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August 19, 2002

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: University College of Education Deans

FROM: Secretary Jim Horne

Commissioner Charlie Crist

SUBJECT: Announcement of the Faculty Innovation Institute *Redefining Florida's Approach to Personnel Preparation*

The Florida Department of Education is pleased to announce the first in a multiyear series of Faculty Innovation Institutes being hosted at the Westin Innisbrook Resort, Tampa, Florida, November 14 through November 16, 2002. The Institute theme, *Redefining Florida's Approach to Personnel Preparation,'*highlights the Institute's mission of providing support and resources to enhance personnel preparation programs in Florida's colleges and universities. The accompanying fact sheet details the alignment of the State Improvement Grant activities, funded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, with the Florida Board of Education Strategic Imperative #1.

The Faculty Innovation Institute will provide unique opportunities for faculty teams to examine and clarify pressing issues facing colleges of education in a time of rapid change. Topical discussions, facilitated problem-solving workgroups, and specialized seminars provide faculty participants with opportunities to collaborate on systemic, problem-based issues. Faculty teams from Florida's public and private colleges and universities will be invited to infuse their vision of systemic change into a unique action plan to concentrate on issues in teacher preparation and related service programs in the home college or university. University and college leadership involvement and support of this valuable opportunity is crucial to the ongoing success of this important five-year initiative. As always, we view Florida's colleges and universities as leaders in preparing innovative, outstanding teachers and related service personnel who provide services to students with disabilities.

Faculty Innovation Institute application materials are also available at: http://www.myfloridaeducation.com/commhome/servhome.htm through the State Improvement Grant link.

Attachments

cc: Office of the Governor
College and University Presidents