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June 16, 2014

For many students in Florida's 25th congressional district, the months of May and June are the start to the beginning of summer and a few weeks off from their academic studies. But for others, it is beginning of a new chapter in their lives, marked by their graduation.

This year, I was honored to be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremonies of Mater Lakes Academy High School and City of Hialeah Educational Academy. I celebrated their achievements, the sacrifices made by them and their families, and spoke about the meaning of success. We use the word success often in our day-to-day lives, but do we understand what the true meaning of success is? This poem, written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, was quite fitting for the occasion:

*To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection
of children.
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure
the betrayal of false friends.
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others.
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy
child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition.
To know even one life has breathed easier, because you
have lived.
That is to have succeeded.*

I wish the students all over Florida's 25th congressional district the best as they close one chapter in their lives and begin another. They, along with their families, friends, and teachers, have worked hard to get them to

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where they are today. Now, it is up to the students to do their part. It is up to them to continue to succeed.

As always, stay in touch on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#), or visit my [website](#) for any constituent services I am able to provide you with.

Warm Regards,
Mario Diaz-Balart
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