

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT:

Olivia Almagro
Tel. 305.594.7615

**SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE AWARDS
FUNDS TO MIAMI DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS' PUBLIC
SAFETY SERVICES ACADEMY PROGRAM**

(MIAMI, July 8, 2010) — South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) awards \$168,000 to Miami Dade County Public Schools System's Public Safety Services Academy Program (PSSAP), and partners with Miami- Dade County to ensure instructional and mentoring services for students interested in entering public service careers.

In its second year, seventy ninth graders at Miami Southridge High School and William H. Turner Technical Arts High School will participate in an all-year, school-to-work curriculum that provides students with a first-hand educational experience in entry level workforce positions. This four-year program encompasses classroom instruction and an internship during the summer months prior to the student's senior year. This program prepares students, who come from economically disadvantage communities, to earn a high school diploma, while becoming entry-level employment candidates for positions such as Public Service Aides, Firefighter Cadets, and Correction Service Aides. Upon graduation, the students could be hired as a Public Service Aid (PSA) or Corrections Service Aide (CSA) without having to participate in any extended departmental training.

These trainings are consistent with the Miami-Dade County Department's training academies, and the instructional trainings are conducted by sworn County personnel of the involved departments.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students, who can focus on their studies and pursue a discipline that will ultimately lead to a career in public service," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

This award was given under the allocation of the SFWIB Youth Program Funds. For more information on this program, contact South Florida Workforce Investment Board at 305.594.7615.

###