

Dear Mayor Gelber,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to us about our goal to implement a Pro Start Program at Miami Beach Senior High for the upcoming school year. As I mentioned to you, Dade County School Administration has already committed to us that if we raise the funds, they will pay for all of the infrastructure improvements in the classroom. Lucia Baez and Alberto Carvalho made that commitment and the Chamber's Education Foundation is committed to raising the necessary funds to purchase 1st class equipment, and all new supplies for the program. We estimate that we will need a total of \$500,000 of which we already have commitments for \$335,000.

I want you to know that in addition, Michael Cheng, from FIU is committed to assisting Beach High with teachers that will visit the classroom and I believe that we will be able to create a working relationship with our students and perhaps the Food and Wine Festival as well.

I have provided two links below for your review. The first (about a minute and a half) is celebrity, Chef Guy Fieri, speaking about the importance of Pro Start and the second is about a 3-minute video about the program with students talking about the importance of Pro Start.

We are asking the City for a one-time contribution of \$100,000 towards this program which will not only support the students for years to come, but will address an immediate need in our hospitality industry to hire qualified employees for their restaurants and hotels.

Thank you for your support.

https://youtu.be/H_b9QNBXw7c

<https://youtu.be/DAPZWvXPnmc>

Jerry Libbin
President & CEO
Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce