

Joseph Garcia, Chief Communications Officer  
Office of Public Relations

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO  
ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH  
THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM, INC., (WOT) TO PROVIDE GROUP MENTORING  
SERVICES TO SELECTED SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Authorization is sought to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, Inc., (WOT), to provide group mentoring services to selected senior high school students. Mentoring is provided by distinguished professional women dedicated to improving the self-esteem and future adult lives of teenage girls by sharing their personal experiences and assisting the students in setting goals for themselves. A full-time staff member from the Office of Community Services is assigned to this program.

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, Inc., founded and headed by Ms. Jennifer Valoppi, television journalist, and Telemundo President & CEO, Mr. Don Browne, has been partnered within Miami-Dade County Public Schools since 1997. Since that time, over 3,000 students and 175 mentors have participated. The program has provided scholarships totaling over \$500,000 to help program graduates pursue higher educational endeavors.

All Miami-Dade County Public High Schools have been invited to participate in this program. Currently, 40 senior high schools take part in the program. The WOT School Coordinator at each participating senior high school will work within her/his school to select approximately 15 – 30 students in grades nine and 10 who would benefit from participation in the program using criteria agreed on by WOT. The criteria is a broad definition of an at-risk youth as WOT is aimed at helping students who are not currently living up to their potential.

Ms. J. Bianca Erickson is the Director of The Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, Inc.

There is no exchange of funds.

**C-31**

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, Inc., (WOT), to provide group mentoring services to selected senior high students.

There is no exchange of funds.

JG/LDB/gj