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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida School District Superintendents

FROM: Ava Byrne and Olga C. Gary

DATE: August 9, 2004

SUBJECT: **2005 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BURDINES-MACY'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM**

As the 2004-2005 school year commences, the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development & Retention is in the process of planning activities for the Florida Teacher of the Year program. Each year, the Florida Teacher of the Year is selected from among 73 teachers nominated by Florida's public school districts, university research schools and the Department of Corrections. The Florida Teacher of the Year serves as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education. In this capacity, he or she acts as a role model and goodwill ambassador, representing Florida's educators, attending conferences and addressing fellow teachers, principals, business and community leaders and students interested in pursuing teaching as a career. The Department of Education reimburses travel-related expenses incurred by the Florida Teacher of the Year.

Enclosed is a biography describing the accomplishments of Kerri Ann Walukiewicz, who was recently named the 2005 Florida Department of Education Burdines-Macy's Teacher of the Year. In an effort to promote the mission of the Florida Teacher of the Year program, we encourage you to invite Ms. Walukiewicz to visit your district. The Florida Teacher of the Year may be asked to address students, educators, parents and business leaders, participate in panel discussions or conduct workshop sessions for teachers. In the event that you wish to schedule a speaking engagement with Ms. Walukiewicz please do not hesitate to contact us at (850) 245-0435 or by e-mail at Olga.Gary@fldoe.org. Thank you for your interest in our program.

AVA G. BYRNE, CHIEF
BUREAU OF EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND RETENTION