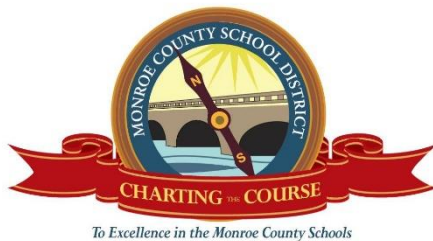**SUPERINTENDENT**
Theresa Axford

**BOARD MEMBERS**
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**February 25, 2021**
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COMPUTER SCIENCE AWARDS INCREASED

<Monroe /> COMPUTE$ Rewarding Student Certifications

**MONROE COUNTY, Fla.** – Incentives are doubled from $250 to $500 to reward all students who excel in AP Computer Science (AP CS) or attain the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification.  <Monroe /> COMPUTE$ is making extra funding available to reward the students who earn the MOS industry certificate or pass the AP CS exam with a three or above during the 2020-2021 school year.

"Students who persist during this challenging school year deserve the increased award," said <Monroe /> COMPUTE$ founder, John Padget.  "Studying remotely requires extra effort and dedication.  We want to reward the students who put in the time and achieve success!"

Sibba Mira, Monroe County School District Career and Technical Education Coordinator said, "Students will be very happy with this exciting news.  Many are studying at their own pace, and these increased awards will motivate them to re-double their efforts."

"Monroe students earning skills in Computer Science can look forward to bright careers," explained Superintendent Theresa Axford, who shared her enthusiasm for the program with the Monroe County School Board at a recent meeting. "Students have a tremendous opportunity to enhance their skills for post-secondary choices based on gaining certifications."

 <Monroe /> COMPUTE$ prizes range now range from $50 to $500 depending on the difficulty of the certification exam, and has pledged over $100,000 in incentives to students earning Microsoft, Adobe, Autodesk, QuickBooks, and Digital Literacy certifications in grades 4-12. "Students can earn hundreds of dollars, while learning valuable computer skills necessary to compete in today's global economy," said John Padget, co-founder of the Golden Fleece Foundation which funds <Monroe /> COMPUTES.

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