Florida Atlantic University
Student Government
Boca Raton House of Representatives
5th Legislative Session

BRHB-11-19

“Supporting the College Reach-Out Program”

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WHEREAS: In 1983, the Florida Legislature established the College Reach-Out Program (CROP) in order to “increase the number of low-income educationally disadvantaged students in grades 6-12 who, upon high school graduation, are admitted to and successfully complete postsecondary education,” and;

WHEREAS: “Participants [are] students who otherwise would be unlikely to seek admission to a community college, state university, or independent postsecondary institution without special support and recruitment efforts,” (Fla. Stat. § 1007.34) and;

WHEREAS: The College Reach-Out Program is currently serving 7,600 students across ten state universities, twenty-five community colleges, and four independent postsecondary institutions, and;

WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University’s (FAU) College Reach-Out Program strives to enroll students in postsecondary institutions with the confidence to pursue and complete a degree, and;

WHEREAS: The majority of participants return to FAU as undergraduate students or transfer after attending Palm Beach State College (PBSC), and;

WHEREAS: Aquilla Copeland, the current coordinator for the program is an FAU alumnus who participated in CROP during high school and as a result chose FAU, and;

WHEREAS: The program strengthens not only the FAU community but the community at large, and;

WHEREAS: According to the Florida Department of Education 79 percent of senior students who participated in CROP received their high school diploma compared to 59 percent of the random sample. Of those CROP students, 73 percent went on to attend an institution of higher education compared to 56 percent of the sample, and;

CODING: Words struck are deletions; words underlined are additions.
WHEREAS: The College Reach-Out Program’s budget has been cut significantly since the fiscal year of 2008-2009 in which the state-wide budget was $3,399,990, and;

WHEREAS: The proposed state-wide budget for the fiscal year of 2011-2012 is $912,553, which is a 56.5% decrease from the 2.1 million that was allocated for the current fiscal year, and;

WHEREAS: The program is experiencing severe cutbacks such as the cessation of the Book Loan Project, the reduction of educational workshops and cultural field trips, and the lack of textbooks for the academic sessions, and;

WHEREAS: The attached line items explain in greater detail the breakdown of what the program needs for this year, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Boca Raton House of Representatives transfer a total of ten thousand, four-hundred and five dollars and forty-nine cents ($10,405.49) from the House Contingency account (S20012) to the CROP account (220069).

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