

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION TO PARTIALLY FUND THE GREAT AMERICAN CITIES PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The Close Up Foundation has identified matching funds and has invited the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to participate in the Great American Cities Program. This program provides urban students with a week-long opportunity to tour our nation's capital and learn first-hand about our nation's federal government. The program targets students who would otherwise not be able to participate, especially minority students and immigrants. The program, planned for the week of May 16 – 22, 2004, includes travel, lodging, admission fees, and educational materials for students and their teacher chaperones. Ten senior high schools will select a total of 100 tenth grade students to participate in the Great American Cities Program.

There exists a 30-year history of collaborative efforts between the Close Up Foundation and the district. More than 20,000 students and teachers from Florida have participated in this initiative since 1972, with approximately 50 percent of that total coming from the M-DCPS.

To ensure greater districtwide participation, schools from each ACCESS Center have been selected by the Division of Social Sciences to participate in this special initiative. Special consideration was given to low performing ("D" and "F") schools and schools with large populations of minority and immigrant students. The senior high schools selected to participate are: G. Holmes Braddock, Hialeah, Homestead, Miami Central, Miami Edison, Miami Jackson, Miami Northwestern, North Miami, South Dade and Booker T. Washington Senior High Schools. The Close Up Foundation will provide fellowships for the participating students. The Foundation will donate \$80,000 to the project to match the district contribution of \$79,845 in Title V, Innovative Programs funds.

B-23

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 reviewed this Memorandum of Understanding on February 26, 2004, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted because the contractor, who offers specific expertise in learning about and experiencing the democratic process, is the sole source.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 4198, Object 5310, Location 9626.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Close Up Foundation, in an amount not to exceed \$79,845, to partially fund the Great American Cities Program for the period effective May 16, 2004 through May 22, 2004; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.21.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget.

GMK/LCR:jd

February 23, 2004

Mr. Merrett R. Stierheim
Superintendent of Schools
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1500 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33132

Dear Mr. Superintendent:

I am pleased to provide this Memorandum of Understanding between the Close Up Foundation and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) regarding the participation of MDCPS in a Close Up Foundation *Great American Cities Program* to be conducted in Washington, D.C., tentatively planned for the week of May 16-22, 2004. As you will recall, I had the pleasure of discussing the potential of this program with you nearly two years ago. This Memorandum of Understanding confirms the scope and conduct of the program as delineated in the attached Executive Summary.

Since the inception of civic education activities conducted by the Close Up Foundation, we have had a strong focus on insuring that students from every background have an opportunity to participate in our Washington Program through providing fellowships for students of need. We are extremely proud of our longstanding history with M-DCPS students and teachers, which began in 1972, less than two years after Close Up's inception. More than 20,000 students and teachers from Florida have participated in the Close Up Washington Program since 1972, with approximately 50 percent of that total coming from M-DCPS.

To make our outreach to urban schools more effective, Close Up has developed the *Great American Cities Program*, an urban initiative for tenth-grade students who have demonstrated leadership capabilities. This special program for the M-DCPS will be composed of 100 tenth-grade students, ten accompanying high school teachers, and one administrator from the M-DCPS. All of the participating students and teachers will be selected by M-DCPS.

For the students, the program will focus on leadership skills and encourage involvement in public and community service. In a concurrent program, teachers will be trained to use community and public service as educational strategies to generate civic participation and leadership development.

Mr. Merrett R. Stierheim

February 23, 2004

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The attached project budget for the *Great American Cities Program* is for a total of \$159,845. The Close Up Foundation will commit and provide \$80,000, which represents a grant from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, in addition to the congressionally appropriated Close Up Fellowships. Execution of this Memorandum of Understanding will commit M-DCPS to provide matching funds, in the amount of \$79,845 from the Title V Innovative Programs Grant, to the Close Up Foundation to partially fund activities associated with the *Great American Cities Program*.

Stephen A. Janger
President and Chief Executive Officer
Close Up Foundation

Merrett R. Stierheim
Superintendent of Schools
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Date

Date

The Close Up Foundation Great American Cities Program for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Executive Summary

The Close Up Foundation is respectfully requesting funding support in the amount of \$79,845 for its Great American Cities Program for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. This specially designed residential civic education program will be conducted in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 2004 for tenth-grade students of need and their teachers from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The Close Up Foundation, established in June of 1971, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that informs, inspires, and empowers people to exercise the rights and accept the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. Close Up is a nonprivate 501(c)(3) organization and conducts the largest government studies program in the United States. Through the end of this past academic year (June 2003), Close Up has brought more than 620,000 participants (high school students, middle school students, teachers, senior Americans) through our weeklong Washington programs. Millions more have been reached through our local and state government studies programs, classroom publications, and Close Up on C-SPAN television programming.

Since the inception of the Close Up work, we have had a strong focus on making certain that students from every background have an opportunity to participate in our work through fellowships for disadvantaged students. Approximately 35 percent of the 20,000 annual Washington program participants receive support. These include minority students, recent immigrants and migrant students, American Indians, the deaf, visually impaired and physically challenged, and other students with special needs (e.g., students who are long-term cancer survivors). Accompanying teachers go through a similar program to enhance their own classroom capabilities. Fellowships are provided through public funding (the Congressionally appropriated Close Up Fellowships) and private funding to ensure this important diversity of participants in our Washington program.

To make its outreach to urban schools more effective and to challenge the widespread belief that urban youth do not get involved in community and country, Close Up has developed the Great American Cities Program - a focused urban initiative for tenth-grade students with demonstrated leadership capabilities. This special program for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools will be composed of 100 tenth-grade students, 10 accompanying teachers from 10 high schools, and one administrator selected by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. For the students, the program will focus on leadership skills and encourage involvement in public and community service. Teachers, in a concurrent program, will be trained to use community and public service as educational strategies to generate civic participation and leadership development.

The total project budget (attached to the Project Description) for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Great American Cities Program is \$159,845. Substitute teacher coverage will be provided by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Through a grant to Close Up from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and some utilization of the Congressionally appropriated Close Up Fellowships, Close Up will contribute \$80,000 toward the total budget of \$159,845. Close Up is hopeful that existing corporate or foundation partners with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, or local private sector funders, or an existing pool of funding (i.e. Learn and Serve funds) will make up the balance (\$79,845) of the budget goal.

**CLOSE UP FOUNDATION
GREAT AMERICAN CITIES PROGRAM**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPRING OF 2004**

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Washington D.C. Close Up Program and Follow-up Activities

One week- long session - Spring 2004
 Number of Selected High Schools 10
 Number of Students Per School 10

	Tuition	Trans.	Program Price
Teachers and Administrator	11	\$ 1,070	\$ 310
Students	100	\$ 920	\$ 310
	#		Budget
Student Fellowships	100		\$ 123,000
Teacher Fellowships	10		13,800
Administrative Fellowship	1		1,380
Teacher and Administrator Stipends	11	@ \$ 800	8,800
Follow-up Activities (Fall of 2004)	115	@ \$ 55	6,325
Close Up Staff Participation at Follow-up	4	@ \$ 760	3,040

Total Fellowships and Follow-up Activities

\$ 156,345

Evaluation

3,500

Total Close Up Washington D.C. Program and Follow-up Activities

\$ 159,845

Per Student Participant

\$ 1,598.45