

Status Report Reorganization of the Department of Education

The design of the new Department of Education, in accordance with the directives of the Board and Secretary Horne, will be completed by September 1, 2002, nearly a month ahead of schedule.

- Deputy Secretary John Winn heads the Office of Accountability, Research and Measurement (ARM). This Office is responsible for the following: Student Performance and School Grading; Education Information and Accountability; Articulation; Policy Research and Improvement; Equity and Access; and the Commission for Independent Education.
- Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Ruben Lopez heads the Technology Office. This Office is responsible for the following: Technology Planning and Management; Education Technology; Enterprise Project Management; Data Center Operations; Florida Information Resource Network (FIRN); and Customer/End User Support.

Drawing from across the Department, these two offices are now positioned to provide the technical support, data collection, analysis and information that are crucial for strong and vital education policy.

These changes will provide the infrastructure and the policy information to advance our goals of highest student achievement, seamless articulation and maximum access, and skilled workforce and economic development.

- Deputy Secretary Georgia McKeown heads the Office of External Affairs and Governmental Relations (EAGR). This Office is responsible for the following: External Affairs; Governmental Relations; Communications, Media Relations, and Public Relations; Outreach and Business Partnerships; Board Relations; and the new K-20 Foundation.

This new Office of External Affairs and Governmental Relations will build an entirely new approach to the way we interact with our external customers.

- The offices of the Chief Inspector General and of the General Counsel have been reorganized as part of the Office of the Secretary.
- Chancellors of the Division of Colleges and Universities and of the Division of Community Colleges will be named at the August Board meeting.
- The K-12 Chancellor search team will complete its work in September.

We are now turning our attention to the agency rules. General Counsel Daniel Woodring is leading a K-20 team to recommend revisions, deletions or additions needed as a result of the School Code rewrite and the reorganization. We are also focusing on records retention to assure a smooth and orderly transition.

The Department now has an integrated e-mail system; the paperless communication project contributes greatly to efficient communication. It also offers increased ability to communicate internally and with our customers.

- The comptroller, facilities, and budget functions have been consolidated under Mr. Wayne Pierson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Under the Chief Financial Officer's budget manager, most Community Colleges and Universities budget staff join the existing K-12 group, to form a K-20 Budget Team with expertise for all delivery systems. Budget office personnel will eventually be located together on the 12th floor.

Tom Daffin from the Division of Colleges and Universities (DCU) will serve in the new position of Deputy Chief Comptroller. Plans are for the Comptroller/General Accounting group to be located on the ninth floor.

School Support Services Educational Facilities now has representatives from all delivery systems under one unit.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) will now report directly to the Chief Financial Officer.

- Printing, Mail, and Personnel Services have been consolidated under Ms. Cynthia Burt, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Additionally, the CAO is making organizational changes within that office to offer easier access within our Department and to the educational systems and customers we serve.

Supervisors have met with employees affected by these changes. The technical teams under Cynthia Burt's direction are assisting with planning and with any required moves including telephones, computers and personnel documentation. A Facilities/Space Team is guiding the renovation and is working closely with the technical teams to coordinate moves.

All of these changes advance the goal of high quality, efficient services by bringing together similar functions from each of the delivery systems, building teams with shared resources and expanding institutional knowledge.