

Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent  
Intergovernmental Affairs & Grants Administration (OIAGA) and Community Services

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH WOMEN OF TOMORROW (WOT) MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE DESIGNATED SERVICES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENGAGE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Authorization is requested to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Women of Tomorrow (WOT) to provide designated mentoring services for high school] students from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. Services will include the recruitment and placement of mentors, monitoring of mentor matches, and the implementation of scholarship awards. Additionally, authorization is requested to accept funds not to exceed \$36,000, to partially support one full-time Curriculum Support Specialist (CSS) position to] oversee the program. The MOU specifies that Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will fund the remaining cost which is half of the salary, fringes and health benefits, not to exceed \$36,000, to support this CSS position. The CSS will monitor academic] progress, provide case management for students requiring intervention, communicate with parents, coordinate and conduct skill-building activities for students, and facilitate mentoring activities with all mentors. The Office of Community Services oversees this program.

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WOT mentor and scholarship program was started at the M-DCPS District in 1997, by Jennifer Valoppi, Founder & President. During the 2008-2009 school year, 1,109 high school students were enrolled and served by WOT, and 291 were graduating seniors. The students enrolled in the program are identified and referred to the program by school staff. The program is designed to inspire, motivate and empower young women to live up to their full potential through mentoring by highly accomplished professional women. Additionally, WOT provided scholarship funds of \$313,348, to 96 seniors who increased their mean grade point average (GPA) significantly, maintaining the WOT graduating class rate of 88.3%.

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The appropriation for this item is included in the general fund of the 2009-2010, Tentative Budget, to be recommended for adoption in July 2009, under Fund 0100, Work Location 9619, Function 9100, Program 9298, and Object 5130.

Copies of the MOU will be transmitted to School Board Members and are available under separate cover for inspection by the public in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary, Room 925, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

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

1. enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, with Women of Tomorrow (WOT) to provide designated services for high school students;
2. the memorandum of understanding between Women of Tomorrow is to provide services, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, and extend the MOU annually for a maximum of two additional one-year periods, through June 30, 2012;
3. accept funds from Women of Tomorrow not to exceed \$36,000; and
4. direct Financial Operations to establish appropriations in the amounts approved or as amended by granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

IRM-C/LT/pl