

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice-Chair

**SUBJECT: AWARDS CEREMONY HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
STUDENT SCIENCE SCHOLARS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

The outstanding achievements of students in the sciences is deserving of greater recognition through a breakfast, luncheon or dinner awards ceremony format.

In previous years, public and nonpublic school participants in the Miami-Dade STEM Expo were recognized at the conclusion of the Expo in an informally designated space at the Southland Shopping Mall, which in more recent years was changed to being held at the conclusion of a day's schedule of events at an outdoor patio area on the Miami-Dade College North Campus.

This year, the awards ceremony was held on a separate day from that of the STEM Expo. The awards were announced on Saturday morning, February 9, 2013 at Miami-Dade College North Campus Science Complex, which is an outdoor venue. In addition, the Saturday morning time precluded some participants from attending due to religious reasons.

District staff does a tremendous job in ensuring that students are provided with opportunities to showcase the fruits of their hard work while providing learning experiences about the responsibility of communicating STEM research to the community and engaging in projects with real-life applicability.

In the past few years, the number of participants has significantly increased, and the level of enthusiasm from all stakeholders has dramatically improved with more parental involvement being evident. With this positive momentum, the next step of emphasizing the importance of STEM should be taken.

A special awards ceremony would further demonstrate the District's commitment to STEM and highlight the work of Miami-Dade's students - work that, in many cases, will ultimately benefit our quality of life and positively impact the local, state, national and world communities.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTIN KARP:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to review the current awards ceremony and notification procedures honoring science scholars and explore the feasibility of securing sponsorships to celebrate students' accomplishments with a breakfast, luncheon or dinner awards ceremony that more students can attend.