



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 2016
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Rick Joseph, Michigan Teacher of the Year
SUBJECT: Report of Michigan Teacher of the Year

On April 13, I spent the day at Central Academy in Ann Arbor, a charter school that features Arabic language instruction at all grade levels, K-12. Arabic language and culture is celebrated in a way that enables students to embrace their family heritage - as many students come from Arabic backgrounds - while realizing that what makes the United States a great and powerful nation is the diversity of its people.

On April 14, I read aloud to students at Pattengill Elementary School in Berkley and met with staff to discuss areas of strength and challenge in Berkley Public Schools.

On April 15, Lauren Wallace, an intern from Michigan State University spent the morning touring Covington School in Birmingham and meeting with students and staff.

On April 16, I delivered a keynote address and presented a session entitled Pay Attention: *Meeting the Needs of Students with ADD/ADHD* at the Delta Gamma Theta Spring Convention in Kalamazoo.

On April 16, I visited Hunter Elementary School in Gibraltar, presenting to the staff on Growth Mindset and visiting classrooms.

On April 20, I visited Western International High School in Detroit Public Schools and talked to teachers about successes and challenges they face at Western.

On April 21, I attended the White House Conference on policies related to LGBTQ students in Dearborn.

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On April 25, I toured the Hannahville Indian School on the Hannahville Indian Reservation near Escanaba.

On April 25, I toured the Powell Township School near Marquette and met with teachers and administrators.

On April 25, I toured Lakeview Elementary School in Negaunee.

On April 26, I spent the day at Grand Traverse Academy in Traverse City reading to different classes and conducting class discussions.

On May 1, I met Vice President Joe Biden and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden in Washington DC to discuss education policy and support for children of military service members.

On May 2, I visited the Hirschhorn Gallery and Art Lab in Washington DC to explore the variety of arts-related programming available to students in after-school programs.

On May 3, I met President Barack Obama at the White House and recognized the naming of the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, Jahana Hayes from Connecticut.

On May 4, I attended policy briefings White House Education Policy Advisors at the Executive Office Building and professional learning sessions at Microsoft in Washington DC.

On May 5, I attended professional development sessions with the National Network of State Teachers of the Year at ASCD in Alexandria, Virginia.

I received [this letter](#) from Rob Lawrence, President of the Birmingham Board of Education which I will read aloud to conclude my remarks.