



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: March - Teacher of the Year Report

As MTOY - Digital Learning Day kicks off Michigan's "The Year of the Digital Learner"

On February 1, several states, including Michigan, celebrated *Digital Learning Day*. This day was designed to recognize and encourage students, teachers, schools, parents, policymakers, and all citizens of Michigan to learn more about ways to successfully integrate high-quality digital learning and the effective use of technology to help improve the learning of every student in our state. This national campaign is focusing on celebrating innovative teaching and highlighting practices that make learning more engaging for students.

A press conference was held at Donley Elementary School in the East Lansing Public School District where I was asked to provide the opening remarks for the event. The day began with a visitation to Ms. Megan Carnaghi's first-grade classroom to see firsthand how her students are becoming digital learners. The students were very engaged in the lesson and stated they enjoyed working with clickers, iPads, mp3 players, and interactive white boards.

The Alliance for Excellent Education refers to digital learning as a broad array of topics and approaches where technology can help in school reform efforts. One area is in teacher preparation and teacher professional learning. Other areas include: implementing STEM and innovation instruction, providing broadband access for all, using data to inform instruction, personalizing student instruction, increasing quality teacher time, online/blended learning opportunities, as well as using robust digital content in high-quality lessons. The Alliance seeks to use *Digital Learning Day* to highlight these innovative teaching approaches and celebrate the potential of technology as a force multiplier in America's schools.

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As a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, I utilize a variety of software tools to analyze student knowledge and provide prescriptive training to meet the student's individual needs. As CTE students prepare for national certifications in information technology, we are able to utilize technology and digital media to customize and individualize training materials for these exams. Upon completion of these national certifications, students are not only prepared to enter the workforce and earn a family living wage with an industry validated skill set, but earning college credits as well.

I also had the wonderful opportunity to meet and learn from Julia Swartz, the 2011 Online Teacher of the Year. Julia received this honor for being a true pioneer in working to change the way students learn and educators teach in Michigan.

2012 Michigan Career Education Conference

In early February, I had the opportunity to present at the 2012 Michigan Career Education Conference hosted in Detroit. The theme of this year's conference was *CTE: Learning that Works for America*. The focus of my presentation was on the recently developed Entrepreneurship Vodcast Series that is available to teachers and students via www.americasmarketinghighschool.org website. We had a very interactive session and I was able to share with the attendees my experiences this year while serving as MTOY for 2011-2012. I really enjoyed Ms. Paula Cunningham's closing keynote address. She made some very interesting points and certainly provided food for thought in regard to education across America. Ms. Cunningham is the President/CEO of Capitol National Bank and former President of Lansing Community College.

National Business Education Association (NBEA)

I had the good fortune of working with some outstanding secondary and postsecondary educators from the National Business Education Association (NBEA) during the month of February. On February 9-12, I was in Reston, Virginia, as a member of the NBEA Business Partnership Task Force. There were several tasks assigned to accomplish during our meetings, but the main focus was on determining how to best form alliances that are beneficial to both NBEA and business partners. The ultimate goal of this task force is for NBEA to partner with businesses so that together we can prepare students to be college and career ready.

On February 23-26, I was back in Reston, Virginia, serving as the Chair for the Marketing Standards Task Force. The committee consists of six members who were selected to serve because of their expertise in the marketing curriculum, and overall understanding of business education and national standards. The committee is charged with not only reviewing the Marketing Section of the National Standards for Business Education and determining whether the section titles are still appropriate or do they need to be changed or deleted, but also determining whether the performance expectations still apply or do they need to be changed, updated, or deleted. This will be the 4th edition of the National Standards for Business Education (NSBE) with a review of the Marketing Standards and a publication date of the new standards set for 2012.