



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: August 30, 2016
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Tracy Horodyski, 2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Report of Michigan Teacher of the Year

On August 10 2016, Superintendent Whiston and thirteen Michigan Teacher of the Year recipients (MTOYs) gathered at the home of Sue Gutierrez for a "Pass the Torch" luncheon to welcome me to the family and to share insights and experience. Charley Honey from School News Network wrote an article on the event: <http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/index.php/2015-16/past-mtoy-honorees-advise-encourage-year-s-top-teacher/>

On August 12, 2016, the Kenowa Hills administration team and instructional coaches gathered to discuss next steps for the job-embedded professional learning experiences we want to ensure for our team of dedicated PK-12 teachers. We will continue focusing on the Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRR) Instructional Framework with an emphasis on implementing effective collaboration in every lesson.

On August 16, 2016, The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office Educator Talent's, Chanel Hampton, and I met to share ideas and discuss how we can celebrate and highlight the teaching profession as well as encourage young people to pursue a career in education.

On August 17, 2016, Secondary Instructional Coach and National Education Association (NEA) representative, Reed Bretz and I met to discuss how we can work collaboratively to support our Kenowa Hills secondary team.

On August 19, Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) consultant and Cognitive Coaching trainer, Nelli Koster, facilitated initial steps for Kent City Community Schools' leadership team to engage in data dialogues. I was asked to join the dialogue and to serve as a "critical friend." The team has a clear focus and is dedicated to engaging in learning and sharing the leadership to meet the needs of all learners.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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On August 25, 2016, Ferris State University College of Education faculty welcomed me to kick off their two-day learning retreat. I was asked to share thinking about collaboration. The team explored their values and beliefs about learners and learning and reflected on practices that would help further align words and actions with their values and beliefs.

On August 25, 2016, Saga Marketing came to Zinser Elementary to shoot a commercial celebrating the teaching profession. My teaching partner, Wendy Gravelyn, Principal Ross Willick, and students from this past year, Cesar and Benjamin Trejo, and I were interviewed and filmed to be part of the commercial.

On August 29, 2016, the Kenowa Hills team learned more about Empower, our new Learning Management System (LMS), which will serve as our tool to help students set goals, track their own learning, and advance through competencies at their own pace. It will also serve as our reporting system to parents, and will allow teachers to share learning resources with each other and with students.

On August 30, 2016, I facilitated learning for our Kenowa Hills Middle School (and some High School) educators about how to build on our exploration of the Focus Lesson from GRR this past year and to develop our skills as facilitators of collaborative learning for our students this coming year.

On August 31, 2016, KISD staff, Casey Gordon, shared and facilitated more thinking about Depth of Knowledge and how it relates to our personal mastery assessment system.

On September 1, 2016, City of Walker Mayor Mark Huizenga, Commissioner Gary Carey, and Commissioner Chuck Deschaine visited our staff meeting at Zinser Elementary to honor the work of teachers and to present a Proclamation extending congratulations to me for being named the 2016-2017 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

On September 1, 2016, Karen Meyers, Kathy Agee, and Diane Miller of the Grand Valley State University Regional Math and Science Center, met with me to discuss my participation in their Annual Fall Science Update on November 16, 2016, as the keynote speaker for the elementary school teachers.