

By the Committee on Community Colleges & Career Prep and  
Representatives Dennis and Sindler

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to community colleges;  
3           providing an appropriation to the Florida  
4           Education Fund to support the Community College  
5           Faculty Diversity Program to increase the  
6           number of minority personnel holding faculty or  
7           executive-level positions in community  
8           colleges; amending s. 240.498, F.S., relating  
9           to the Florida Education Fund; establishing the  
10          program; providing for fellowships; requiring  
11          service or repayment; providing an effective  
12          date.

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14           WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recognizes the  
15          underrepresentation of ethnic and gender minorities as faculty  
16          and executive, administrative, and managerial personnel in  
17          Florida community colleges, and

18           WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature is interested in  
19          increasing the number of ethnic and gender minorities employed  
20          in these positions, and

21           WHEREAS, national availability statistics indicate a  
22          severe shortage of minorities holding the requisite degrees to  
23          enter the pool as faculty senior-level employees in Florida  
24          community colleges, and

25           WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature wishes to establish a  
26          means to develop, utilize, promote, and maintain human  
27          resources currently employed in the Florida Community College  
28          System, NOW, THEREFORE,

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30          Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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1           Section 1. The sum of \$500,000 is hereby appropriated  
2 for fiscal year 1997-1998 from the General Revenue Fund to the  
3 Florida Education Fund, as established in s. 240.498, Florida  
4 Statutes, to support the Community College Faculty Diversity  
5 Program of the Florida Education Fund. This appropriation  
6 shall provide for at least 20 fellowships of \$25,000 each, per  
7 year, as a means to increase the number of ethnic minorities  
8 and women holding faculty and executive-level positions in the  
9 Florida Community College System.

10           Section 2. Subsection (9) is added to section 240.498,  
11 Florida Statutes, to read:

12           240.498 Florida Education Fund.--

13           (9) There is created the Community College Faculty  
14 Diversity Program of the Florida Education Fund, a  
15 collaborative effort of the State Board of Community Colleges  
16 and the Florida Education Fund, to provide the opportunity for  
17 ethnic minorities and women to attain greater representation  
18 as faculty, executive, administrative, and managerial  
19 personnel in Florida's community colleges. The faculty  
20 diversity program shall include, but not be limited to, a  
21 fellowship program to be administered by the board of  
22 directors of the Florida Education Fund for this purpose.

23           (a) The board of directors shall provide financial,  
24 academic, and other support to those selected for  
25 participation in this program from funds appropriated for this  
26 purpose.

27           (b) Selection of participants must be made in  
28 accordance with policies established by the Florida Education  
29 Fund and adopted by the board of directors for that purpose  
30 and must be based, at least in part, on an assessment of  
31 potential for success, merit, and financial need. Such

1 selection shall also consider representation of participants  
2 throughout the state. First preference shall be given to  
3 participants employed by institutions where ethnic minorities  
4 and women are underrepresented in faculty and executive-level  
5 positions.

6 (c) Funds for this program must be appropriated  
7 directly to the Florida Education Fund to be distributed  
8 appropriately between the sponsoring institution and the  
9 selected fellows.

10 (d) Participants must agree in writing to return to  
11 the employing community college for a period of time equal to  
12 the amount of time for which the participant received aid, up  
13 to 3 years, or repay the amount of aid received.

14 (e) During the period of participation, the employing  
15 community college must agree to continue the fellow on the  
16 payroll at full salary and benefits, based on the salary  
17 earned by the participant at the time of initial entry into  
18 the program.

19 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.  
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