

March 22, 2000

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO HOST THE EIGHTH ANNUAL INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE ENTITLED *TECHNOLOGY 2000: BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION*; AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER AND ITS REQUIRED SUBCONTRACTORS WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$75,000 BASED ON THE 1999-2000 EXPENDITURES

The Eighth Annual Instructional Technology Conference is entitled *Technology 2000: Building on a Solid Foundation* to reflect technology's role in instruction as a blueprint for constructive change. Technology has the potential to transform the learning community for teachers and students. Instructional technology can help educators create active and participatory learning environments, which will support significant changes to instructional practice.

The primary focus of this two-day event will be professional development: teaching and learning in the year 2000. Since significant, rapid changes in technology continue to impact the way we teach and learn, conference sessions will be offered highlighting technology as a teaching tool. Additionally, the conference will showcase the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) portal for professional development, the *Miami Virtual Campus*. Historically, face-to-face professional development required instructional personnel to leave their classrooms. Through the *Miami Virtual Campus*, M-DCPS' personnel will be able to access professional development courses, anytime, anywhere.

At the conference, two technology scholarships, *The Ana MacKay Technology Scholarship* and *Tech Trek: The Path for Computer Professionals Scholarship* will be awarded to four high school seniors graduating in the 2000-2001 school year. The scholarships will be awarded to students that are hardworking and conscientious, strive for academic distinction, exhibit excellence in the study of technology, and demonstrate financial need. The scholarships will be presented at the opening general session of the conference.

Authorization is requested to host the Eighth Annual Instructional Technology Conference on Wednesday and Thursday, September 20 and 21, 2000, and to enter into contractual agreements with the Miami Beach Convention Center and its required subcontractors with an estimated cost of \$75,000 based on the 1999-2000 expenditures. Vendor support will cover the entire cost of the conference.

Revenues and appropriations for this event will be included in the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000. An appropriation will be established in the Trust and Agency Fund, Fund 0821, for the conference.

No local funds are required.

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

1. host the Eighth Annual Instructional Technology Conference entitled *Technology 2000: Building on a Solid Foundation*; and
2. enter into contractual agreements with the Miami Beach Convention Center and its required subcontractors for Wednesday and Thursday, September 20 and 21, 2000, to provide facilities and services for the conference with an estimated cost of \$75,000 based on the 1999-2000 expenditures.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Trust and Agency Fund of the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000.

No local funds are required.

JHM:cm