PART I: MISSION, GOALS, AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. MISSION AND AREAS OF FOCUS

The mission of the Center for Urban Education & Innovation is to facilitate and support basic and applied research, professional service to the educational community, and public advocacy relating to critical issues in urban school systems in Southeast Florida and beyond. Programs and activities of the Center focus on improving student achievement, enhancing the quality and responsiveness of schools as learning organizations, and contributing to the development of theory and practice in areas addressing the needs of students and families from diverse racial, cultural, socio-economic and linguistic backgrounds.

B. ORGANIZATION, EXTERNAL TRENDS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Organizational Issues

The Center for Urban Education & Innovation is a functional and integral part of the College of Education which, in turn, is a Unit within the Academic Division of Florida International University. The Executive Director of the Center for Urban Education & Innovation reports directly to the Dean of the College of Education and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. All relevant documents emanating from the Center for Urban Education & Innovation will be forwarded by its Executive Director to the Dean of the College of Education, the University’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Program Associate for Education, Knight Foundation, and the Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Knight Foundation. See enclosed College of Education organizational chart.

In 2000-2001, the Center’s governance included a local Advisory Board, with the following membership.

Advisory Committee: 2000-2001

Mr. Santiago Corrada
Principal, Miami Edison Senior High

Ms. Jeanethe P. Thompson
Principal, Frederick Douglass Elementary

Dr. Thomas Geismar
Executive Director of Educational Programs
Broward County Public Schools

College of Education Faculty/Staff:
Dr. Peter Cistone
Dr. Edwin McClintock
Dr. Robert Vos
Dr. Dan Hibbler
Dr. Delia C. Garcia
Dr. Joseph M. Stevenson
Mr. Frantz Pierre
Dr. Kingsley Banya
Dr. Luretha F. Lucky
Dr. Sharon Kossack

Dr. Gustavo Roig
Associate Dean, College of Engineering

Ms. Barbara Silver
Associate Superintendent
Bureau of Elementary & Secondary Education
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Dr. Gabe Quintero
Director of Professional Development
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Dr. Leslie Roberts
Chair, School of Education
Miami-Dade Community College

Dr. Shirley B. Johnson
United Teachers of Dade

Enhanced Program:

The College of Education’s Center for Urban Education & Innovation is committed to working in partnership with other educational and human service agencies to advocate for, strengthen, and enhance our urban public schools. It seeks to address key urban education issues that will ultimately make a difference in student achievement. It does so in three (3) ways: first, by pursuing resources to support existing and effective educational programs aimed at empowering children, families and communities; second, by developing new initiatives to address the changing reality that confronts our urban schools, especially as that reality affects the growth and academic achievement of students in urban settings; and third, by discovering and disseminating the knowledge required to improve urban education.

2. External Trends

External Trends – identify which external trends may influence your programs or operations over the next five years? How do you intend to adjust to those trends?

Population trends: The diversity of urban populations will continue to create more challenging educational needs for schools. In addition, schools are under extreme pressure to be accountable for student achievement. The areas of focus in the Urban Center will address many of these issues. The greatest challenge for the Center will be securing funds to support the many and varied research and service programs that faculty and eminent scholars have underway and will initiate.
3. **Strategic Directions and Areas of Emphasis**

*Strategic Directions and Areas of Emphasis – Provide a vision of your unit in five years. Include strategic directions and special areas of emphasis in which you expect to be known for excellence. Specify how the unit pursues one or more of the University Academic Themes: International, Environment, Urban, Health, and Information.*

Within five years we expect the Center for Urban Education & Innovation to approach a high level of professional visibility and respect. This will be accomplished by:

1. Attracting scholars and other educational professionals to support the development, implementation and evaluation of critical programs and projects that address areas of significant educational concern in urban public schools;

2. Encouraging and supporting the participation of faculty and graduate students, along with colleagues in the public schools, in focused areas of applied research;

3. Producing knowledge and research that will bring new perspectives and understandings to the complexities of urban education;

4. Securing external funding to support the focused programs and research agendas of the Center; and

5. Developing increased linkages across campus and engaging faculty members and graduate students from many disciplines in the Center’s work.

C. **2000-2001 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Long Range Goal 1: (Addresses University Goal II)**
To support existing urban education programs and develop new initiatives to promote research and creative activities that address critical social and educational issues both locally and nationally.

**2000-01 Objective:**
Request continued QIP funding ($235,000)
Write and obtain research contracts and grants to support focused projects and research $150,000 - $500,000

**Measurable Outcome:**
Received $235,000 in QIP
Secured $521,780 in state match.

The Center Associates Program was implemented and 11 College of Education faculty members were awarded 15 grants to do research in the area of urban education. Projects will be completed during the 2001-02 academic year.

**Long Range Goal 2: (Addresses University Goal III)**
To utilize and support existing initiatives and develop new initiatives intended to solve critical educational issues in the urban environment.
2000-01 Objective:

To expand efforts in directed areas of applied research: school readiness and transition, teacher development, subject matter/student achievement, and schools as organizations.

Measurable Outcome:

A Center Associates program was designed and implemented. These Associates are educators/investigators engaged in Center-reviewed and approved research and development projects that support significant issues affecting urban schools/contexts and that are consistent with the mission of the College and Center. Associates of the Center began their research in summer 2001.

Long Range Goal 3: (Addresses University Goal IV)
To attract eminent scholars to the University, the College of Education and the Center for Urban Education & Innovation to: (1) develop new urban education initiatives; and (2) implement relevant action and applied research projects related to both existing and prospective urban education initiatives.

2000-01 Objective:
Search for second Eminent Scholar and Executive Director will take place early in the year. The expertise of the second eminent scholar will focus on reading and/or math proficiency.

Measurable Outcome:

A Search Committee was formed to coordinate the recruitment of candidates for the positions of Executive Director/Eminent Scholar. The recruitment of an Associate Director was also begun. A final recommendation for Executive Director was made to the Dean. An offer has been extended to the candidate and a final decision is expected fall 2001. The Associate Director position closed August 23, 2001 and we hope to have that person in place by January 2002.

D. 2001-2002 ANNUAL GOALS (at least 4)
- Fill Executive Director and Associate Director positions
- Disseminate the research findings of the Center’s Associates’
- Recruit additional Eminent Scholars
- Secure additional funding for the Center

E. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (one-two page summary)

1. Activities – Prior Year

Developed and implemented the Center’s Associates Program.

Co-sponsored Saving At-Risk Youth: Parks, Recreation, and the Public Schools conference showcasing successful model programs. The symposium focused on South Florida partnership programs that work.
The Center partnered with M-DCPS’ only two “F” schools to improve teaching, learning and student achievement. They worked with the principals and teaching staff at Little River and Shadowlawn Elementary Schools on developing a clinical observation model for analyzing teaching methods against school lesson plans and state standards for grades preK-6. Dr. Richard Schmuck conducted follow-up workshops for both schools on “action research” for positive change.

The Center sponsored a reception at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Seattle. The annual conference has a registration of over 10,000 participants.

2. Activities - Coming Year

The Center will co-sponsor with Miami-Dade County Public Schools the Urban Education Reform Summit in January 2002. Invited keynote speakers include President Bush, Secretary Paige and Governor Bush.

The Center will sponsor a second reception at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in New Orleans in April 2002.

Various Center Associate research activities will be completed and highlighted in appropriate venues.

Fill Executive Director and Associate Director positions

Disseminate the research findings of the Center’s Associates’

Recruit additional Eminent Scholars

Secure additional funding for the Center