

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL
AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FOR THE
DELIVERY OF THE ZELDA GLAZER WRITING INSTITUTE IN
AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000**

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami to deliver the 2011 Zelda Glazer Writing Institute for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

The Zelda Glazer Writing Institute (Writing Institute) is a two-week professional development experience that will be made available to eighty (80) District teachers, through a District-wide application process, from June 20, 2011 through July 1, 2011. The Writing Institute guides participants in creating a meaningful writing program, offers tools that empower teachers to provide instruction on teaching and grading student writing, and encourages participants to share their new expertise with colleagues. Teachers will return to their classrooms to implement these techniques and activities which will enable their students to become more engaged and gain a greater mastery of the writing process. Participants will earn sixty (60) Master Plan Points for successfully completing the two-week intensive professional development session.

Baseline student data on the district's writing test has been collected from teachers that participated in the 2010 institute. This data is currently being analyzed and will be combined with data from the mid-year District writing test which will be administered in January 2011 and the results will be summarized.

A more formal evaluation has been designed for the 2011 institute. Staff from the University of Miami has already met with staff from the Offices of Program Evaluation and Curriculum and Instruction to discuss the research proposal to insure it will meet District requirements. The research will focus on the efficacy and return on investment of this professional development initiative. The primary emphases of the evaluation will be to a) determine what changes take place in the professional practices of program

participants and b) assess the impact on student outcomes, specifically focusing on FCAT Writing measures at grades 4, 8, and 10. The evaluation study will incorporate benchmarking of student test scores, qualitative observations of classroom instructional practices, and reviews of student work samples. The research proposal is included in the cost of the contract

Funding for the 2011 Zelda Glazer Writing Institute is budgeted through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part A, Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund grant from the following budget structure: Fund 0420, Location 9017, Object 5390, Program 3098, and Function 6400.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami for the delivery of the 2011 Zelda Glazer Writing Institute in an amount not to exceed \$ 75,000.

MRF:cm