Help us find Michigan’s next Teacher of the Year!

Online nominations accepted
September 25 - October 30, 2014

www.mi.gov/mtoy

The Michigan Teacher of the Year:
- Is exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled
- Inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn
- Has respect of parents and community
- Is a highly qualified Michigan teacher
- Has completed at least five (5) years of teaching
Library of Michigan announces new look Michigan eLibrary!

The Library of Michigan recently announced the debut of the new and improved MeL – Michigan eLibrary – now available at http://mel.org, on a computer, tablet, or smartphone screen near you.

With an amazing new “look and feel” for the website, MeL now incorporates a discovery service, a search box that allows access to MeLCat, selected MeL subscription eResources (databases), curricular content/websites from the Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.), MeL gateway websites, and selected digital Michigan history projects.

Included in this redesign are updates to both MeL Kids and Teens Gateways. These updated resources are designed to help users be successful in school and have fun too. We encourage you and your students to explore the many resources available for your classrooms at the new content rich and “cool” website http://mel.org.

Hour of Code

Last year, 40,000 teachers led a grassroots effort called the Hour of Code – to introduce ten million students to one hour of computer science. Kids of all ages tried one hour of writing code and making apps in classrooms, and they loved it.

This year, supported by over 100 organizations, they want to reach 100 million students, across every country in the world, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec 8 – 14).

http://hourofcode.com/us

Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant

The 2014-15 Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) MEGS+ application went live on October 1, 2014 and is due on November 14, 2014. The Request for Proposal and instructions can be found at http://www.techplan.org/technology-readiness/. For more information contact Amanda Stoel at techready@michigan.gov.

Addressing Teacher Shortages
State Superintendent Mike Flanagan recently called upon the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 907, which would continue to allow retired teachers in critical shortage subject areas to return to the classroom without jeopardizing their retirement benefits.

“There are ways in place now that can bring in teachers to fill the vacancies in areas where the need is critical,” Flanagan said. “I think it’s an easier transition than most people think.”

Getting retired teachers back into the classrooms; encouraging outside career professionals to transition into teaching; having businesses allow their highly-skilled employees to do teaching sabbaticals; and bringing this issue to the attention of certified teachers currently out of the profession to return. Learn More

Upcoming Events

Michigan Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) Annual Conference
Date: November 06 - 07, 2014

Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Annual Leadership Conference
Date: November 06 - 09, 2014

AdvancED Michigan Fall Conference 2014
Date: November 06 - 07, 2014

Fall 2014 School Improvement Conference
Date: November 17 - 18, 2014

Michigan State Board of Education Meeting
Date: November 18, 2014

2014 Network of Michigan Educators Banquet & Conference
Date: December 8 - 9, 2014

Michigan State Board of Education Meeting
Date: December 16, 2014
New Look!!

You may notice we’ve changed the format of our newsletter. It is the Department's hope to be able to provide more timely information, in a compact and more visibly pleasing medium. We invite you to share with colleagues.

The Education Connection is utilizing a new distribution system called GovDelivery. MDE GovDelivery subscribers will be able to manage their own subscriptions and sign up to receive messages on a wide range of topics including curriculum, student assessment, education technology, Department of Education news and more.

You can start subscribing to MDE lists at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new, or clicking on the red envelope above.

If you already are a subscriber for MDE updates, you are not required to do anything to continue to receive your messages -- you are already in the new system and should not notice an interruption in your notifications.

NOTE: Certain recipient lists are pulled from the Educational Entity Master (EEM) that is operated by the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). MDE encourages all school administrators to update their contact information in the EEM so you continue to receive vital and timely information the Department shares with the field.