

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

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**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

February 1 - 28, 2019 has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education. Career and technical education offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness. Career and technical education (CTE) provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework as well as pursuit of established programs of study and career pathways.

Leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing and information technology. Career and technical education prepares students for fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials.

Today's career and technical education systems are evolving to meet the needs of students and employers in the 21st century. Ensuring that employers have access to a qualified workforce is a crucial step in ensuring productivity among the business and industry communities as well as continued American economic growth and global competitiveness.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) CTE is impacting the lives of its students by preparing them to be college and career ready through programs of study and career pathways aligned to Career Clusters. Currently, MDCPS has approximately 112,020 students enrolled in CTE courses in Miami-Dade K-8, middle and high schools. It employs approximately 805 CTE teachers, and has 355 CAPE career academies that are registered with the Florida Department of Education.

This Item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorneys' Office as to form and legal sufficiency

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**LUBBY NAVARRO:** That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, endorse Career and Technical Education Month during the month of February.