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Ethical Governance Day Teacher Award to be presented Thursday

As part of a campaign to draw attention to the importance of civic engagement, the Ethical Governance Day Teacher Award will be presented on **Thursday, October 26, 2017**, to Isaiah Thomas -- a middle school civics and law studies instructor who leads his students in community service and academic competitions. The ceremony will take place at **1:30 p.m. in the media center of Carrie P. Meek/Westview K-8 Center, 2101 NW 127th Street, Miami, 33167**. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust has honored a public school teacher for inspiring students to become active, engaged citizens.

Thomas, a product of Miami-Dade Public Schools, earned recognition last year when his Law Studies students created a class activity for Project Citizen called "Done with the Guns," in response to the violence the 7th graders experienced in their Northwest Miami-Dade neighborhoods. The students wrote to lawmakers and pushed for measures to help keep them safe, including afterschool activities, social media campaigns and conflict resolution programs. More recently, Thomas and his students fed families in Opa-Locka after Hurricane Irma, collected supplies for families affected by Hurricane Harvey in Houston and helped host monthly Black Marketplaces at the Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center. Before joining Miami-Dade Public Schools in 2013, the Florida A & M University graduate worked with the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools and for Teen Up-Ward Bound.



Many of Thomas's students will be on hand for the presentation of the award by Ethics Commission Executive Director Joseph Centorino. Also participating will be his past and current principals, Miami-Dade School Board Member Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall and other school officials.

The sixth annual Ethical Governance Day was held last Thursday, October 19. In addition to encouraging citizens and community groups, public agencies, professional associations and private businesses to hold activities and events that focus on how to become more active in their governments, the Ethics Commission COE placed nearly 200 civic leaders and activists in government classes throughout Miami-Dade senior high schools to talk with students about the importance of being informed and involved citizens.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

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