

Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year

Congressman Hastings delivered the following statement on February 11, 2004, honoring Mr. Frederick Williams for being named the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frederick Williams of McFatter Technical High School in Davie, Florida for being selected as the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

"Mr. Williams has been an educator for the past 22 years, the last 17 years of which have been spent in Broward County. He studied at Florida State University where he earned his Bachelor's and two Master's degrees in music education and arts administration. Since 2001, Mr. Williams has been a teacher of technology for 11th and 12th grade students at McFatter Technical High School.

"Among Mr. Williams' many achievements as an educator, is a program he developed for teaching computer technology. His students are educated to such a level that upon completion, they are able to visit other schools and assist as computer technicians. Additionally, Mr. Williams supports his students as a Big Brother and mentor. He has been involved as a New Educator Support System (NESS) Coach for teachers at Plantation High and is currently a NESS Coach for the Computer Programming Instructor at his school.

"Mr. Speaker, underscoring Mr. Williams' success is his learned philosophy on teaching. He believes in many underlying principles: learning to use one's mind; a student as worker and teacher as coach philosophy; tone of decency and trust; and demonstration of mastery. He accurately describes the teaching profession as "one of the most important in our country," and understands that the education of our children "is one of the greatest and most important investments of time and money for creating a brighter future."

"Mr. Williams embodies what Americans desire from their educators. He is passionate about his profession and takes a keen interest in the academic and personal development of his students. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Williams acknowledged that he teaches not for prestige or job benefits, but for knowing that he has touched a student's life. He is a role model for educators in our country.

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Williams on being named the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, and I thank him for his invaluable contribution to the future of his students and to the Broward County Community."

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