

## **Achieving Career Equity for Students (ACES) Grant Abstract**

The School Board of Broward County, FL, is the sixth largest school system in the United States serving over 256,000 Pre-K-12 students. The district has a diverse student population, with students representing 170 different countries and speaking 147 different languages. The district proposes the Achieving Career Equity for Students (*ACES*) Program, a K-12 program structured as a whole-school magnet program that allows students to participate in career-themed instructional models based on careers of interest. The program will be implemented in the Plantation and the Northeast (feeder) Zones. The *ACES* proposal includes creating new magnet programs at Oakland Park and Mirror Lake Elementary, and James S. Rickards Middle Schools and significantly revising and expanding programs Plantation Middle, Plantation and Northeast High Schools. This whole-school approach to magnet programs is key to ensuring equity as it allows for over 6000 students currently attending these schools to have access to high interest, rigorous and meaningful program opportunities. This program further provides opportunities for approximately an additional 1900 seats beyond these schools' boundaries. The diversity of the programs being created is also key to attracting students from very diverse backgrounds and a strategy for reducing minority isolation. The career themes students can choose from include Infrastructure Planning & Real Estate Development; The Fashion Institute; Aerospace & Engineering; E-Commerce & Entrepreneurship; and Art & Animation; Aviation & Avionics; Biotechnology; Architectural Design and Invention; Alternative Energy and Sustainable Technologies; and Creative Arts & Entertainment. The *ACES* magnet programs are intended to attract an applicant pool reflecting a diverse student population at each school and expand choice options to students of different social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds.