



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 4, 2016
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Rick Joseph, Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Report of Michigan Teacher of the Year

On February 4, I visited Montabella Schools in Edmore, MI and toured all the schools in the district. I met with students, teachers and administrators.

On February 5, I attended the Nova Now conference at Kent Innovation High School in Grand Rapids. State Board of Education member Lupe Ramos-Montigny joined me.

On February 10, I visited Macomb Community College and their Early College Program. I spoke with students and toured the school with State Board of Education member Casandra Ulbrich.

On February 11, I visited Greenville Schools in Greenville, MI and toured all the schools in the district. I met with students, teachers and administrators. I learned about the Lotus Program, designed to meet the needs of at-risk girls.

On February 12, I read aloud The Junkyard Wonders to students at Quarton Elementary School in Birmingham Public Schools.

On February 12, I visited with teachers at Western International High School in Detroit Public Schools.

On February 19, I attended a march and rally in Flint with the Reverend Jesse Jackson in support of the residents in the face of the Flint Water Crisis.

On February 22, I visited with teachers at the International Academy of Flint, a charter school.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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On February 23, I participated in a career fair at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy in Detroit.

On February 25, I appeared on *Stateside* with Lester Graham on Michigan Radio to discuss the pending legislation regarding the budget crisis in Detroit Public Schools.

On March 2, I testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education regarding the need to retain qualified teachers in Detroit Public Schools.

On March 3, I attended a meeting of the House Education Committee.

On March 3, I visited Roberto Clemente Academy, a Detroit Public School in southwest Detroit.