Beardmore Service To Education Award Winner Announced

David Borth, chair of the Network of Michigan Educators, has been presented with the State Board of Education's Dorothy Beardmore Service To Education Award.

Borth, of Big Rapids, also is the Director of the Hawthorn Learning Center, adjunct professor at Ferris State University, and former administrator for Big Rapids Public Schools.

The award is named after the late Dorothy Beardmore, past President and member of the State Board of Education from 1985-2001. It is given to the person whose efforts on behalf of education and education reform are deemed to be of outstanding benefit to the quality of education for all Michigan students.

Borth is renowned for his 52-year history of educational leadership, service, and humanitarianism. Prior to retiring from the Big Rapids Public Schools, he demonstrated leadership in educational policy development that positively changed the culture for all students in Big Rapids.

MDE would like to congratulate David and his family on this most deserved honor.

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Do Good and Do Well

Finland is No. 1 in the world in student achievement. However, did you know they almost went bankrupt as a nation 15 years ago? It was here at the precipice that they began to rethink and redesign. And in 15 years they went from among the worst school systems to the best!!

They built a culture of national pride to lift themselves up by their own bootstraps, seeing themselves as “Nation” builders. This is underscored in the motto of Nokia, Finland’s largest company, “Do Good and Do Well.”

Michigan is in the same spot that Finland was in years ago. Nearly bankrupt and far too low in student achievement for a global age, it is time for us to look at the Big Picture, embrace this challenge, and turn our state around. Let’s use Finland’s example to Do Good and Do Well here in Michigan!
New MDE Office Directors Named

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan recently announced the appointment of two new office directors within the Michigan Department of Education. MaryAlice Galloway has become the director of the Office of Education Improvement & Innovation; and Mike Radke, PhD, has been named director of the Office of Field Services.

Galloway has served as interim director for the Office of School Improvement since February of this year. She is an effective, experienced leader and administrator who has led the Department's efforts with its federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) School Accountability Workbook and Annual Consolidated State Performance Report. She played a key role in the high school re-design and seat-time waiver initiatives.

Dr. Radke came to the Department in 2003 as a supervisor in the MEAP office; and has been the assistant director for the Department’s Field Services Unit in the Office of School Improvement since 2006 administering state and federal grants in excess of $900 million. He has provided leadership in establishing a statewide system of support for high priority schools; established a system for administering the Supplemental Educational Services tutoring program; and worked with districts throughout the state to update internal controls and school improvement plans. Radke is a former Okemos School board member and officer; author of numerous publications; member of Phi Delta Kappa and American Educational Research Association.

Michigan State Policy on Integrating Mental Health in Schools Survey

Did you know....

• Teacher distress costs at least $3.5 billion annually through absenteeism, turnover, poor performance, and waste?
• It is estimated that one quarter of teachers feel burned-out at any given time.
• Poverty, on its own, is a causal factor in making people mentally ill?

These facts and countless more underscore the need for schools to take seriously the link between mental health and overall school success. They can start by viewing a newly launched mental health in schools toolkit.

The toolkit was just one outcome of a two year “Integration of Schools and Mental Health Systems” grant. The grant allowed the Michigan Departments of Education (MDE), Community Health (MDCH), and the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHAMI) to work to:

• raise awareness of this issue,
• pilot best practices for improving children’s social and emotional health, and
• plan to increase access to mental health services for students.

A Statewide Steering Committee (SSC) developed a set of recommendations to improve how schools address the mental health needs of students. They aimed to develop:

• A recommended plan for increasing capacity around student mental health
• An interagency agreement between MDE, MDCH, and DHS for improving children’s access to mental health services and programs in schools
• A Model Policy on student mental health that will be approved by the State Board of Education

School leaders are invited to view the mental health in schools toolkit: www.michigan.gov/schoolmentalhealthtoolkit

Any other questions or comments can be directed to Lauren Kazee, LMSW, Mental Health Consultant at kazeel@michigan.gov

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Award

We are pleased to announce that the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) online application system is now open at www.paemst.org.

Please note that teachers must login to PAEMST website to access the online application. They will need their user name and password. If they have forgotten or lost their user name and password, they can obtain it from here.

They need to enter their e-mail address. An email with their user name and password will be sent to them.

PAEMST has sent an email to all nominees informing them that the online application system is now available. They will continue to contact nominees with invalid email addresses by sending letters mailed to their school address.

PAEMST appreciates everyones hard work and dedication to the PAEMST program. Please feel free to contact PAEMST with questions, suggestions, or concerns.
REVISED MEAP TESTING SCHEDULES

Revised MEAP test schedules are now posted on the MEAP web page, http://michigan.gov/meap. You may reach them directly at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MEAP_Schedule_Fall_2009_through_Fall_2013_Revised_4-8-09_282525_7.pdf.

Please note the following:

1) Beginning this fall, students will be tested in MEAP Writing at only two grade levels: grade 4 and grade 7. For more information, please see the latest issue of the OEAA Update, http://michigan.gov/documents/mde/OEAA_Update_issue_51_290612_7.pdf.

2) Also, beginning this fall, each MEAP subject area test has a specific initial test date and multiple make-up test dates. There will not be a separate make-up test form. Students, who need to test on a make-up date will use the same form assigned to the school for the initial test date.

If you have questions about the MEAP test schedule, please call us at 877-560-8378, or send an email to: oeaa@michigan.gov.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you’ll find one at the end of your arm … As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

~~ Audrey Hepburn

Michigan Department of Education posts Lessons of Effective Instruction Videos for Professional Development

The Curriculum and Instruction Unit in the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation has posted a series of videotaped Lessons of Effective Instruction and related documents to the Michigan Department of Education website.

The Lessons of Effective Instruction were developed by and feature Michigan teachers engaged with teaching and learning in their own elementary, middle and high school classrooms. These lessons were designed for use by teachers, schools, or districts, individually or in groups, to model, problem-solve, and spark reflection and professional learning. Each lesson is accompanied by a PDF document with questions that will generate reflection and discussion.

The lessons incorporate Fred Newmann’s widely accepted Standards for Teaching and Learning (higher-order thinking, deep knowledge, substantive conversation, and connections to the world beyond the classroom) and meet Standards, Benchmarks, and Grade Level/Course Content Expectations and Guidelines.

To access these lessons and bookmark them for future use, go to: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_51042-219150--00.html
The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) will hold a four-part Professional Development Series in 2009-10 featuring information on high-interest topics from nationally recognized experts.

The Center for Educational Networking, a mandated activities project of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, has purchased the rights to bring this series to Michigan.

School personnel at the intermediate, local, and public school academy levels, as well as parents, and organizations, can view the series during the 2009-10 school year via satellite or streaming media at no cost.

**2009-10 Conference Schedule:**

**Friday, March 19, 2010 :: 1-3 pm ET**
Connecting Educational Standards to Student Learning Plans

**Friday, May 7, 2010 :: 1-3 pm ET**
Policy to the Classroom

All access information, including satellite coordinates and login information for the Web version, will be provided to CEN by NASDSE approximately two weeks before each conference. To receive access to the conference series you must complete the online request form.

For more details on each topic, including presenters, please download the series brochure. Conference participants can earn SB-CEUs for participating in the conference series. For additional information regarding SB-CEUs, please contact your local SB-CEU Coordinator.

For more information regarding these professional development opportunities, please contact Aimee L. Cain, NASDSE PD Series Coordinator for Michigan, at (517) 908-3902 or acain@cenmi.org.

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**Changes to High School Content Expectations**

The Algebra II course description has been revised to reflect ACT’s College Readiness Standards, Achieve’s American Diploma Project Benchmarks, and the proposed common core college and career readiness standards Michigan plans to adopt. The changes reflect concerns about the mathematics high school content expectations.

This change means that the Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements reduce some of Michigan’s Mathematics High School Content Expectations (HSCE). The 25 Mathematics High School Content Expectations removed from the Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements document (November 2007 version) addressed concepts such as probability, understanding error, trigonometric functions, examining distributions, samples, surveys, and experiments that represent knowledge and skills students should have by the end of high school. Algebra II credit can be earned without these content expectations. However, districts may integrate these expectations into their current mathematics course offerings or design additional courses to specifically teach the statistics, probability, and trigonometry concepts by the end of high school.

The Mathematics HSCE describes what students should know and be able to do when they complete high school. Organizing the HSCE into course/credit requirements for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II was a requirement of the 2006 Michigan Merit Curriculum legislation.

The revised Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements is attached and can also be located on MDE’s website at - http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-38924_41644_42668---,00.htm.
The Art Van Charity Challenge

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a Proud Recipient of a Grant from Art Van’s Charity Challenge!

Art Van recently was pleased to announce that Seedlings was chosen (out of more than 550 applicants) to receive $10,000 and hopes to raise an additional $10,000 to provide Braille books for a special new program: ABCs for VIPs (Visually Impaired Preschoolers.) Partnering with the Michigan Department of Education’s Low Incidence Outreach Division, ABCs for VIPs, will make 1000 Braille books available for loan to teachers, schools, libraries, and individuals throughout the state.

With access to a large pool of Braille books, teachers will have the materials needed to encourage early Braille reading, libraries will have books available for ALL children, and parents will be able to nurture the love of reading at home.

This is a great opportunity for schools to provide Braille books on a loan basis. Upon receipt of applications, MDE-LIO will send a collection of 25 books to the requesting school. Books are on loan for a three month period.

Check out the ABC’s for VIP’s loan library! on their website: http://www.cenmi.org/mde-lio/Services/StudentswithVI/MDELIOServices

Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services Director Receives Heritage Award

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) recently honored Jacque Thompson, the Director of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS), with the NASDSE Heritage Award. NASDSE presents the Heritage Award annually to an individual in recognition of his or her work on behalf of individuals with disabilities. The award honors significant service and contributions to NASDSE and to the field of special education. MDE would like to congratulate Jacque on this distinguished honor.

FOCUS on Results

The latest issue of FOCUS on Results is now available on the Center for Educational Networking Web site. Select the links below to read the articles online or to download PDFs of the formatted versions.

The November 2009 packet features the following articles:

- Flint Community Schools: Changing Strikes Into Home Runs for All Students
- Suttons Bay Public Schools: Learning Together to Improve Achievement for All Students

This issue of FOCUS on Results also includes video interviews with key administrators from both Flint Community Schools and Suttons Bay Public Schools. You can access the interviews through links included with each article or by directly visiting the CEN Video Gallery.

FOCUS on Results are brief guidance and technical assistance documents published periodically by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS).
Bay City School Teacher Receives National Milken Educator Award

Matthew Reid, a teacher at Wenona Center in Bay City Public Schools, recently received news of a $25,000 cash award – no strings attached - during a visit to the school from Jane Foley, Milken Family Foundation Senior Vice President; State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan; and members of the State Board of Education as part of the Milken Family Foundation's National Educator Awards Program.

“Matt Reid is an outstanding teacher.” Flanagan said. “He is a champion for his students. He inspires and values each one. His ability to work with at-risk students provides a safe harbor for each of them.”

Reid is one of more than 50 teachers nationwide this year to receive the Milken National Educator Award, dubbed the “Oscars of Teaching” by Teacher Magazine. This marks the 23rd anniversary of recognizing excellence in education by the Milken Family Foundation.

Research shows that the single most important school-based factor impacting student achievement is having a talented teacher in the classroom. The difference between an effective and ineffective teacher can be a full grade level of student achievement in a single year, according to the Milken Family Foundation.

Unlike most teaching awards, the Milken National Educator Awards have no formal nomination or application process. Educators are recommended for this prestigious honor without their knowledge by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state’s Department of Education.

For more information about the Milken Educator Awards, and the surprise notification events held throughout the U.S., please access the Milken Family Foundation website at www.mff.org or contact them at bbowers@mff.org

Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey

The Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) 2010 survey cycle opened on September 1, 2009, and will continue through May 31, 2010. The Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth is an online student survey available every other year to all Michigan schools with grades 7, 9, and 11. The MiPHY provides student health behavior and risk and protective factor data for school-based, data-driven decision making.

Districts can register on the system at anytime during the open cycle at www.michigan.gov/miphyadmin. The survey system and reports, developed by the Michigan Departments of Education and Community Health, are provided at no cost to schools. Online reports accessed through the MiPHY administration website inform local efforts to reduce drug use, violence, and related problem behaviors, and to promote healthy youth development.

The MiPHY:
• is endorsed by MDE and MDCH as the recommended survey for local assessment of student risk behaviors.
• reduces the burden of conducting multiple student surveys. The MiPHY measures all key student health behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes.
• is free of charge to districts. The no-cost survey system and reports allow more Title IV, Part A, Safe and Drug-Free Schools’ funds for direct services.
• is private. Student privacy is maintained through confidential, anonymous, and voluntary participation.
• is designed for local use and local-level decision making. Reports are intended for use by districts and their community partners, with electronic access limited to personnel approved by the district superintendent or public school academy director.
• generates reports quickly. Buildings and districts can access results 2-4 business days after closing the survey, allowing time to identify needs and plan for adjustments in services.
• will provide trend reports from year-to-year and comparisons to the Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

For more information about the MiPHY, please visit www.michigan.gov/miphy or contact: Nicole Kramer, Project Specialist at kramern@michigan.gov.
Achieving Success with the Michigan Merit Exam

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is implementing a number of updated measures to more clearly align the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and the High School Content Expectations (HSCE) and to begin alignment with anticipated common state standards and assessments (through the federal Race to the Top initiative).

In accordance with state law, MDE identified high school course content expectations that may be tested on the MME and thus reflect what students should be taught by the time the MME is administered in the spring of each student’s junior year. MDE has also revised the list of content expectations that define the required Algebra II credit as described below.

While ALL content expectations that define required credits are to be taught and tested at the classroom, building, and/or district levels, NOT ALL content expectations are assessed on the MME. The MME assesses a high percentage of Michigan’s High School Standards, requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and skill aligned with content expectations designated as MME-assessable.

Beginning in the spring of 2010, the following HSCE will be eligible for inclusion on the MME. We have included some explanatory comments.

**MATHEMATICS**
The content expectations that MAY be assessed on the MME were selected based on ACT’s college readiness standards, Achieve’s American Diploma Project benchmarks, and the proposed Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards Michigan plans to adopt. The MME assesses 117 of 161 (73%) of the Mathematics HSCE and 10 of 13 (77%) Michigan High School Mathematics Standards.

- 100% of Algebra I HSCE
- 100% of Geometry HSCE
- 67% of the Algebra II HSCE (26 MME-assessable of 39 Algebra II HSCE included in the revised 9/09 Algebra II Course Credit Requirements)

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
Districts are free to determine the order in which they offer opportunities for earning required social studies credits; 137 of 230 (60%) Social Studies HSCE are eligible for inclusion on the MME. The MME assesses 45 of 50 (90%) Michigan High School Social Studies Standards. The High School Social Studies Curriculum-Assessment Alignment Documents available October 2009, provide detailed information about the scope of the expectations and assessment classification.

- 83% of U.S. History and Geography HSCE
- 76% of World History and Geography HSCE
- 52% of Economics HSCE
- 45% of Civics HSCE

**SCIENCE**
The Essential Science HSCE represents 60% of required Science HSCE, including the content expectations assessed on the ACT. Students begin earning HS science credit in 8th grade because there are no 8th grade-specific content expectations.

- 100% of Essential Science HSCE

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**
100% of Michigan High School ELA Standards are eligible for inclusion on the MME (ACT English, Reading, Writing, or WorkKeys assessments). Within these Standards, 41 ELA HSCE have been assessed or identified by ACT and the MDE as eligible for inclusion on the MME, representing 45% of the 91 ELA expectations. Items appearing on ACT’s assessments measure different content expectations every year.

- 45% of ELA HSCE

The designation of which content expectations are eligible for inclusion on the MME is included in a document titled Expectations for Success with the MME posted on MDE’s web site at www.michigan.gov/highschool.

Expectations that define required credits but are not assessed on the MME, are still required to be taught and assessed by Secondary Credit Assessments or local district assessments. The updated alignments ensure that districts know which HSCE will be assessed on the MME so they offer opportunities for students to meet those expectations before taking the MME.

Michigan has joined a consortium with 47 other states to develop common core state standards for mathematics and English language arts. These common standards are expected to define the rigorous skills and knowledge needed for students to be college and career ready. The updated alignments are designed to support Michigan’s adoption of the common core state standards.

If you have questions about the updated alignments, please contact MaryAlice Galloway at 517-241-3232 or Joseph Martineau at 517-241-4710.
The Federal Office of Special Education Program office has selected the Michigan Alliance -PTI, to receive Region 1 and Region 2 Parent Training and Information Center grants for the State of Michigan for the next three years beginning on October 1, 2009.

What is the PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION PROGRAM?

The Parent Training Information Centers program is one of the primary vehicles under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for providing information and training to parents of children with disabilities. The program supports awards to assist parents to: (a) understand their children’s rights to educational and early intervention services, and procedural safeguards under IDEA; (b) understand the nature of their children’s disabilities and their educational and developmental needs; and (c) communicate effectively with personnel responsible for providing special education, early intervention, and related services, and participate in the decision-making processes and development of individualized education programs and individualized family service plans.

This project will provide high quality, relevant information and training to support infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities to developmental and functional goals and grow into independent adults who lead productive lives to the maximum extent possible.

Activities of this project include: (a) providing information and training to parents and families of children with the full range of disabilities, in 30 locations including rural and urban areas; (b) combining traditional mechanisms for information and training with locally based support; (c) providing outreach by traveling to where the underserved populations are; (d) applying adult learning principles to all training materials presented in multiple formats (including alternative, low-literacy and culturally appropriate formats); and (e) partnering with various organizations, including the Michigan Department of Education, Wayne State University- Center for Urban Studies and the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program.

For more information, visit www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org or Sherri Boyd, Director, Michigan Alliance for Families, (800) 292-7851, Ext. 105.

Timeline for Initials

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS) introduces the first in a series of documents and training opportunities about special education in Michigan.

The Michigan Special Education One Pager: Timeline for Initials, clearly explains the basic content, process, and timelines necessary to complete an Initial Evaluation and an Initial Individualized Education Program (IEP) within the required timeline.

This policy document is written in plain English and is a MUST READ for everyone involved in improving education in the state of Michigan.

Please forward this policy document to others who need this information.

This document can also be accessed on the Center for Educational Networking Website or the OSE-EIS Website.
One-Year Delay of Implementation of the Michigan School Accreditation System

It had been anticipated that the new Michigan School Accreditation System (MI-SAS) would have final legislative approval in time to implement MI-SAS for the 2009-2010 school year. However, because of the focus the House and Senate have had to put toward passing important education reforms, approval has not yet been received.

Because significant lead time is required for defining and building the new system before it can be implemented, it is now too late to have the development complete in time for the 2009-2010 school year.

Therefore, we will continue to pursue legislative approval in order to implement MI-SAS for the first time in the 2010-2011 school year. In the interim, the existing school accreditation system (Education YES!) will be continued for the 2009-2010 school year. The school self-reports will continue to be completed as they were last year. An announcement will soon be coming of the opening of the website for completing the school self-reports.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at oeaa@michigan.gov.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

MDE/NCA SPRING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE “Effective School Improvement Practices”

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) will co-sponsor the 2010 Spring Michigan School Improvement Conference on March 16, 2010. The conference will be held at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan.

The conference will offer real tools, solutions, and advice from national experts, along with educators from throughout Michigan, to help schools and districts with their school improvement efforts and initiatives. If you are interested in presenting a breakout session at the Spring Conference, please download the Request for Proposal available on the registration site. It must be completed and returned by January 22, 2010.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Dennis Sparks, Emeritus Executive Director of the National Staff Development Council (NSDC). Dr. Sparks will discuss the need for transformative change and how it can help school personnel reach what he refers to as the “Final 2%.”

Registration information will be available mid-January 2010 through the website for the Michigan Institute for Educational Management (MIEM) at www.gomiem.org.
ON THE HORIZON...

- Near Future

2010 Michigan Coaches Institute, January 8, 2010

School Funding Summit, January 8, 2010

State Board of Education Meeting, January, 12, 2010

MASA Mid-Winter Conference, January 27-29, 2010

MI Collaborative Early Childhood Conf, Jan 27-19, 2010

2010 MAS/FPS Winter Institute, February 4-5, 2010

- Distant Future

State Board of Education Meeting, February, 9, 2010

50th Annual Michigan School Testing Conference, Feb 22-24

MI Science Teachers Assoc Annual Conf, March 4-6, 2010

2010 MACUL Conference, March 10-12, 2010

Spring School Improvement Conference, March 15-16, 2010

MI Reading Association’s 54th Annual Conference, March 20-22

Dropout Challenge Summit, Spring 2010

2010 Governor’s Education Summit, April 19, 2010

MSBO Annual Conference, April 27-29, 2010