

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-68 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS AND BENEFITS OF THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: ACTIVELY ENGAGE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BECOME OUR PARTNERS IN RAISING AND MAINTAINING HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program (WOT) is designed to inspire, motivate and empower at-risk young women to live up to their full potential through mentoring by highly accomplished professional women and scholarship opportunities. The program was conceived in 1997 by Television Journalist Jennifer Valoppi and co-founded with Don Browne, Telemundo Network President.

WOT is believed to be the only program of its kind in the country, pairing extremely accomplished professional women with small groups of at-risk teenage girls in public high schools for a 4-year mentoring program. WOT Mentors are judges, doctors, lawyers, newscasters, executives and entrepreneurs who expose young women to the possibilities out there for them, as well as walking them through a variety of learning experiences that will enrich their lives and their educational experience.

This program is about women helping women. In an initial study, a statistically significant improvement in the self-esteem of the participants was shown. Moreover, recent analysis has shown that girls in WOT demonstrate a statistically significant increase in their grade point averages (GPA) each year they are involved in WOT. Mentees graduate from high school at close to a 90% rate compared to the county-wide high school graduation rate of approximately 60%.

Currently, the WOT program is established in 98 Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County High Schools in South Florida and serves 2,000 Mentees with its network of 250 Mentors. Since the inception of its Scholarship Program in 2000, WOT has awarded over \$2.3 Million in scholarships to 838 Mentees. Mentors meet with groups of 10-15 Mentees on a monthly basis to discuss ambitions, hopes, and positive attitudes necessary for success, and practical solutions to life's problems. They discuss a variety of topics of importance to the girls including study habits, school work, communication skills, anger management, etiquette, keys to success and turning obstacles into opportunities.

Many successful women have traits they share in common, and have traveled similar roads to realize their goals, regardless of profession. Based on this premise, WOT Mentors share their personal stories, knowledge and techniques for success.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE FELDMAN:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-68 of The School Board of the Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the success and benefits of the Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-68
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE
SUCCESS AND BENEFITS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE WOMEN OF
TOMORROW MENTOR & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program (WOT) is designed to inspire, motivate and empower at-risk young women to live up to their full potential through mentoring by highly accomplished professional women and scholarship opportunities; and

WHEREAS, WOT is believed to be the only program of its kind in the country, pairing extremely accomplished professional women with small groups of at-risk teenage girls in public high schools for a 4-year mentoring program; and

WHEREAS, Recent analysis has shown that girls in the program demonstrate a statistically significant increase in their grade point averages (GPA) each year they are involved in WOT; and

WHEREAS, Mentees graduate from high school at close to a 90% rate compared to county- wide high school graduation rates of approximately 60%; and

WHEREAS, WOT program is established in 98 Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County High Schools in South Florida and serves 2,000 Mentees with its network of 250 Mentors, and has awarded over \$2.3 Million in scholarships to 838 WOT Mentees since its inception;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-68 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the success and benefits of the Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twentieth day of May, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary
