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THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION POLICY,
RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CEPRI Members

FROM: Bill Proctor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Proctor".

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

Since our last meeting, I had the opportunity to present some of our preliminary recommendations from the draft of the *Teaching Professions Report* to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education. They were receptive to the draft recommendations on making teacher education less prescriptive in statute. I also raised the issue of "Do we really treat teaching as a true profession in our universities, by the Legislature, and in society?" Dr. John Wiegman made a more extensive presentation on the draft Teaching Professions Report to the Senate Education Committee.

On February 20, I presented to the Senate Education Committee some of the Council's past recommendations on student financial aid and the Bright Futures program.

On January 14, I joined Dr. Bill Proctor and Dr. Linda Eads of the State Board of Education in delivering a keynote address on the "Strategic Imperatives for Florida's New Education System" to 750 district and school administrators attending the Department of Education/Florida Association of School Administrators 6th Annual Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Leadership Conference.

I participated in a panel discussion on teacher retention at the President's Symposium on Teacher Quality, Retention, and Recruitment that was held January 19-21 in Clearwater, sponsored by the University of Florida. Bob Taylor and Jon Rogers also attended the Symposium where national and Florida data on teacher quality were reviewed, as well as successful initiatives from other states in teacher recruitment and retention.

Dr. Nancy McKee and I met with Kathy Mizereck, the House Staff Director of Education Appropriations, and provided her with information concerning past and current funding activities of the Council.

On February 1, Pat Dallet, David Wright, Jay Pfeiffer from the Florida Department of Education, and I attended a seminar sponsored by WICHE and the Lumina Foundation for the state recipients of grants for their "Changing Directions" project. The goal of the project is better alignment of state policies with regard to funding, tuition, and student financial aid. The members and staff of the Career Education and Development Committee held a meeting in Orlando on Sunday, February 2nd. The meeting was extremely informative, particularly since we had a presentation and dialogue with Dr. John Porter, a national expert on K-12 governance and the career academy movement.

Nancy McKee, Bob Cox, and I briefed the Governor's staff on the "Equity of University Funding" report on February 18.

In response to requests from our members and members of the Legislature, we mailed surveys to determine the compensation packages of superintendents, school board members, and presidents of community colleges and state universities. We requested survey responses by February 28.

On February 7th, David Wright represented the Council at a workshop for state chief information officers hosted by the State Higher Education Executive Officers in Columbus, Ohio. There was much interest in the Council's student progression study web analysis tool and the K-20 education data warehouse.

As President of the Florida Association for Institutional Research, David Wright convened a professional development workshop for educational researchers from around the state. The workshop, which took place on February 20th at the University of Central Florida, offered training on a web-based data analysis tool for comparing an institution's performance with that of its peers.

On February 25th, John Wiegman and Juan Copa attended the SERVE Research and Policy Symposium on Class Size Reduction and Beyond in Raleigh, North Carolina. The symposium provided information on the latest research on class size reduction, as well as efforts that have taken place in the Southeast to reduce class sizes. Additionally, Dr. Wiegman and Mr. Copa facilitated a discussion on the issues Florida faces in the implementation of the constitutional amendment to reduce class size.