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December 14, 2005

**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: College Goal Sunday

This is to update you on the development of the College Goal Sunday (CGS) Program as Florida prepares to host this event on February 19, 2006. Guidance counselors from local school districts have partnered with community college and university representatives to implement the CGS Program in an effort to increase access to quality postsecondary education options for students from low-income, first-generation, and families who have no college-going tradition. Increased financial aid for college will serve to improve the quality of education options for district graduates as they transition from high school to the postsecondary arena.

The College Goal Sunday Program is a volunteer, charitable program designed to help targeted families and first-generation college students complete the federal *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, or FAFSA. Plans are being made to host the CGS event at various sites throughout the state, free of charge to families. With the assistance of guidance counselors and financial aid professionals, College Goal Sunday will provide families with step-by-step instructions on completing and submitting their financial aid forms. The attached map depicts counties that will host the event in 2006.

The Statewide Steering Committee completed the planning year and with Herrle Communications Group has launched a statewide media bliss to "get the word out" about the upcoming February 19, 2006, event. As schools close for the holidays and reconvene in the new year, further information will be disseminated to the districts and local high school guidance counselors. Additional details about the statewide program and updates on events in your local area are available at http://www.floridacollegegoal.com/.

For more information, contact Dr. Beverly Sermons by calling (850) 245-9488 or email beverly.sermons@fldoe.org.

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Attachment