

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: INTERNSHIP AND PLACEMENT SERVICES

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Over the past several years, local businesses, college leaders, and community organizations have expressed concerns centered on the alarming exodus of many of our young local talent and potential workforce to cities throughout the country. Hence, these young people, of whom the overwhelming majority are products of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), leave in search of employment opportunities and resources in other urban centers. For this reason, the local business community has turned to its partners in education for collaboration and assistance in addressing the 'brain drain' occurring in South Florida. Recently, the Beacon Council's One Community, One Goal Academic Leaders Council initiated the Talent Development Network, a regional internship program aimed at connecting students with "meaningful work experience in line with their career goals through internships". In collaboration with our superintendent, college and university presidents are also engaged in this meaningful endeavor. The shared interest in retaining homegrown talent can lead to opportunities for M-DCPS secondary students that serve to enhance their education, expand economic opportunities, and facilitate career/work related experience through a concerted effort to develop more internship and placement services.

Clearly, many innovative and proactive steps have already been initiated throughout the past year. The Superintendent has taken steps to bridge the training received in career and technical education programs with established businesses in the community through working partnerships, most notably with Braman Motors. Additionally, the team of dedicated professionals in Adult Education and the Division of Workforce Development Education maintain an updated 'Job Report - Weekly Report of Job Openings' on their website which features employment opportunities from established businesses in the county. Moreover, school counselors often assist high school students heading to college with obtaining working internships.

M-DCPS is uniquely positioned to leverage existing and future relationships with district vendors, local businesses, colleges, and community organizations with the purpose of expanding internship and placement opportunities for its secondary students. This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to explore opportunities to encourage existing and future district vendors or enterprises doing business with the District, as well as, local

businesses, colleges, and community organizations to expand internship and placement opportunities for M-DCPS secondary students; explore the establishment/expansion of an Internship Placement Service Program that links students with internship and placement opportunities; review and improve the functionality of the existing clearinghouse website for student internships and placements by identifying personnel that can monitor and provide technical support; revise and emphasize the school site's role of overseeing the internship/placement process to better align, orientate, prepare, train, and monitor students; and provide a report to the Board, at its December 19, 2014 meeting, the implementation, viability and timeline of internship and placement programs and partnerships.

PROPOSED ACTION

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

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

- a) explore opportunities to encourage existing and future district vendors or enterprises doing business with the District, as well as, local businesses, colleges, and community organizations to expand internship opportunities for M-DCPS secondary students;
- b) explore the establishment/expansion of an Internship Placement Service Program that links students with internship and placement opportunities;

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- e) provide a report to the Board, at its December 19, 2014, meeting addressing the implementation viability and timeline of internship and placement programs and partnerships.