

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO HOST THE SEVENTH ANNUAL INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE ENTITLED *YOU'VE GOT MAIL* AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER AND ITS REQUIRED SUBCONTRACTORS WITH ANTICIPATED COSTS TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$75,000 BASED ON LAST YEAR'S EXPENDITURES

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**

In the fifteenth century, Gutenberg's printing press was the force that radically changed the way the world transmitted knowledge. Today, as we approach the twenty-first century, computers and communications technology have become the forces that are altering the ways in which people process and utilize information. This rapid accessibility of knowledge is causing a paradigm shift in education and is opening up new opportunities for teaching and learning. The seventh annual instructional technology conference is being planned to assist schools in creating technology-enhanced learning environments that capitalize on these new methodologies.

This two-day event, entitled *You've Got Mail*, will focus on empowering teachers to utilize technology as a teaching tool. As the district moves closer to its goal of five students to one computer and each school having desktop access to the Internet, teachers need to know how to acquire and facilitate educational resources from remote locations. A highlight of the conference will be the launch of the Virtual University, funded through the Florida Distance Learning Grant. Teachers will be able to log-on to the Virtual University and take online professional development courses anytime, anyplace.

Authorization is requested to host the seventh annual instructional technology conference on Wednesday and Thursday, September 22 and 23, 1999, and to enter into contractual agreements with the Miami Beach Convention Center and their required subcontractors with anticipated costs to be approximately \$75,000 based on last year's expenditures. The entire cost of the conference is covered by the vendors.

Revenues and appropriations for this event will be included in the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be adopted in July 1999. An appropriation will be established in the Trust and Agency Fund, Fund 0821, for the conference. No local funds are required.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. host a two-day instructional technology conference entitled *You've Got Mail*; and
2. enter into contractual agreements with the Miami Beach Convention Center and its required subcontractors for Wednesday and Thursday, September 22 and 23, 1999, to provide facilities and services for the conference with anticipated costs to be approximately \$75,000 based on last year's expenditures.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Trust and Agency Fund of the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.

JHM:cm