

Personnel Management and Services
Nelson E. Diaz, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FLORIDA MEMORIAL COLLEGE FOR THE URBAN MINORITY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Authorization is requested to approve a collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Florida Memorial College (FMC) for the implementation of the Urban Minority Teacher Education Program (UMTE). The UMTE was developed as a South Florida Annenberg Challenge proposal, and involves a collaboration among FMC, M-DCPS, Broward County Public Schools, Miami-Dade Community College, and Broward Community College. This agreement is also in collaboration with the United Teachers of Dade (UTD). Florida Memorial College serves as the lead organization for this program. This collaborative agreement will assist the District in addressing critical staffing shortages in exceptional student education.

The UMTE program was designed to prepare pre-service education students to function effectively as exceptional student education teachers in urban school settings. The program provides an opportunity for one cadre of 25 M-DCPS paraprofessionals with an Associate of Arts degree, with a minimum of three years work experience, to complete all necessary coursework toward earning certification in an exceptional student education area. The program includes orientation and mentoring components, and all participants will receive preparatory assistance for, and must submit documentation of, successful completion of the CLAST or the Praxis I examination. The program also includes a two-stage internship requirement, which will be completed by participants during the summer terms of their junior and senior years.

Participants in the cadre will be provided tuition reimbursement funding at the rate of \$90 per credit hour, for which they are already eligible, through program completion. Program participants will be given priority consideration for available teaching positions, and must teach exceptional student education for at least three full years in Miami-Dade County Public Schools following program completion.

The UMTE program will begin during the 2002-2003 school year.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Florida Memorial College supporting the implementation of the Urban Minority Teacher Education program for paraprofessional II and III personnel during the 2002-2003 school year.

NED/gpq