

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
June 19, 2007

**SUBJECT: Approval of 2007-08 College Reach-Out Program Funding Recommendations**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Ch. 1007.34, F.S., and 2007 General Appropriations Act, Item # 100

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The College Reach-Out Program (CROP) was established in 1983 by the Florida Legislature to motivate and prepare educationally disadvantaged, low-income students in grades 6 through 12 to pursue and successfully complete a postsecondary education. Participants are students who otherwise would be unlikely to seek admission to a postsecondary institution without special support and recruitment efforts. Funds are appropriated by the Legislature to the Department of Education and allocated competitively to postsecondary institutions submitting proposals to implement effective intervention strategies.

Chapter 1007.34 (9), F.S., stipulates that the CROP Advisory Council review the proposals and recommend to the State Board of Education an order of priority for funding the proposals. The CROP Advisory Council met on May 21, 2007, to review the 2007-08 CROP applications and recommend funding levels for each project. The funding recommendations are included in the Prioritized Funding List, which is being presented for State Board approval.

CROP is presently serving approximately 7,500 students through nine state universities, twenty-five community colleges, and four independent postsecondary institutions. Approximately 71% of these students are African-American, 12% are Hispanic, 13% are White, 1% is Asian, less than 1% is American Indian, and approximately 3% are other. The 2007-08 state appropriation is \$3,399,990, and participating postsecondary institutions are required to match the state appropriation with cash and in-kind services.

The College Reach-Out Program is in keeping with the Department's strategic imperatives 3 and 5 by working to improve student proficiency in learning and assisting in providing access to all students.

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**Supporting Documentation Included: 2007-08 CROP Prioritized Funding List**

**Facilitators/Presenters: Commissioner Jeanine Blomberg**