



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GOVERNOR BUSH AWARDS MENTORING GRANTS AND ANNOUNCES NEW
MENTOR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**

~~Carnival Cruise Lines Will Award Five Vacation Cruise Packages~~

TALLAHASSEE- Governor Jeb Bush today awarded more than \$900,000 in mentoring grants to programs around the state. The funds will be used to create new mentoring programs and assist in the continuation of already existing programs. The Governor made the announcement today at Raa Middle School in Tallahassee, following his weekly mentoring hour with his eighth-grade mentee.

"I am so pleased to be awarding these mentoring grants today to these worthy organizations which are dedicated to helping Florida's youth," Governor Bush said. "Their commitment to ensuring that every child has an opportunity to learn is highly commendable."

The Governor's Mentoring Initiative grants are designed to provide incentives to schools and organizations to increase both the quality of mentoring programs and the number of mentors in Florida's public schools. Projects include:

- **School -Based Initiative** - 21 school districts and nonprofit groups around the state will receive grant funding of up to \$5,000 per project to partner with schools to provide mentoring services. Preference was given to "D" or "F" schools and elementary school applications that targeted third grade strategies for academic improvement.
- **Rural District Initiative-** Seven rural counties throughout the state will receive grant funding of up to \$20,000 for mentoring programs in their local districts. Funded districts include Madison, Okeechobee, Glades, Gadsden CIS, Florida Read and Lead of Jackson County, Florida Read and Lead in Calhoun and Florida Read and Lead in Holmes. This initiative was designed to assist school districts with enrollment populations of less than 25,000 students. Preference was given to applications that addressed unmet needs at schools with performance grades of "C", "D" or "F".
- **Chambers of Commerce Initiative-** Four Chambers of Commerce throughout the state were awarded funding to partner with their member businesses and local schools to implement mentoring programs in low performing schools. Funded chambers of commerce include Jacksonville, Madison, Miami and Auburndale.

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Additionally, several leadership projects were funded including the Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentor Program to assist the 30 selected Teen Trendsetters throughout the state in purchasing materials for their mentoring programs; the Florida Association for Partners in Education, to conduct statewide training for volunteer coordinators in the five Florida regions; Frontline Outreach, Incorporated to reach out to the faith-based community in an effort to recruit mentors; and Florida State University to conduct a statewide evaluation of mentoring programs in Florida.

Governor Bush also announced today the new Governor's Mentoring Initiative "Mentor of Excellence" awards which will be awarded to a school-based mentor who has demonstrated service above and beyond the norm within the protocol of their mentoring program. This may include overcoming barriers to mentoring on behalf of themselves or their student, mentoring multiple students, serving a program for an extended period of time or assisting a student in making outstanding achievement in academics, attendance or behavior.

"Florida's commitment to mentoring is clear. Over the last four years we have seen tremendous involvement from government, community organizations and our partners in the private sector," said Governor Bush. "I truly believe the value of having a caring adult in the life of a child cannot be understated. That is why our goal over the next four years remains the same - to continue to encourage Floridians to serve as mentors."

The Governor's Mentoring Initiative has also partnered with Carnival Cruise Lines to offer five vacation cruise packages to the recipients of the new Governor's Mentoring Initiative Award of Excellence. One Mentor of Excellence will be selected from each of the five regions in the state of Florida. Winners will receive a three, four or five day cruise vacation for two onboard a Carnival Cruise Line ship and stay in the presidential suite.

Nomination forms for the Governor's Mentoring Initiative Award of Excellence may be obtained by logging on to www.flamentoring.org <<http://www.flamentoring.org>> or by contacting the Governor's Mentoring Initiative office at (850) 410-0696. The deadline for all nomination forms to be submitted is January 24, 2003, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (EST). Nomination forms may be emailed to cristal.cole@myflorida.com <<mailto:cristal.cole@myflorida.com>>, faxed to (850) 487-1866 or mailed to:

The Governor's Mentoring Initiative
909 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Governor Bush announced the Governor's Mentoring Initiative in August 1999, in an effort to help Florida's students excel in school. The Governor's initial goal was to recruit 200,000 Floridians across the state to become mentors to Florida's youth. Last year, over 115,000 Floridians served as mentors in Florida's schools. For more information about the Governor's Mentoring Initiative or to sign up to become a mentor, visit the Governor's Mentoring Initiative website at www.flamentoring.org <<http://www.flamentoring.org>> or call 1-800-825-3786.

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Governor's Mentoring Initiative Awards by School District

December 18,2002

<u>School Based Projects</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alachua	\$15,000.00
CPC All Board	\$45,000.00
Escambia	\$17,000.00
Duval	\$30,000.00
Miami CIS	\$5,000.00
Collier County Ed. Foundation	\$30,000.00
Orange	\$20,000.00
Big Brother Big Sisters of Palm Beach	\$10,000.00
Glades	\$5,000.00
Hillsborough	\$40,000.00
Leesburg First Baptist	\$20,000.00
Community Life Line	\$7,000.00
Gadsden CIS	\$5,000.00
Community Intervention Center	\$5,000.00
Dade	\$69,000.00
Bay	\$15,000.00
Family Resources	\$20,000.00
Flagler	\$30,000.00
Madison	\$20,000.00
Martin	\$60,000.00
Manatee	\$7,000.00
<u>Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jacksonville	\$5,000.00
Madison	\$15,000.00
Miami	\$5,000.00
Auburndale	\$5,000.00
<u>Rural District Initiative</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Madison	\$20,000.00
Glades	\$20,000.00
Okeechobee	\$20,000.00
Florida Read and Lead	\$20,000.00
Florida Read and Lead	\$20,000.00
Florida Read and Lead	\$20,000.00
Gadsden (CIS)	\$10,000.00
<u>Discretionary Projects</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Frontline Outreach, Incorporated	\$80,000.00
Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors	\$30,000.00
Florida State University	\$85,000.00
Florida Association of Partners in Education	\$100,000.00