

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE MCI WORLDCOM FOUNDATION FOR THE PROVISION OF FREE MATERIALS AND TRAINING FOR MARCOPOLO, AN INTERNET-BASED SECONDARY SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM, FROM OCTOBER 21, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 14, 2000**

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

Science and social studies teachers at the secondary level are slated to receive training from the MCI WorldCom Foundation on the use of the Internet-based MarcoPolo program. The professional development training program is a “train-the-trainer” model to introduce educators to an Internet resource created through partnerships with several of the nation's leading educational organizations under the MarcoPolo heading, including:

- The National Council on Economic Education;
- The National Geographic Society;
- The National Endowment for the Humanities;
- The Council of the Great City Schools;
- The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; and
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science.

MarcoPolo helps teachers effectively integrate the Internet into the K-12 curriculum. The program's goals include motivating educators to make Internet resources an integral part of their curricula, becoming familiar with MarcoPolo and its partnership web sites, and developing Internet-based lesson plans using MarcoPolo resources. The program's materials will also be supplied to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) as an on-line course for inclusion in the Miami Virtual Campus. MCI WorldCom Foundation, Inc. is supplying all materials and training free of charge.

No local funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the MCI WorldCom Foundation for the provision of free materials and training for MarcoPolo, an Internet-based secondary science and social studies program, from October 21, 1999 through June 14, 2000.

No local funds are required.