

Sandy Smith Moise, Administrative Director
Office of Community Services

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH WOMEN OF TOMORROW (WOT) MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE DESIGNATED SERVICES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Authorization is requested to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Women of Tomorrow (WOT) to provide designated services for high school students from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. Services will include the recruitment and placement of mentors, monitoring of mentor matches, and the implementation of scholarship awards. Additionally, authorization is requested to accept funds not to exceed \$36,000, to partially support one full-time Career Specialist (CS) position to oversee the program, which has been in existence in the District since 1997-98. The MOU specifies that Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide funds that include fringes and health benefits not to exceed \$36,000, to cover the remaining cost of the CS position. The CS will monitor academic progress, provide case management for students requiring intervention, communicate with parents, coordinate and conduct skill-building activities for students, and facilitate mentoring activities with all mentors. The Office of Community Services oversees this program.

During school year 2007-2008, 1,018 students were enrolled and served by WOT, and 98 were graduating seniors. The students enrolled in the program are identified and referred to the program by school staff. The program is designed to inspire, motivate and empower young women to live up to their full potential through mentoring by highly accomplished professional women. Additionally, WOT provided scholarship funds of \$204,650 to these students who increased their mean grade point average (GPA) from 2.67 to 3.18, as well as the graduating class maintained an 86.6% graduation rate.

The appropriation for this item is included in the general fund of the 2008-2009, Tentative Budget, to be recommended for adoption in July 2008, under Fund 0100, Work Location 9619, Function 9100, Program 9298, and Object 5130.

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Copies of the MOU will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary, Room 925, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorizes the Superintendent to:

1. enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, with Women of Tomorrow (WOT) to provide designated services for high school students;
2. accept funds from Women of Tomorrow not to exceed \$36,000; and
3. direct Financial Operations to establish appropriations in the amounts approved or as amended by granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

RFC/LDB/pl