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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

February 22, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Mrs. Heidi Capraro, 2004-2005 Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Report on Teacher of the Year Activities for February 2005

February Activities

- New Teacher Performance Assessment Portfolio
- Student Teacher Presentation at Saginaw Valley State University
- Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP)
- State Board of Education Meeting
- Science Staff Presentation at Charlotte Middle School
- Science Curriculum Alignment at Northville Public Schools

Reflections

I had the opportunity to speak to 300 student teachers at Saginaw Valley State University this month. After a warm welcome by the students and staff, the student teachers were divided into small groups for more personal conversations with the presenters of the conference. I was pleased to have had a question and answer time with about thirty of the student teachers. Their questions were very similar to those I asked about fifteen years ago when I entered the profession. Ideas for classroom activities, classroom management techniques, and how to prepare for an interview, are still concerns for today's new teachers.

My more rewarding experiences are always the ones where I can interact with children and teachers. Visiting Charlotte Middle School, in Charlotte, was a delightful combination of conversation between my favorite age group, teenagers, and the wonderful science staff at this school. It seems that the sixth graders from Mrs. Field's social studies class think very highly of their school. In fact, each child in the class related to me, something phenomenal about their school. When our time was over, I was introduced to the science teachers in the school. The meeting was a time of sharing between my experiences in middle level science teaching and theirs. I truly enjoyed my visit to this school.

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