, and some boil the plantain fruit based on the country. They are all very interested in the different preparations and can't wait to try the new recipes they have learned!"

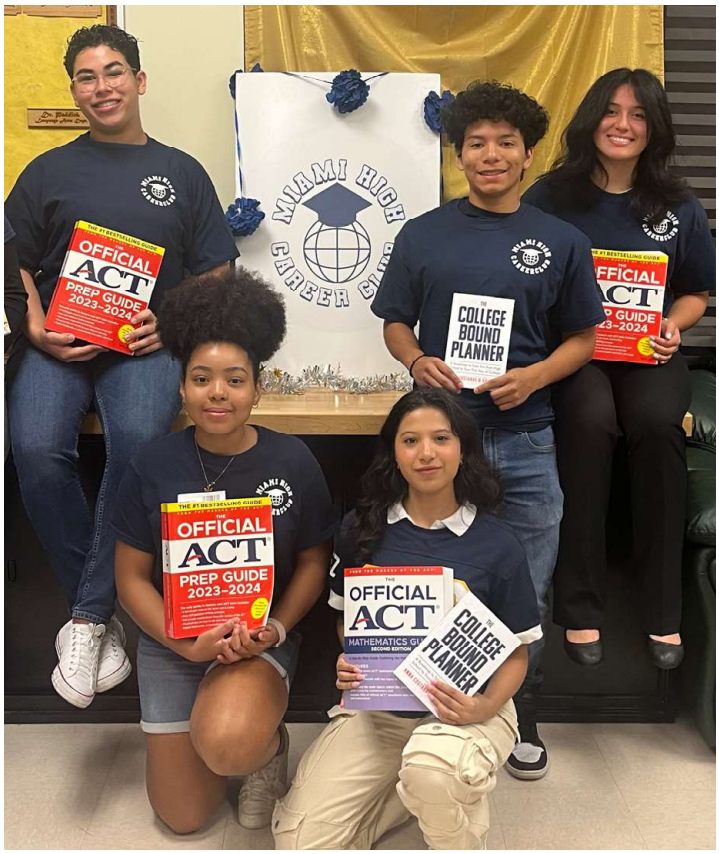
THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Art of Our Programs

SMARTPATH

The Education Fund's SmartPath aims to embed a college-going culture in high schools, empowering low-income and first-generation students to graduate and successfully prepare for college and careers. SmartPath is changing the lives of students in five public senior high schools in Miami- Dade who attend weekly College Clubs to research colleges and improve study habits. College and technical school field trips inspire students to set career goals, while FAFSA workshops help parents and students apply for financial aid. Our pilot schools achieved a 34% increase in college enrollment, and since our expansion in 2013, there has been a 21% increase in college enrollment rates across all SmartPath schools. Thank you to Miami-Dade County, Valley Bank, and Miami Bayside Foundation for their support.



"This was such a great experience! I've learned so much through the college and career club and now visiting colleges. With the support of the club and our meetings, I feel like I have a chance to succeed after high school. Thank you for bringing us here!" said a student at Booker T. Washington Senior High School.

THE EDUCATION FUND

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The Art of Our Programs

THE EDUCATION FUND OCEAN BANK CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Our 11,000-square-foot warehouse is where teachers shop for free, filling their classrooms not only with art supplies and creative teaching aids but also with pencils, pens, paper, books, and other essentials we take for granted. As teachers and students depend on us, we depend on businesses to donate their surplus supplies, remnants, leftovers, excess inventory, and materials. When your company donates, students benefit by having the resources needed to learn, and your business profits through a tax deduction of up to 200 percent.

By donating supplies or materials, you help teachers continue to develop our greatest resource: our children's future.

Since opening in 1993:

- $24+ million in resources donated
- 3.7 million+ students benefitted

Special thanks to the donors who join with Ocean Bank in supporting this program including Peacock Foundation, The Kirk Foundation, Amazon, Lynn & Louis Wolfson II Family Foundation, and other donors.

"It is always exciting to visit The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials and see what cool materials I'll find for the classroom. On my last visit, I was able to get a box of reusable goggles for my scientists in class. Prior to that, I have been able to get poster paper, expo markers, pouches, and so much more. I cannot wait for my six months to pass so I can once again go find new treasures for my students. Thank you to all the donors for making this possible, every little bit helps!"

Stephanie Trenholm
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The Process

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- Complete a one-page report detailing how the supplies were used
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Nonprofits serving our public school students can also access supplies. Email Jocelyn Salazar at jsalazar@educationfund.org.

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