

## **Broward County Public Schools**

### **Public Schools and Higher Education: Partnering for Success**

The Broward County Educational Consortium (BCEC) was established in 1996 for the purpose of improving the preparation and development of highly qualified educators for the county's schools, and to address other pressing problems in the community and school system. The BCEC is a formal partnership of The School Board of Broward County, Florida; two public higher education institutions (Broward Community College and Florida Atlantic University); and, two private institutions (Barry University and Nova Southeastern University). The Policy Council of BCEC is comprised of the Superintendent of Schools, a School Board Member, and the Presidents of the partner Institutions of Higher Education. This Council meets quarterly to establish the direction of the Consortium.

Many successful efforts have emerged from the Consortium. The most notable ones include the 2006 Innovations in American Award Winning Urban Academies, the high school Urban Teacher Academy Program, the effort to change Florida Department of Education rule 6A to allow local decision-making in teacher preparation programs, a cohesive effort to improve field and intern placement procedures, and the combining of resources and programs for alternative certification.

The members of the Broward County Educational Consortium have put aside individual agendas and recognized the power of their unified efforts resulting in remarkably increased recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers in the District's hardest-to-staff schools.

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