



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 9, 2016
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Rick Joseph, Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Report of Michigan Teacher of the Year

On May 16, I visited Clawson High School and met with students from El Salvador in a classroom of students who are English Language Learners. We discussed the importance of goal setting and the need for students to stay in school to best realize their potential.

On May 20, I attended the MTOY 2016-2017 naming ceremony for Tracy Horodyski at Zinser Elementary School in Kenowa Hills Public Schools.

On May 23, I visited Newberry Schools in Newberry. I visited with students and staff regarding the strengths and challenges they face. I was impressed by the robotics program and the staff's resilience in meeting student needs in the face of dwindling resources.

On May 26, I attended the Sexual Minority Youth Training at [Detroit Collegiate Preparatory High School at Northwestern](#) in Detroit Public Schools. This training helps teachers and staff in schools promote safe and inclusive environments for students who are LGBTQ.

On May 31, I visited the Redford Service Learning Academy. I discussed the benefits and challenges of life at RSLA with students and staff and read *The Junkyard Wonders* aloud to students.

On June 1, I visited Marquette Elementary School in Muskegon. I talked to the teachers about the strengths and challenges they face and experienced the dual-language Spanish immersion program.

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On June 2, I testified with Nancy Schwartz before the House Education Committee in Lansing regarding the importance of National Board Certification for teachers in Michigan.

On June 8, I visited Coleman A Young Elementary School in Detroit, a DPS school. I was impressed with the expertise and dedication of the teachers I met. We talked about the successes they've enjoyed and the challenges they face on a daily basis.