

Roger C. Cuevas, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH BARRY UNIVERSITY, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, AND NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELECTED MANAGERIAL EXEMPT EDUCATIONAL LEADERS TO EARN A DOCTOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION**

At the School Board meeting of October 20, 1999, Agenda Item E-16, the Board received the report on the projected impact of the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) in instructional, non-instructional, and managerial personnel positions. In the report, several recommendations were made regarding the creation of programs for instructional and managerial personnel in order to enhance performance as well as to prepare a cadre of educational leaders for higher level positions and critical staff shortage areas projected to open during the period from June 30, 2002 through June 30, 2004. The Board authorized a similar critical staffing shortage area degree opportunity in Library and Information Science through the University of South Florida, at the meeting of April 14, 1999 (Agenda Item E-11).

In response to the projected critical staffing shortages, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), in collaboration with Barry University, Florida International University, and Nova Southeastern University has developed three doctoral degree programs in Educational Administration and Supervision. The programs are intended to promote the professional development of selected educational leaders; support teaching consistent with challenging state content and student performance standards; and enhance the district's capacity to improve administrative performance and supervision in a multifaceted community over the next decade.

This collaboration offers degree programs which:

1. offer practicing assistant principals, principals, region and district managerial exempt personnel the opportunity to obtain a Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Barry University, Florida International University, or Nova Southeastern University;
2. produce educational leaders with wide knowledge of content, theory and research which infuses educational policy and practice to support teaching consistent with challenging state content and student performance standards;

3. provide practicing M-DCPS managerial exempt personnel the opportunity to complete coursework that is delivered through institutions accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS);
4. enhance the instructional leadership and managerial competencies of participating administrators;
5. serve three cohorts of students selected jointly by M-DCPS and the participating universities;
6. integrate theory, learning, and practice in order to enhance participants' professional knowledge and competencies;
7. involve faculty drawn from the participating universities and M-DCPS staff as co-instructors of specially designed courses and colloquia;
8. provide a curriculum consisting of between 51 and 54 credit hours of coursework, and between 6 and 24 credit hours of dissertation development, beginning in August 2000;
9. provide participants with degree programs whose only costs are textbooks, materials, incidental fees, required travel, a portion of tuition costs, and any increases in tuition;
10. include courses to be offered at university campuses and at selected M-DCPS facilities, as well as involving distance learning media; and
11. exclude managerial exempt employees who have applied for and are participating in the DROP as of June 30, 2000.

Authorization is requested to enter into contractual agreements with Barry University, Florida International University, and Nova Southeastern University to provide Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Administration programs for a maximum of 82 selected M-DCPS administrators beginning August 2000. The cost of each degree program is:

- Barry University: This doctoral degree program will begin in August 2000 and have a duration of two to three years. The actual cost per credit hour of \$570 has been discounted to a cost of \$300 per credit hour for a total of 54 graduate credits, which include 6 credit hours for dissertation development. Funding of \$130 per credit hour is available through the District's Tuition Reimbursement Account. An additional \$100 per credit hour is available through Personnel Management and Services (Location 9311, Program 7880, Object 5310). The program is for a maximum of 25 students, and participants will be responsible for any additional tuition costs, including

tuition increases. The total cost to the district for the duration of this program will be \$310,500.

- Florida International University: This doctoral degree program will begin in August 2000 and have a duration of three to four years. The cost per graduate credit is \$144.96 for a total of 75 graduate credits, which include up to 24 credit hours for dissertation development. Funding of \$130 per credit hour is available through the District's Tuition Reimbursement Account. The program is for a maximum of 25 students, and participants will be responsible for any additional tuition costs, including tuition increases. The total cost to the district for the duration of this program will be \$243,750.
- Nova Southeastern University: This doctoral degree program will begin in August 2000 and have a duration of two to three years. The actual cost per credit hour of \$392 has been discounted to \$292 per credit hour for a total of 66 graduate credits, which include 14 credit hours for dissertation development. Funding of \$130 per credit hour is available through the District's Tuition Reimbursement Account. An additional \$100 per credit hour is available through Personnel Management and Services (Location 9311, Program 7880, Object 5310). The program is for a maximum of 32 students, and participants will be responsible for any additional tuition costs, including tuition increases. The total cost to the district for the duration of this program will be \$485,760.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Barry University to provide a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision program for a maximum of 25 selected managerial exempt employees beginning in August 2000 through June 2003 for a total three-year cost of \$310,500;
2. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University to provide a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision program for a maximum of 25 selected managerial exempt employees beginning in August 2000 through June 2004 for a total four-year cost of \$243,750; and
3. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Nova Southeastern University to provide a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision program for a maximum of 32 selected managerial exempt employees beginning in August 2000 through June 2003 for a total three-year cost of \$485,760.

The appropriation for this item is included in the District Tuition Reimbursement Account and the Personnel Management and Services budget.

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