

At the close of the SECME RISE project, the Museum submitted a subsequent grant and was again funded by NSF for the GREAT (Girls Redesigning and Excelling in Advanced Technology) project: 2001 – 2004. This time, the program goal was more focused on increasing the confidence, interest, and preparation of girls to pursue studies and careers in the field of information technology. At the project's conclusion, approximately 80 middle school girls were served.

In 2005, as an expansion of the middle school programs and the continued need for equity in science, engineering, and technology (SET), the Museum submitted and was funded for a US Department of Education/Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) grant for high school girls titled Raising Interest in Science and Engineering (RISE). This most recent project continues to raise awareness of, and interest in, engineering and advanced technology, but with a focus on high school girls, particularly girls of color. The expectation at the completion of this project is to increase representation of females in advanced science and technology-based classes and knowledge of SET careers. Specific objectives are:

- To extend RISE programming to SECME clubs at the lowest-performing high schools in Miami-Dade County, building girls' content knowledge, interest and motivation to pursue SET careers.
- To enhance the skills of M-DCPS high school science teachers through professional development in technology integration, gender equity strategies and development of hands-on science and engineering activities.
- To increase parental/guardian awareness and elicit their support for their daughters' SET education and related career aspirations.
- To implement a comprehensive evaluation plan and contribute to the field by examining the impact of combining formal and informal learning environments on equity-based education.
- To broadly disseminate program strategies and professional development materials.

Over the course of four years, the program will target 80 senior high school girls from four critical-need schools, along with their parents, and mathematics and science teachers.

The Miami Science Museum exemplifies a strong partnership that continues to strengthen and expand minority exposure and participation in studies that build excellence and equity for students to meet the workforce demands of the 21st Century.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-- Recognizing Miami Science Museum for commitment to the achievement and pursuit of excellence by minority students in the studies of science, engineering, and technology.