



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Ms. Kimberly Kyff, 2006–2007 Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

Michigan Teacher of the Year Highlights

- o Facilitator for Challenge Day, Hillside Middle School, Northville Public Schools.

The Challenge Day Program is designed to help stop the violence and alienation that youth face every day. The program supports the philosophy that young people feel isolated because of a lack of connection with the people around them. The program tears down the walls of separation, creates connections and support among participants, and inspires people to live in an environment of compassion, acceptance and respect. (Heidi Capraro, 2004-2005 Michigan Teacher of the Year, is the Assistant Principal at this school.)

- Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students.
Objective 2

- o Reading First Observation, Crofoot Elementary School, Pontiac School District.

Crofoot Elementary and Webster Elementary combined at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. Both schools were in the fourth year of the Reading First program. Classes have recently been consolidated resulting in increased class size. Several of the teachers are new to the Reading First Program.

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- Observed and assisted in Reading First classrooms.
 - Attended grade level meetings.
- Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students. Objective 2
- Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3
- Presentation to education students at Eastern Michigan University.
 - Conducted interactive workshop on best practices and the benefits of Universal Design for Learning.
 - Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3
- Met with first year education students from Eastern Michigan University at Jamieson Elementary School, Detroit Public Schools.
 - Discussed the joys and challenges of teaching in the urban environment.
 - Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3
- Attended the premier showing of "Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College" at Berkley High School.
 - This documentary gives viewers a realistic view of the life of Micah Fialka-Feldman. Micah is a graduate of Berkley High School and currently attends Oakland University. This is an inspiring film about inclusion, transition and the importance of on-going support in a student's life.
 - Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3
- Attended Recognition Dinner for Detroit Public School teachers obtaining National Board Certification.
 - Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3

- o **Attended the Great Start Collaborative, Glenn Oaks Golf Club, Farmington Hills**

The Great Start Collaborative-Oakland and the Great Start Collaborative-Wayne sponsored this program that focused on the economic necessity of high quality early childhood education.

The conference was attended by members of the business and educational communities of Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties.

- **Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students.**
Objective 2

- o **Visited the classroom of Karina Landis, Starr Elementary, Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools**

Mrs. Landis has a 3rd/4th grade classroom with several English Language Learners. She is integrating technology into her teaching by having her students create power point presentations.

- **Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students.**
Objective 2

- o **Attended the Michigan Association of School Boards conference.**

The title of the conference was **THE URBAN PROJECT: Culturally Competent Schools: From the Boardroom to the Classroom.**

- **The qualities of leadership and school climate that lead to increased student achievement were examined and discussed.**

- **Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students.**
Objective 2

- o **Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP)**
- o **State Board of Education Meeting**
- o **Participated in the Teacher Preparation Policy Study Group**
- o **Attended meeting with Team 5 Field Service representatives**
- o **Participated in the National Teacher of the Year Conference, Dallas, TX**
- o **Attended the Michigan State University Symposium: Online Learning Experience: Interpret, Integrate, Implement**